

**ELKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**For meeting held on 21st Jan 2026**

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Attendance</b>  Attendees were recorded as parish councillors M Hobbs (chair), D Kearney (responsible financial officer), D Collins (acting clerk), B Luck, E Magnuson, District Councillor J Judd, County Councillor M Harris and 2 members of the public</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b>  Draft minutes of the previous meeting on 12th Nov 2025 were approved. There were no matters arising.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Finance</b>  A report was received on finance from Councillor Kearney. Electronic banking is now operational. Consideration of proposed capital expenditure was made comprising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. £2500 on Village Hall capital expenses subject to submission of receipts,</li> <li>2. £395 on noticeboard repair</li> </ol> <p>Also £600 contribution to churchyard maintenance and £250 on newsletter and associated costs.  Consideration of next years budget precept was made and agreed at £5500, this being a £500 reduction on existing. Proposed D Kearney, seconded B Luck. Carried nem. con.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Planning</b>  25/03765/FUL Annexe at High Cross Farm  Cllr Hobbs had previously declared an interest in this application and was excluded from considerations. However, no councillor expressed any objection therefore no comment from the Council was deemed necessary.  25/03340/FUL Extension and alterations at Elkstone Manor.  A submission from the floor was considered and it was also noted that the Conservation Officer has recommended refusal of the current application. However, not all councillors had had the opportunity to consider recent revisions to the application and so consideration of this application was deferred for one week. A further meeting will therefore be convened if councillors require it.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Survey of Assets</b>  An inspection of all Parish Council physical assets is to be carried out by Cllrs Kearney and Collins who will report back to the full council once completed.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Report from County Councillor M Harris</b>  Mr Harris, was pleased that recent major works on the 3/190 were completed to a good standard and thanked residents for their understanding during the disruptive period. Work proceeds on resolving the flooding underpass issue. He would now like nominations for 3 other areas of particular concern within the parish which might thereby be brought forward in importance. Councillors are to consider and report back by e mail via clerk.</p>

7.	<p><b>Report from District Councillor Judd</b>  Councillor Judd reports that council devolution consultation will start shortly. The Central Government response is expected in March.  Bin collection reliability was discussed but is considered improved of late.  Renewal of collection equipment is being brought forward by approx. 1 year  Local car park fees are to be reconsidered shortly.  An initiative concerning staff recruitment from ex military personnel was reported on.</p>
8.	<p><b>500859 Sparrowthorn to Penhill Farm</b>  This unmade road has been subject to a temporary road closure until 2nd Feb due to badger setts reported as undermining the road. However it is also reported that legal pedestrian access has been made difficult recently due to blockages placed across it (outside Elkstone Parish) by persons unknown.  A letter has been received from representatives of Colesbourne parish requesting downgrading of the road to pedestrian access only. Consideration of this request was made but whilst councillors appreciate vehicular use is a contentious matter the preservation of historic public access rights was considered important and that closure to vehicles could divert traffic to other similar routes. Councillors therefore decided that this application should not be supported. Clerk to respond. Cllr Harris stated he would investigate any illegal blockage of the public highway.</p>
9.	<p><b>Imitation website</b>  It was reported that there are “parish” websites including one for Elkstone which appear similar to official government sites but which have no official backing. Their purpose is unknown but the council wishes to remind parishioners that the only website for this village is <a href="http://elkstoneparish.gov.uk">http://elkstoneparish.gov.uk</a>. Cllr Judd is to investigate further as many parishes may be affected in this way. Clerk to remind other parties of correct clerk and parish details</p>
10.	<p><b>Ash dieback scheme</b>  A quantity of young trees and saplings have been received as part of the scheme to replace diseased ash trees. These have all now been planted.</p>
11.	<p><b>Other Correspondence</b>  An enquiry has been made by the empty homes section at Publica regarding any long term vacant properties in the parish and whether they are causing nuisance. 2 Coronation Cottages has been identified as such a property and the parish council has responded with what information they have.</p>
12.	<p><b>Next meeting to be 7:30pm at Elkstone Village Hall on Mar 11th 2026</b></p>
	<p><b>Meeting closed at 20:55pm</b></p>