

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

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

In Attendance: -

Members of the Public: Mrs Jo-Anne Block
Mr Bernard Moss

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Mr P Chichester and Mr C Mills

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2023 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 District and County Councillors

Neither the County Councillor, Tom Wells nor the District Councillor Bronwen Behan was present and no report was available.

6. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

The Parish Footpaths Officer, Simone Bullen, was not present and no report was available.

7. Public Comment

Planning Application M/23/00062/FUL

Mr Bernard Moss, a near neighbour at the planning site, addressed the meeting.

He said that although the Flood Risk Assessment supplied with the Application and dated October 2020 indicated a low risk of flooding he questioned whether with the increasing effects of climate change that assessment remains validity. His own, and recent, experience on his land, which is contiguous with and at similar elevation to the Application site, is that in heavy rain it frequently becomes waterlogged, to such an extent that he has had to employ electrical pumps to de-water the land and thereby reduce the risk of flooding to his premises. This has been necessary on three separate and extended periods: from 23rd December 2020 to 4th January 2021; from 14th to 27th February 2022 and from 8th to 17th January 2023.

He had also noted on frequent occasions considerable and intrusive noise coming from the existing site. If this were to be concentrated in the Day Room Block, which it is proposed be located very close to the border with his property, it would be intolerable.

In the light of the above, he asked the Council to object to the Application.

Defibrillator

Mrs Jo-Anne Block, owner of the Butchers' Arms, advised the meeting that she was considering installing a defibrillator at the pub. An online crowd-funding scheme had been initiated and had now made significant progress; a local electrician had offered to install the cabling without charge. She said she was now seeking further funding.

Councillors noted this information and indicated that they would welcome an application for a grant from the Council.

8. Planning Application M/23/00062/FUL

Councillors considered the application and took note of the remarks made by Mr Moss to which they gave considerable weight. They were also concerned that the proposed Day Room Block was disproportionately and unnecessarily large and not in keeping with the rural setting. They instructed the Clerk to object to the application.

9. Bridleway

An application for the addition of a bridleway in the parish of Eldersfield had been received from Worcestershire County Council and circulated before the meeting.

Councillors discussed the application and noted that the only comments received were in favour of the proposal. Accordingly the Clerk was instructed to confirm to Worcestershire County Council that it had no objection.

10. Elections

Councillors noted that the number of seats on the Council was nine, and that currently there were six councillors. Clearly, even if all existing councillors applied for re-election – and it could not be known if they would – more councillors were needed. Councillors therefore invited members of the public to consider whether they would be interested in becoming a councillor and if they had any questions to contact either an existing councillor or the Clerk. This invitation had been communicated widely – on Facebook, on the Parish WhatsApp group and in EldersfieldE¹.

Nomination packs are available from the Clerk or from xx. stand for election xx

11. Road Safety

The Chairman reported that although the white gates discussed at previous meetings had now been installed correctly at either end of Corse Lawn the gates at the north-east end still needed cross-bars fitted. A new 'Welcome to Corse Lawn' sign would also be erected.

The Chairman reported two further matters. The warning lights on the B4211 before and after the school were continuing to flash during the holidays and at other inappropriate times; by

¹ EldersfieldE is the Council's online service which provides subscribers with relevant and important information by email. If you wish to subscribe, please email the Clerk at eldersfieldpc@yahoo.co.uk

continuing to shout wolf they lost their significance. These lights are controlled by WCC and therefore it is not possible for either the School or the Parish Council to resolve the matter. She reminded Councillors that the Parish Council had in the past written very many letters to WCC which seemed either unwilling or unable to take action to cause the lights to operate only when intended.

She also raised the matter of potholes appearing on the side of the road opposite the School. These were of a size as to now require attention and she understood that the School's Parents' and Teachers' Association was willing to bear part of the cost.

The Clerk advised the meeting that these potholes were on land which belonged either to Highways or to the Reeves and that there was no agreement for its maintenance to which the Parish Council was party. Councillors took note.

12. Tree planting project

Mrs Wendy Burr reported that with the planting of a hundred trees the previous week-end the project was now very close to completion. One local resident had objected to the siting of some trees and this would be addressed.

The working group will now examine the possibility of marking the completion of this initiative in honour of her late Majesty by means of a suitable plaque, and expect to make a proposal to the Council at the next meeting.

13. Defibrillator

Advice had been received that the presence of the lock on the defibrillator would delay access and that accordingly it would be preferable for there to be no such lock. This may be of particular relevance given that there is no, or little, mobile signal at the School. Accordingly it was decided that the lock would be removed. The likelihood of theft was thought small.

Councillors then considered the possibility of acquiring further defibrillators. It was brought to their attention that the machine at the shop at Pendock was due to be re-sited, and in the light of this information they decided to postpone any decision.

14. Church Grant

A request from the Parochial Church Council of Eldersfield Church for a grant of £146.98 to assist in defraying the costs of a community event to be held at Easter had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors considered the application and noted that it was a most welcome initiative to weld social cohesion within the Parish. Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £146.98 be made to the Parochial Church Council of Eldersfield Church to assist in defraying the costs of a community event to be held at Easter.

15. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman for which invoices had been submitted as follows: January £248, February £124.

16. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£126.02	J L Gabbott
£80.80	HMRC
£372.00	Jeremy Moore (£248 Jan; £124 Feb)
£146.98	Parochial Church Council of Eldersfield

17. Future Meetings

[The Clerk advised after the meeting and after consultation with the Chairman that the next meeting would be held, for legal and practical reasons, on Friday 12th May at 7.00 p.m. in Eldersfield Lawn School.]

18. Any other business

None

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

JLG
8.3.23