

ELDERSFIELD PARISH

Minutes of the

Annual Assembly

held on Tuesday 7th May 2024, 7.00 pm, at Eldersfield Lawn School

Present:

- Chairman:** Cllr Mrs Carole Joseph
- Parish Councillors elect:** Mr M K Barton, Mrs W Burr, Mrs D E Holt,
Mrs T A Owen
- In attendance:** District Councillor Jennie Watkins
- Members of the Public:** 1

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2023 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

2. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented the following report:

“Another year has flown by, and once again, I must firstly thank my Councillors (Dawn Holt, Tracy Owen, Wendy Burr & Mike Bartlett) along with our Parish Clerk (Joseph Gabbott) for their support and teamwork in making this Council run smoothly. I must also thank our District Councillor, Jennie Watkins, as she has been instrumental in supporting Eldersfield PC in so many ways this year.

Although we are a small Council, but a large parish, we have been active in many areas, and I briefly give the highlights below:

1. Litter Picking: continues to be a popular activity organised formally twice a year, but with many parishioners ‘doing their bit’ whilst out walking or dog walking throughout the year as well. Thanks to a grant via our District Councillor, we have been able to purchase hoops for the bags, more litter pickers and Hi-Viz jackets in helping keep our parish as litter free as we can.
2. Planning Applications: We continue to review each, and every planning application received, make a site visit if applicable and send material comments back to Planning based on our current Parish Plan and within the planning framework criteria.

3. Footpaths: We have a dedicated Footpath Officer who works with Malvern Hills on footpath issues. We support their work wherever possible as access to our countryside is an important aspect of keeping our parish safe and accessible. Contact Eldersfieldparishpaths@gmail.com to report any footpath issues.
4. Parish Assets (Tables, chairs, crockery etc): This year is a bit of a challenge as the Parish 'shed' located at the school is literally falling down. We are in the process of assessing what can be done and the cost & viability of replacing, based on income received verses benefit to the community.
5. Traffic Calming (B4211): We have been fortunate to have Councillor Wells (Leader Malvern Hills CC) as well as Jennie Watkins (District Council) involved in ongoing discussions to try and find ways to reduce vehicles speeding along Corse Lawn - especially along the school stretch of road – with a very productive meeting at the School, where the children were invited to use a 'speed gun' to monitor traffic speeds. Cllr Wells, Cllr Joseph & the School Head listened to any concerns raised by parents. It is not an easy problem to solve, and discussions are ongoing as to any solutions that can be put in place, however small, to try and improve traffic issues.
6. Defibrillator(s): We now have two public access Defibrillators within the Parish: one located at the entrance to Eldersfield School and one at The Butchers Arms (Lime Street). However, due to a tragic incident within our parish, this highlighted issues of access to and use of a defibrillator within a rural community due to distances involved, which can be problematic. This has led to a meeting between our local MP (Dame Harriet Baldwin), West Midlands Ambulance Service, HeartStart (Malvern), Councillors and the family affected, all facilitated by Cllr Watkins, to see what improvements to services can be made. We are collaborating with other Parish Councils within our ward as they face similar issues. We will report back when we have more information to share.

Eldersfield Parish Council welcomes any suggestions from Parishioners on issues that might affect our Parish or its Parishioners. Please do get in touch or come along to a Council meeting. Notices of Parish meetings and minutes are posted on our website and put up in Notice Boards around the Parish. Carole Joseph, Chair, Eldersfield Parish Council.”

The report was warmly received.

3. Report of the Lengthsman

Mr Jeremy Moore the Lengthsman, addressed the meeting.

He said that he greatly appreciated his role as Lengthsman of the Parish which he had now held for eleven years.

He reminded the meeting that he was now authorised under the Lengthsman Scheme to perform work on public footpaths, although the authorisation procedure was complicated. He

then mentioned some areas where flooding was a perennial problem, Palmers Green, Moorend Road and Lime Street being amongst them. He had done what he could, but the solution, if one existed, did not lie in his hands.

He then referred to the problem of speeding in the Parish and turned to VAS, Vehicle Activated Signs. He said that he could store and recharge them but he warned that their batteries provided tempting targets for thieves. Solar-powered VAS were available but would cost between £2,000 and £3,000. In any event, he had doubts about their effectiveness.

The Chairman thanked him for taking the time and effort to come to the meeting and for his contribution which helped set the framework for later discussions.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

JLG
13.5.24