

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 8th July 2010 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

In Attendance: District Councillor Bronwen Behan

Members of the Miss Ellen Challoner

Public: Mr G Burndred

1. Apologies for absence

C.H. Jeffes, Mrs R Wilder

2. Members to declare interests

None

3. To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th May 2010 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

The Police Beat Manager was not present and no report was available

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Bronwen Behan said that she had attended a Rural Access Meeting. A concern for countryside dwellers was the low speed of broadband available in rural locations which hampered those who wished to start up or operate businesses. Similarly, fuel poverty was highlighted as an issue. She confirmed that there would be a freeze on Council Tax but that this did not include the Parish Precept.

7. Public Comment

Mr Burndred opined that the Village Agent scheme worked well in other villages and suggested that the Council might like to consider its adoption in Eldersfield.

Miss Challoner said that Eldersfield had need of a news magazine and that grants were available which would cover the cost of its production. She also criticised planning policy under which over many years small houses were bought and developed with official sanction into large residences. She also complained that the price of houses in Eldersfield was such that they were unaffordable for people on lower incomes.

8. Planning matters

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SECTION A

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

10/00192/HOU

Proposed single storey extension to form additional living accommodation and new stables and carport to replace existing out buildings

- Barletts House Link End Road Corse Lawn Gloucester GL19 4NN
- R Ridley

Council's Comments

This modest extension will sit sympathetically with the existing dwelling

The dwelling assumes a semi isolated position, consequently there is no impact on neighbouring properties

The stables and car port are constructed from traditional materials again sitting sympathetically with the main dwelling.

We support the proposal.

Approved

SECTION B

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

10/00498/FUL and 10/00500/LBC

Conversion of redundant barn to dwelling

- Pigeon House Farm, Eldersfield, Gloucester, GL19 4NW
- Mrs M Bainbridge

Council's Comments

The barn conversion proposed is situated immediately adjacent the Pigeon House main residence. New windows, being the only significant structural change, have been positioned sympathetically minimising any impact on the main residence.

The proposal is confirmed to the original footprint again minimising impact on a previously converted barn to the east of the barn.

We support the application whilst noting that Listed Building Control Consent is also required prior to full approval.

Under consideration

Pending

10/00623/HOU

Two storey extension to rear and second floor single storey extension to rear

- Yet Tree Cottage, Corse Lawn, Gloucester, GL19 4LZ
- Mrs Pat Crockett

Council's Comments

The application proposes a two storey extension to a thatched black and white cottage.

We note that the extension replicates materials used in the original cottage.

A recent extension to a similar thatched cottage (Rose Cottage) resulting in both construction materials and roof 'differentiating' from the original in line with planning policy.

This interpretation blatantly did not work and the end result has been the subject of quite vocal local criticism.

With the benefit of hindsight we support the extension as proposed.

Pending

9. Complaints

Complaints about the state of the telephone kiosk in Corse Lawn, clippings placed in the ditch next to it and the poor state of repair of the Council's shed at the School were noted. The kiosks did not yet belong to the Council although Cllr Davis undertook to cut back some brambles; clippings were not the responsibility of this Council; and it was agreed that a review would be made of the state of the Council's shed with a to recommendations being put to the next meeting.

10. Communication

Following the comments made by the public, it was agreed during discussion that there was unlikely to be sufficient newsworthy material in the parish to sustain a newsletter if publication were to be frequent, but that the issue of a pilot could bring benefits. However, to bring this project to fruition, a plan would have to be developed and one or more volunteers found.

11. Churchyard

The letter received from the Treasurer of St John the Baptist Church, Eldersfield, was noted and it was **RESOLVED that the Council make a grant of £350 to the Parochial Parish Council for the purpose of maintaining the churchyard.** In discussion it was agreed that the Council would be well disposed to considering at a future meeting the possibility of increasing this grant in future years and the Council expressed itself as generally in sympathy with a policy of regular mowing of the churchyard.

The graveyard is likely to become full in the next five years or so and the matter of its possible closure was raised. The graveyard is for the use of all parishioners of Eldersfield,

regardless of religion, although it is noticeable that few are eager to avail themselves of the facility.

The Clerk advised Councillors that, if the graveyard were to be closed to new burials, responsibility for its maintenance would fall to the Council but that this Council would have the right to pass that responsibility to Malvern Hills District Council. He also said that the Council was a burial authority and as such had the power, but not the duty, to acquire land and to open a new cemetery. This Council also had the power, but not the duty, to assist the PCC with the costs of providing and operating a cemetery.

The Chairman said that his personal view was that the Council had a moral duty to assist in maintaining the churchyard and ensuring that there was a cemetery within the parish; and he recommended that a working party of Councillors be set up to explore the possibility of assisting the Parochial Church Council in finding a solution. Such a solution might include establishing a fund with which eventually to acquire land; for this, increases in the precept would undoubtedly be needed. This view was adopted. The working party comprises Cllrs Davies, Manwaring, Tombs and Mrs Mitchell.

12. CAPRI

Mr Gabbott, Secretary of CAPRI, reported that the Fighting Fund target of £35,000 had been achieved and that this was a clear demonstration of the strength of public feeling in the area. CAPRI was urging all who could to attend the Inquiry – and especially the first session – to show to the Inspector the depth of public sentiment.

13. Hall hire

It was noted that Eldersfield Lawn School wished to raise the charge for use of the hall to £3 per hour (plus caretaking of £9.94 per evening) and requests payment for all bookings made by the Council for 2010 in the amount of £95.64 and it was **RESOLVED** that a payment of **£91.64 be made to Worcestershire County Council** in respect of the Council's meetings for the current calendar year.

14. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 164.59	Mr J L Gabbott
£ 41.15	Inland Revenue
£ 91.64	Worcestershire County Council

15. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

Received:

- South Worcestershire Joint Advisory Panel
- Letter from Rt Hon Eric Pickles, MP re planning

16. Any other business

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.