

**Minutes of the Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting
held at Elmore Village Hall on Monday 18th May 2026
(Immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)**

Present	Chair Matt Brandon (MB), Vice Chair Vince Meredith (VM), Mr E Watts (EW), Ms Zahra Sadry (ZS), Mr W Lovell (WL) Dorie Jones (Clerk)
In Attendance	Mr Trevor Jones,
1 Appoint Chair and Vice Chair	Chair - Matt Brandon was proposed by VM and seconded by EW. Vice Chair – Vince Meredith was proposed by WL and seconded by ZS. Acceptance of Office Forms. New forms not needed as no changes were made to the records. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Forms are required for SDC to record for any whose circumstances have changed. ZS form has been submitted to democratic services but not yet included.
2 Delegation of member’s responsibilities	<p>The work of the Councillors has been defined under 5 main Business Areas. Each area is led by one councillor with support from the others. All related data and information will be stored in the corresponding folders on the new common shared drive. A new Log will be used to identify responsibilities and record progress against the Parish Council’s business. It was agreed that the 5 councillors would consider the areas that they would like to lead and discuss this at the next teams meeting</p> <p>The Business Areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highways - VM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o including footpaths o verge cutting o Grit bins 2. Planning - EW 3. External Services - WL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rubbish - Fly tipping o Grit Bines 4. Data - MB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Management o Residents database o Emergency Plan o Standing Orders o IT Policy 5. Assets - ZS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Defibrillators o Notice Boards o War Memorial 6. Special Projects – AWL <p>Comms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bridge – Trevor Jones o Website DJ <p>Finance - DJ</p>

3 Open Question Time	No questions
4 Declaration of Members' Interest in Agenda Items	Nothing was declared by the Councillors.
5 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting on 16th March 2026 were proposed as a true record by and seconded by
6 Matters Arising	Matters arising from the Minutes of 16 th March 2026 Mike Farmer had completed the Internal Audit Special roles for Councillors were agreed. IT Policy to be added to the website. GAPTC We agreed not to continue the membership because of increased cost of membership.
7 Finance	<p>i) Review of Parish Precept 2025/2026 <i>The Parish Precept has remained unchanged at £2,472.00. There may be plans to change for the following financial year.</i></p> <p>ii) Account and Audit 2025/2026 <i>Following our internal Audit, this work is complete and ready for the Council to approve.</i></p> <p>iii) Forecast Expenditure 2025/2026. <i>The forecast of expenditure remains roughly the same as for the previous Financial Year although there has been an and could be a further increase in Verge Cutting Costs.</i></p> <p>iv) Community Based projects. <i>There are no planned projects at the moment.</i></p> <p>v) Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 AUDIT The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Council. All were in favour. This was signed by the Chairman and Clerk</p> <p>vi) Accounting Statement for the Annual return 2025/26 AUDIT The Accounting Statement was approved by the Council. All were in favour. This was signed by the Chairman and Clerk</p> <p>vii) Audit- Certificate of Exemption. Figures for the Audit were agreed and the Chairman signed this Certificate ready to be submitted to Littlejohn, the External Auditors.</p>
8 County Councillor Stephen Davies Report	<p>County Councillors Report</p> <p>Annual Report 2026 - Elmore</p> <p>In the last year we have seen the new Liberal Democrat Administration take shape. In reality most activity at the County Council doesn't change with a change in Administration. Adult Social Care and Children's Services don't change much. Although within a month of the Election there was an Ofsted inspection of our Children's Services which was</p>

ranked as “Good.” This has been a long journey from being previously ranked “Inadequate.”

There is a tendency for new administrations to re-launch existing activity but with a different name. Where there was previously a “Build Back Better Fund” where your Councillor has money they can invest in Local Good Causes, this has now been re-launched as the “Neighbourhood Grassroots Fund.” If you know a local cause that requires support please let me know. To set your expectation, this is a fund of £20k spread over 12 Parishes.

Gloucestershire County Council remains solvent, although the settlement from the Government was less than received in previous years due to changes in the Formula. However there are no cuts in spending, and the budget had gone up to £690m. The Administration has centralised the Highways Local Budget where your Councillor could choose where to spend the Highways budget on local areas of need. They have centralised the budget and borrowed £15m over 3 years to invest in improved roads. This is useful but nowhere near enough and certainly not enough to “fix the roads” as they promised during last year’s election. They now talk about “managing” public expectations.

The other Policy that the Liberal Democrats have made a lot of noise about is the introduction of 20 mph speed limits. The good news is that they have not gone for the blanket introduction that we have seen in Oxfordshire, but asked Local Communities to make the decision. The bad news is that they have asked Parish Council and Local Communities to express an interest, and this has resulted in nearly 400 expressions of interest. With only £2.8m allocated to this and a backlog in the Traffic Regulation Order process, they risk a “deluge of disappointment.” Hardwicke has been included in Phase 3 and will see some changes in 2028 hopefully.

The progression to creating a Unitary Council continues with the 7 Councils in Gloucestershire working effectively together, they are looking at both options, 1 or 2 Council. The Government will decide in the Summer whether which will have. All the financial business cases, the Governments own criteria and common sense say we should have a single Unitary but recent announcements in Essex and Hampshire raise the possibility that we will have 2, East and West Gloucestershire. This would be illogical and motivated by Political pressure to create a Unitary where Labour might one day win. This would be a disaster. Either way this should lead to Unitary Elections in May 2027.

If you have any questions on any of these topics or any other questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch at Stephen.davies2@gloucestershire.gov.uk or on 07802 595 307.

<p>9 District Councillor Gill Oxley Report</p>	<p>Local Plan and Spatial Development Strategy Update</p> <p>The Council has formally commenced work on a new Local Plan following recent approval. Early-stage work is now underway, with the first Gateway review expected in October and initial public consultation planned for late summer 2026. The consultation programme will include informal community engagement activities and “planning for real” events to gather views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local challenges and constraints • Opportunities for future growth • Long-term aspirations for the district <p>Draft Local Plan Examination Responses to the Planning Inspectors’ questions have now submitted, alongside contributions from Gloucestershire County Council, South Gloucestershire Council and National Highways. While collaboration between the District and County Councils has improved, there remains a key difference of opinion regarding highways evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Council considers sufficient evidence has been provided for the Inspectors to reach conclusions on the plan. • The County Council is seeking more detailed highways analysis, which the District Council believes should instead be addressed at planning application stage. The next stage now depends on the Inspectors. Possible outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further questions being issued • A finding that the plan is unsound • Reopening of hearings (considered less likely) <p>No clear timeline has yet been provided.</p> <p>Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) There is currently no significant update on the SDS. However, discussions involving Gloucester City Council have identified emerging difficulties in accommodating future development needs within the city boundary. This is likely to lead to further engagement with neighbouring authorities later this year regarding potential cross-boundary housing and growth requirements.</p> <p>Spatial Development Strategy (SDS)</p> <p>There is currently no significant update on the SDS. However, discussions involving Gloucester City Council have identified emerging difficulties in accommodating future development needs within the city boundary. This is likely to lead to further engagement with neighbouring authorities later this year regarding potential cross-boundary housing and growth requirements.</p>
<p>10 Severn Voice</p>	<p>Severn Voice Report</p>
<p>11 Highways</p>	<p>Fix My Street / Road should be used to report Potholes on adopted highways. Everyone is encouraged to report all potholes. Highways would be asked to take a look at Lake Street.</p> <p>VM reported culvert cleaning had been done by Highways</p>
<p>12 Planning</p>	<p><i>No new planning updates. All issues since May 2025 appear to be settled, including Barhouse Farm, Hollow Farm, Stables/Common Room, Lake Street Cottage. The Parish Council was listened to by Stroud Planners except with Stables/Common Room.</i></p>

<i>13 External Services</i>	WL agreed to work with Grit Bines with other items.
<i>14 Data</i>	<i>Matt will work with the Councillors who need to establish access the Google Drive</i> New email addresses will be added.
<i>15 Assets</i>	<p><i>Defibrillator Management</i> <i>ZS has checked both defibrillators. Reported some difficulty opening the Elmore Back cabinet. Discussed following up payment to St John’s trainers. Also if there is demand for further follow up training sessions. EW suggested we might combine with other parishes</i></p> <p><i>Notice Boards</i> <i>A bit shaky</i> Cllrs agreed to look at the options to improve it. Discussed whether we needed more than one notice board in the village</p> <p><i>War Memorial – nothing to report.</i></p>
<i>16 Special Projects</i>	. WL agreed to work on the Applications for local funding for projects.
<i>17 Parish Communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Website:</i> <i>Kept up to date.</i> • <i>The Bridge:</i> <i>The 46th Edition of The Bridge is due to come out at the end of May. Trevor Jones is continuing to edit this. Our thanks given to our willing volunteers to deliver to our doors.</i> <p><i>Email: Addresses given to the Chairman to hold are kept strictly confidential to comply with Data Regulations Guidance.</i></p>
<i>18 Any other business</i>	
Date of Next Parish Council Meetings	
Monday 7 th December 2026	
The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm	
Signed Date	