

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 8.10 p.m.

Present: Mrs C Joseph (Chairman), Mrs W Burr, Mrs D E Holt, Mr C Mills,
Mrs T A Owen

In Attendance: -

**Members of the
Public:** -

1. To elect a Chairman

Mrs Joseph announced that she was willing to stand for election as Chairman; no other candidate presented himself. It was **RESOLVED** that **Cllr Mrs Joseph be Chairman.**

2. To elect a Vice Chairman

Mrs Holt announced that she was willing to stand for election as Vice-Chairman; no other candidate presented himself. It was **RESOLVED** that **Cllr Mrs Holt be Vice Chairman.**

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Mr P Chichester, County Councillor Tom Wells and Mrs Simone Bullen

4. Members' interests

None

5. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2022 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and the Clerk were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

6. Matters arising

None

7. Report from District and County Councillors

The County Councillor, Tom Wells, was not present and no report was available.

The District Councillor Bronwen Behan said that she had provided a report which she had asked be circulated to Councillors.

She referred to the Assets Based Community Development (ABC) programme being undertaken by MHDC. The pandemic had brought about the creation of many local self-help initiatives which it was the objective of the District Council to maintain and nurture.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

The Parish Footpaths Officer, Simone Bullen, was not present but a report was provided on her behalf by the Chairman.

There had been few developments during the period since the last meeting, in part because of her competing commitments, but she was nevertheless pleased that some footpath issues had been resolved.

10. Hills Ford 3 Shires Stages Closed Road Rally:

Councillors took note of the comments made by Parishioners at the Parish Assembly, which had immediately preceded the meeting. They were impressed by the strength of feeling, and that all of it had been directed against the holding of another rally within the Parish.

Accordingly, they agreed unanimously that the Parish Council should oppose the holding of the intended rally in September and they instructed the Clerk to write to Worcestershire County Council and MotorsportUK, with copies to other relevant authorities, expressing its opposition to the granting of any permissions needed for the holding of the rally in any part of the Parish.

11. Road Safety

The Chairman reported that she had been in communication with the Traffic Management Advisor, Road Safety, of West Mercia Police and Malvern Hills Highways representative. It was noted that both our County and District Councillors were also engaged on road safety matters. Reducing the speed limit along the B4211 in the vicinity of the school seemed highly desirable, but national guidelines did not support such a reduction and there was accordingly little appetite at an official level to do so.

A number of measures are being considered, along with improving signage along the B4211.

She was however hopeful that Operation Snap would bring positive results. Publication will soon be given to this police initiative to encourage residents to provide evidence to them of infringements of the Road Traffic Acts in order that they might take appropriate action. The evidence most likely to be available would be camera footage.

She acknowledged that the obvious if occasional presence of a police officer was in itself sufficient to have an effect in curbing speeding – as in Tirley - and regretted that no such presence could be noted in Eldersfield, despite the Council's requests to the police.

12. Natural Networks

The Chairman reported that she had attended a Zoom presentation on Natural Networks. The subject was the regeneration of newly available public spaces in an ecologically friendly manner. She thought that although this could be of importance for some larger parishes it was of little relevance to this Parish.

13. Defibrillator and Training

Cllr Mrs Owen reported that a first aid training course had been held on 19th April. It was attended by 12 parishioners, and its focus was the use of the defibrillator. The course was run by Heartstart Malvern, a charity.

Heartstart Malvern made no charge for either the time of its two (highly qualified) instructors or their expenses but instead asked for donations. Councillors noted with disappointment that only three donations were received. Although Councillors consider that measures for the saving of life are of both great importance and value, the failure to reflect this in donations calls into question whether this view is generally shared.

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £50 be made to HeartStart Malvern.

The Working Party established to examine the possibility of installing a second defibrillator reported that they had been informed that defibrillators should be considered of potential use principally to those within a radius of 200 metres of them at the time of the medical incident; they would consider suggestions for an additional site in the light of this.

14. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Working Party reported that some 42 trees each approximately 3 ft high had been planted within the Parish in publicly accessible sites, and that only a few remained for planting later in the year. The possibility of purchasing one or more plaques to record the occasion was being considered.

15. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman for which invoices had been submitted as follows: March £118, April £248.

16. CALC

After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council renew its membership of Worcestershire CALC for the year commencing 1st April 2022 at a cost of £385.74.

17. Insurance

Councillors reviewed the new policy offered by Zurich Municipal and agreed that it offered all the cover required by the Council. Because of its lower price than that of the previous policy they agreed it was appropriate for the Council.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Council effect insurance with Zurich Municipal on the terms of the newly offered policy at a premium of £196.00.

18. Accounts: Adoption of Accounts

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council approve and adopt as the Accounts of the Council for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2021 the draft accounts circulated prior to the meeting.

19. Accounts: Internal Auditor for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2021

The Clerk stated that during the course of the internal audit he had informed the Internal Auditor that notice of electors' statutory rights had been advertised on the Council's website

but that on reviewing the matter after the audit he could find no evidence that this had happened.

The Council noted the Internal Auditor's report.

20. Accounts: AGAR Certificate of Exemption

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Certificate of Exemption for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2022.

21. Accounts: AGAR Section 1

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Section 1 for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2022 as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

22. Accounts: AGAR Section 2

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Section 2 for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2021 as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

23. Investment Policy

It was **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with item 15 of the minutes of the meeting of 11th May 2006, the Council's investment policy remain that all funds be maintained in a current account and that this Policy be reviewed annually.

24. Risk Assessment

Councillors considered carefully the Council's Risk Assessment.

It was noted that the Council now owned only one telephone kiosk and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Risk Assessment be modified by changing the words 'two telephone kiosks' to read 'one telephone kiosk'.

25. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£169.56	J L Gabbott
£111.60	HMRC
£366.00	Jeremy Moore (Mar £118, Apr £248)
£385.74	CALC
£196.00	Zurich Municipal
£50.00	HeartStart Ledbury

26. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday, 12th July 2022, commencing at 7.00 p.m. at Eldersfield Lawn School.

27. Any other business

Cllr Mrs Holt informed the meeting that she had received a request from the School for a grant to assist in celebrating its sesquicentenary (150 years). That request had arrived too late for it to be included in the agenda, and therefore no decision could be taken on it.

Councillors asked the Clerk to table the letter for consideration at the next meeting, but noted that it did not provide all the information they were likely to need.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

JLG
12.5.22