

ELKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
OPEN PARISH ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD ON 13th MAY 2026
IN THE VILLAGE HALL
COMMENCING AT 7:45PM

The Annual Open Parish Assembly, organised by the Parish Council, is an opportunity for any resident to come along and hear what the Parish Council and other organisations in the village have achieved in the last year, and to make suggestions on what you would like to see as priorities for the next year. It is an informal meeting and a real opportunity for your voice and views to be heard.

- 1. Attendance to be recorded**
- 2. Apologies for absence received if any.**
- 3. Approval of minutes of previous Annual Parish Assembly held on 14th May 2025**
- 4. Report to be received from the 2025/26 Chairman of the Parish Council on its activities over the last year**
- 5. Verbal report to be received from District Councillor Judd**
- 6. Verbal report to be received from County Councillor Harris**
- 7. Representatives from the PCC and Village Hall management committee are invited to present a report.**
- 8. Open discussion on other priorities for the Parish.**
- 9. Meeting to close**

Minutes of the Annual Open Meeting of Elkstone Parish

Wednesday 24th April 2019, 8.00pm in Elkstone Village Hall

Present: Mr Hobbs (Chair), Mrs Thorn (Secretary)
Mr Robbins (County Councillor), Mr Parsons (District Councillor)
Mr Collins and Mr Cooch (Parish Councillors)
1 parishioner and 2 members of the public

1. Minutes of the last Meeting (18th April 2018) were accepted and signed.
2. Matters Arising – there were none
3. Report to the Parish by Mr M Hobbs, Chairman of the Parish Council
Mr Hobbs opened by thanking Mrs Thorn and the Parish Councillors for all their hard work and time during the year on behalf of the Parish.
He commented that this last year had been much like the last several and had seen little in the way of controversy other than a couple of contentious issues in respect of planning applications. He hoped that the Parish felt the Council had dealt with matters in an effective and fair way. The major project for the year was the installation of the Community Defibrillator with the help of a grant from Cotswold District Council which is regularly checked and is reassuring to know it this there should the need arise, although hope this never happens.
In the Parish Council Elections due to take place in May, the Parish should note only two parishioners are standing for the Parish Council so will be working towards making the Parish Council quorate.
4. Matters Arising from Mr Hobbs' report
There were none.
5. Report to the Parish by Mr N Robbins, County Councillor
There has been a challenge over the Gloucester Incinerator contract and an enquiry has been carried out which has not come up with any conclusions.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service – The Chief Fire Officer was asked to resign over the spending of County Council money. The County Council acted quickly and efficiently with an investigation carried out. Policies and procedures have been reviewed.

There are proposals over the movement of surgery from Cheltenham General Hospital to Gloucester Royal Hospital which may have implications for Cheltenham General Hospital ongoing.

Highways – Ringway have taken over the maintenance contract including potholes.

A delivery of £150,000,000 investment on roads over 5 years is in place.

The A417 route has been decided, further consultations will take place before the planning application is submitted. To take into consideration noise and the possibility of having average speed reductions to 50mph or 60mph on certain sections to improve safety and make village life quieter. To consider the cost as a lot of road schemes do not take place as they are not offering proper value for money.

An increase in Council Tax for social services and police which could mean more rural policing.

6. Matters Arising from Mr Robbins' report
There were none.
7. Report to the Parish by Mr N Parsons', District Councillor

Finance

CDC set a budget which increases Council Tax by 2% in line with inflation. Working with neighbouring authorities through the not for profit Company, Publica, the Council has continued to find savings without cutting any services. Publica is owned by Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council. The following projects remain with the funded financial plan:

The New Waterloo Car Park

Temporary Car Parking (to allow the building of the Waterloo)

Electric Car Charging, while Green Waste charges remain frozen and

"Free after 3" Parking will be extended again.

Cotswold District Council remains debt free with net assets of over £30 million.

A417

CDC remains committed to work with the County Council agencies and central government to support and encourage the completion of the dualling of the A417.

Planning

The New Local Plan to 2031 has been adopted. For Elkstone, the proposed Local Plan includes a policy to enable small scale local development outside the main towns/settlements, provided that it can be accommodated without harm to the countryside and can be shown to be in the best interests of the particular settlement or village.

Waste Services

New vehicles are being purchased and after extensive consultations a new improved collection system will be introduced in the autumn.

Youth Projects

The Council is still able to support youth projects for those aged between 11 - 17. Each District ward Councillor has an allocation of £1,000 available. Over the last year some £2,250 has been allocated to the Ermin Ward by borrowing from other Wards. A further £750 has recently been allocated to help fund cricket coaching with Birdlip Cricket Club.

Community Projects

The Council has increased the capital allocation available and will continue to support local/community projects with the provision of match funding with other organisations, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Within the Cotswolds, this scheme has been particularly useful in the provision of, or repair of, village halls and other community facilities.

1st World War

The fund has now closed. The allocations made enabled communities to fund memorial commemorations.

Defibrillators

Funds remain available to support parishes with the installation of Defibrillators. Within Ermin Ward we have already used the initial allocation of £2,000, but further applications may succeed if pooled funds remain available.

8. Matters Arising from Mr Parson's report
There were none.
9. Litter by Pauline Farman

Pauline Farman informed the meeting that she has been carrying out litter picks in the Churn Valley and beyond. On her first visit to Elkstone she could not believe the litter on the verges at the entrance to and exits from the village onto the A417 and collected 14 bags of rubbish over 2 days. After meeting the Bishop of Tewkesbury, in November he also came to litter pick in Elkstone.

A bin has been installed to help solve the ongoing problem.

There is an effect of rubbish on the environment.

If there was a team of interested people to get together in two's, once a fortnight to carry out litter picks and CDC can provide litter picking sticks, bags and hi visibility jackets.

CDC are contacted where the bags of litter have been left and how many bags, they will come and collect these.

If more people were educated particularly the young about the effects of litter this would help to address the litter problem.

10. Any Other Business

It was raised that recycling bins have been removed in Cirencester. This is because more recycling can be put out at home and collections of recycling at the kerbside is being carried out.

A question was raised regarding the pot holes on Bubbs Hill which traffic is using more and more, this peaks at rush hour. During the construction period on the A417 traffic may get worse. Concerns can be raised with Highways England when they carry out a further consultation for the scheme.

Mr Hobb's welcomed Julia Judd the local Conservative candidate for the Ermin Ward who is standing for election on the District Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.59pm.