

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 10th March 2011 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: H.S. Davis (Chairman), C.H. Jeffes, R.S. Manwaring MBE,
Mrs M. Mitchell, N.R. Stephens, D.J. Tombs, O D Williams

In Attendance: County Councillor Tom Wells
District Councillor Bronwen Behan
Pc Naulls

**Members of the
Public:** 7

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from C.J. Whitehead, Mrs R Wilder

2. Members' interests

Cllr Williams declared a Personal Interest in Item 12 (Recreation Charity)

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th January 2011 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Report from Police Beat Manager

Pc Naulls reported that the reductions in police budgets now being canvassed were unlikely to have any effect on the level of police presence within the parish, and that the positions of CSOs would be unchanged for the next two years. He remarked that the increasing value of fuel oil made it a more valuable target for thieves and he urged householders to take such precautions against theft as were reasonable and appropriate. He also noted that there had been attempts at fraud, the first step of which was to trick people into giving details of their bank accounts. He urged vigilance and to report unusual or suspicious behaviour to the police; in an emergency, dial 999, otherwise 0300 333 3000.

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported that it had been decided that Longdon Primary School should close. The date chosen was the end of the summer term (July 2011) but it was possible that an appeal would be lodged; if that were the case and the appeal were unsuccessful, then closure would be delayed.

County Councillor Tom Wells (who was detained by another engagement and made his report after item 15 had been transacted) said that he been made aware of the application before VOSA for the renewal of an Operators' Licence and had asked the officers of Worcestershire County Council to oppose the application; that the news of the proposed imminent closure of Longdon Primary School was indicative of the need for schools to obtain good OFSTED reports and attract pupils in sufficient numbers; and that the county council was looking at ways of reducing the subsidy for buses. He noted also that there were small changes to the conditions attaching to the use of concessionary bus passes, although he thought that these would not affect the one weekly bus service in the parish.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Planning matters

SECTION A

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 10/01519/PEX** Extension of time limit to commence development of application 07/01905/FUL new leisure spa
- Corse Lawn House, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4LZ
 - Mrs Hine

Council's Comments

We have no objection to an extension of the time limit to commence development 07/01905/FUL new leisure spa.

Approval of Extension of Time (Full Planning)

SECTION B

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

- 11/00167/FUL** Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 79/01737 to allow access to commercial premises to be shared with Hazeldene
- Church View, Moorend Road, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NS
 - Mr & Mrs A Mcillwraith

Council's Comments

Sole access to the now redundant Baptist Chapel was originally via Orchard Cottage

We are comfortable with this proposal to share access with Hazeldene (the owners of Hazeldene are the applicants).

Pending

- 11/00062/CLE** Certificate of Lawfulness Development for an existing use of land for the keeping of horses
- Church View, Moorend Road, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NS
 - Miss Victoria Jolly

Council's Comments

None

Pending

- 11/00228/FUL** Change of use to Lorry Park (Retrospective)
- Link End Timber, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4NN
 - R Denniss

(Details of the application are not available at the time of printing)

Pending

9. Old Timber Yard

The Chairman informed the meeting that, as could be seen from the list in 8 above, an application had been lodged with MHDC to change the use of the Old Timber Yard, Link End Road, to a lorry park catering for 15 HGVs. He noted that the Enforcement Officer at MHDC, responding to concerns expressed by parishioners, had attended the site in order to assess whether the use being made of the site was lawful. District Councillor Bronwen Behan said that various aspects of the application were currently under study by officers at MHDC.

As required by law, MHDC had consulted the Council with respect to the application. The Chairman thought that it would be appropriate for Councillors before forming a view on the merits of the application to be familiar with the site and he asked the owner, who was present at the meeting, if they might visit the premises. The response was affirmative, but the owner stipulated that members of the public would not be permitted. A date was agreed.

10. Composting Unit

The owner of the composting unit was undertaking the construction of bunds and had indicated that this work would be complete by the end of March. Planting remained to be done but the timing was not known. It was agreed that a further meeting of interested parties to review matters would be appropriate and the Chairman asked the District Councillor if she would arrange a meeting in early April with the parties who had previously attended. She agreed to do this and would contact the parties separately.

11. Parish Lengthsman

The Clerk reported that he had placed advertisements for the position of lengthsman on the parish notice boards and an advertisement was appearing in the March parish magazine. To date there had been one request for an application form. The closing date for applications was 31st March; he thought that by that date it would be clear how much cash Worcestershire County Council would be able to provide to the Parish. He advised the Council that formal power would have to be delegated by the Council for a candidate to be selected and appointed

and after a short discussion it was **RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised, after consultation with either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, to appoint a lengthsman on such terms as might seem to him reasonable.**

12. Recreation Charity

Councillors noted with surprise a request from the Recreation Charity for a grant of £150. Mr Williams, a trustee of the Charity, informed the meeting that for the last several years the Charity had relied almost entirely on the Council for the funds it needed and had limited, if any, alternative sources of income. The Charity had been discussing with Eldersfield Lawn School the lease to the School of its principal asset, land adjacent to the School for some two years; when that lease was agreed the Charity would be relieved of many of the costs it currently bore. He said that agreement had been delayed and that as a result the Charity was now without funds and would accordingly be unable to pay its dues.

The Clerk clarified for the benefit of members that the Council had the power - but not the duty - to make a grant to the Charity, but that no provision for a grant existed within the current budget.

After a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED that the Council make a grant to the Recreation Charity for £150.00.**

The Chairman made public his expectation that no further requests for grants would be received from Charity

13. BT Phone Kiosks

The Clerk reported that the Council now owned the two telephone kiosks within the Parish and accordingly was responsible for their upkeep. The cost of the electricity for the lights was a matter for BT, who had undertaken to remove the electricity supply within 5 years.

14. Pressure Reduction Installation

The Clerk reported that he had, as requested at the last meeting, written to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) indicating that the Council expected TBC as the relevant local planning authority to take a robust approach to the application of planning conditions imposed on the PRI development. Chaceley Parish Council had sent a similar letter.

As Secretary of CAPRI, Mr Gabbott said that he had been made aware of concerns of the local community about the safety of the road cleaning operations undertaken by National Grid at the junction of the B4213 and B4211. CAPRI had written to Gloucestershire County Council and as a result a warning had been issued to a National Grid contractor.

On a second matter, National Grid had applied to Gloucestershire County Council to close the public footpath across the PR site without the provision of an alternative. CAPRI had objected to Gloucestershire County Council who had responded that National Grid could not be expected to provide an alternative footpath in the time available and that, in any case, the public were free to walk along the main roads.

14. Authorisation of Disbursements

It was **RESOLVED** that the following disbursements be made:

£ 171.04	J L Gabbott
£ 41.15	Inland Revenue
£ 85.00	Trevor R Pettit
£ 150.00	Recreation Charity

15. Notice board

The poor state of the notice board at Eldersfield Lawn School was noted. It was **RESOLVED** that repairs to the notice board be paid in the amount of **£85.00**.

16. Future Meetings

It was noted that, in accordance with item 19 of the meeting of 11th November 2010, future meetings of the Council would take place at Eldersfield Lawn School at 7.30 pm on the following Thursdays in 2011: 12th May, 14th July, 8th September and 10th November

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

- Rural Services Network

18. Other business

The Clerk advised that

- Elections: all members of this council would retire in May, thereby creating 9 vacancies. Persons seeking election should complete a Nomination Paper which must be submitted to Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) in the prescribed fashion and no later than noon on Monday 4th April. Nomination Packs (which included Nomination Papers) were available from MHDC. He said that time was of the essence (i.e. when MHDC give a deadline, they meant it!)
- Candidates: persons who had put forward Nomination Papers could withdraw their candidature by lodging an appropriate notice (included in the Nomination Pack) with MHDC no later than noon on Thursday 7th April.
- Footpath maintenance prioritisation: the Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to look at a request for prioritisation of footpath maintenance.
- Planning Objection: an email had been received from Mr Bichard expressing the view that the Old Timber Yard was not a suitable site for a lorry park and that Avonline Transport Limited should cease operating there.
- The question of whether the notice board at the Butcher's was a useful means of communication: the Clerk would place in the notice board a notice requesting comments.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.