

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 by tele/video conferencing, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mrs C Joseph (chairing meeting), Mrs W Burr,
Mr P R Chichester MBE, Mrs D E Holt, Mrs T A Owen

In Attendance: District Councillor Bronwen Behan

Members of the

Public: -

1. Tele/video conferencing

Councillors noted that the meeting was being held by tele/video conferencing under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

2. Apologies for absence

None

3. Members' interests

None

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2020 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Because the current meeting was being held remotely, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk sign the minutes on behalf of the Chairman.

5. Matters arising

None

6. Report from the Police

The Clerk advised that he had contacted the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) and had invited them to attend the Council's meeting by Zoom but that they had not responded.

7. Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Bronwen Behan

District Councillor Behan advised that

- because of the loss of income sustained from reduced business rates and car parking, MHDC would increase Council Tax by more than 3%;
- the SWDP was out for consultation. She commented that although an area, such as an AONB, might normally be expected to be protected from development, there were now special conditions applying which could make such development possible.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Broadband

The Chairman advised that the distribution cabinet installed in Church Lane had not yet been connected to a power supply, a task which is to be performed before fibre is laid. Timings remained uncertain. She was aware, however, that the Broadband Working Group had sent a letter to parishioners living in an area to which a second phase of the project might be extended if enough parishioners indicate a willingness to take up the service.

Councillors recounted their own experience of finding that their need for bandwidth only ever seemed to increase.

10. Parish Plan

Cllr Mrs Holt advised that work was proceeding on the Parish Plan and that she hoped to have a draft available for circulation to Council members before the next meeting.

11. Ditches

The Clerk reported that he had written to a number of landowners reminding them of their duty to maintain ditches.

12. Defibrillator

The Councillors received a report from the Clerk and agreed that the easiest and most efficient way to make the machine serviceable was to authorise him to purchase a new lock and replacement pads, and this they did.

13. Zoom

The Council noted that the Clerk had purchased on behalf of the Council a monthly subscription to Zoom, and agreed to reimburse to him the monthly cost of £11.99 plus £2.40 VAT. It was expected that the May meeting would also be held by Zoom and accordingly the Clerk was invited to extend the Zoom subscription for another two months.

14. Request for grant from Eldersfield Parochial Church Council

Councillors noted the request from the Parochial Church Council for a grant to assist with an Easter Walk. The Council warmly endorsed this initiative and it was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £350 be made to the Parochial Church Council to assist in defraying the costs of organising the walk.

15. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman since the last meeting and for which the Lengthsman had submitted invoices totalling £236.

16. Authorisation of Disbursements

It was **RESOLVED** that the following disbursements be made for goods and services:

£242.08	J L Gabbott
£60.60	HMRC
£28.78	J L Gabbott (Zoom, Mar and April)
£236.00	Jeremy Moore (Lengthsman, £118 Jan, £118 Feb)

£60.00 CALC: training re Cllrs Joseph & Holt
£350.00 Parochial Council of St John the Baptist

17. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 11th May 2021, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

18. Any other business

The Clerk said that he would host a Zoom drop-in session for Councillors from 7 pm on 13th April.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

JLG
11.3.21