

## ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 8.20 p.m.**

**Present:** H.S. Davis (Chairman), C.H. Jeffes, R.S. Manwaring MBE,  
Mrs C Powell-Chandler, D.J. Tombs, C J Whitehead, O D Williams,

**In Attendance:** District Councillor Bronwen Behan  
Pc Naulls

**Members of the** 7  
**Public:**

The Chairman of the previous council took the chair and declared the meeting open.

Councillors appointed at the election signed the Declaration of Office in the presence of the Clerk

### **1. Chairman**

Mr Davis indicated that he was willing to serve as Chairman. **It was RESOLVED that Mr Davis be chairman of the Parish Council for the year now started.**

### **2. To elect a Vice Chairman**

Mr R Manwaring indicated that he was willing to serve as Vice-Chairman. It was **RESOLVED that Mr Manwaring be Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the year now started.**

### **3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Tom Wells

### **4. Members' interests**

None.

### **5. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2011 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

### **6. Matters arising**

None

## **7. Co-option**

The Council noted that there were two vacancies; the Chairman was aware of two candidates who had indicated that they would be willing to serve. Accordingly it was **RESOLVED** that **Mr David Tombs and Mrs Ros Wilder be co-opted to the Council.**

Mr Tombs signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

## **8. Report from Police Beat Manager**

Pc Alan Naulls expressed the need for vigilance. Two thefts and three burglaries had taken place in the parish; where houses were isolated it was important that neighbours remain alert to suspicious happenings. He emphasised that access to houses should not be granted uncritically to strangers.

The Chairman advised Pc Naulls that the Council would willingly give publicity via EldersfieldE and otherwise to any matters of general interest which Pc Naulls might wish to bring to the attention of the public.

## **9. Reports from District and County Councillors**

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported that the implications of the Localism Bill were being considered and that there would be an impact on parish councils, although it was too early to be specific about what that impact would be. It had been noted that there had been only two contested elections in the area and the apparent general lack of willingness of the public to give their time to serve as parish councillors was a matter for concern.

## **10. Public Comment**

Great interest in, and strong feeling towards, the application to increase the production of the composting unit was shown by all members of the public present.

Claims were made that the site was unpleasantly and excessively smelly and noisy; that the local roads were unsuitable for the higher volumes of traffic; and that because past planning conditions had not been complied with there could be no confidence that any future conditions would be respected.

It was claimed that many complaints had been lodged with the relevant authorities but on questioning by councillors it was noted that these complaints were largely by telephone and that no record of their number or timing had been kept.

The Enforcement Officer had been made aware of the conditions which were not being complied with but he had taken no formal enforcement action, claiming that it was his council's practice to seek voluntary compliance before applying the force of law. The public believed that pressure should be placed on the Officer to act more robustly.

It was also suggested that the technology underpinning this application was changing and that the processes now in use are becoming outmoded.

In the light of the above shortcomings, it was the clear view of the public present that the application should be strenuously opposed by this Council.

## **11. Planning matters**

### **SECTION A**

#### **SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING**

- 11/00167/FUL**                      Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 79/01737 to allow access to commercial premises to be shared with Hazeldene
- Church View, Moorend Road, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NS
  - Mr & Mrs A Mcillwraith

*Council's Comments*

Sole access to the now redundant Baptist Chapel was originally via Orchard Cottage

We are comfortable with this proposal to share access with Hazeldene (the owners of Hazeldene are the applicants).

*Withdrawn by Applicant*

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- 11/00062/CLE**                      Certificate of Lawfulness Development for an existing use of land for the keeping of horses
- Church View, Moorend Road, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NS
  - Miss Victoria Jolly

*Council's Comments*

None

*Refusal (Lawfulness Proposed Use/Dev)*

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### **SECTION B**

#### **SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION**

- 11/00228/FUL**                      Change of use to Lorry Park (Retrospective)
- Link End Timber, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4NN
  - R Denniss

*Council's Comments*

Access to the site is via a narrow meandering country lane (Link End Lane) for approximately half a mile having left the B4211 opposite the parish school.

Our concerns are concentrated on this stretch of lane as follows:

### 1. The junction with the B4211

Mornings, afternoon and evenings (when a school event is being held) see up to twenty parents park on the both sides of the Link End and walk across the road to the school with their respective children.

Whilst traffic calming has been introduced 'near misses' are reported quite frequently and confirm that this remains a potentially dangerous stretch of road.

Once in Link End Lane vehicles are confronted by activity from the home for vulnerable young adults and children. Large lorries meandering through this congestion are a recipe for disaster

### 2 Site entrance into Link End Road

The approach lane is barely wide enough for a lorry, with no bell mouth scope to improve entry into Link End Lane, consequently any lorry leaving the site has to cross the centre of the Link End Lane and cuts the verge on the opposite side of the lane

Not only is this stretch of the lane very narrow, erosion of the land edge and ditch maintenance have resulted in extremely narrow verge for 100 yards at least.

This stretch of the Link End Lane is used by walkers, pony riders and large agricultural machinery; the additional activity from the horses would again make this a potentially dangerous stretch of road

### 3. Proximity of roadside Cottages to highway

Whilst accepting that lorries currently proceed with care, there is inevitably noise from such large lorries. This has been measured and evidence is available confirming that noise levels are unacceptable

Currently lorry activity starts early morning (often 4.00 am) and continues for several hours. We would not support any operating hours restriction as concerns raised above would only be escalated

Based on the points listed we cannot support this application and must oppose it.

However the site is well secluded and quite remote from any dwelling, offering opportunity to optimise this site potential with a more appropriate venture.

*Pending*

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**11/00425/HOU**

Single storey link to split level rear extension to accommodation for family members

- Yew Tree Cottage, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4LZ
- Mrs Pat Crockett

*Council's Comments*

We note that this new application addresses the reasons for refusal ref 10/00623/1404. In principle there is little difference that warrants any further Parish Council comment

We support the objective and note that regular discussions have taken place with the Planning Officer.

It is to be hoped that flexibility by all parties will deliver a satisfactory solution to this project.

*Pending*

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**11/000030/CM**

Replacement of a temporary mobile office with permanent building

- Pendock Environmental, Pendock, GL19 4PR
- Pendock Environmental

*Council's Comments*

Under consideration

*Pending*

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**11/000029/CM:**

Variation of Condition 18 to "The annual throughput of material through the site shall be limited to a maximum of 9,000 tonnes per annum and records shall be kept for the inspection by the County Planning Authority on request of the amount of throughput of material for the duration of the operations on site" and removal of Condition 19 "The compost shall only be applied to land on the applicant's ownership of Planning Permission 407703

- Pendock Environmental, Pendock, GL19 4PR
- Pendock Environmental

*Council's Comments*

Under consideration

*Pending*

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**11/00419/HOU**

Erection of extensions to form utility/boot room with two bedrooms adjoining existing gable end  
GUYTHORPE MALVERN ROAD MALVERN WORCS  
GL19 3N2

- Mr & Mrs T Bradford

*Council's Comments*

The property stands alone in its own grounds remote from any neighbouring properties. The proposed extension sits comfortably with the existing property.

We support the application.

11/00467/FUL

**Proposed garaging to replace outhouse (Amendment to approved garage, 09/01060/HOU)**

- West End Cottage, Lime Street, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NX
- Mr R Hall

*Council's Comments*

Under consideration

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**12. Composting Unit**

Councillors, having heard the representation made during Public Comments, instructed the Clerk to respond to the consultation to express the Council's strong opposition to the application.

**13. Parish Lengthsman**

The Clerk reported that no candidates had presented themselves for the position of Lengthsman which had been advertised since February. Councillors asked him to re-advertise the position.

**14. Notice boards**

The parlous state of the notice board at the Butcher's Arms was noted and the Clerk was asked to secure an estimate for the refurbishment of both that notice board and the Footpaths notice board outside the School.

**15. Application for Rural Rate relief**

The Council noted that a request for Rural Rate relief had been received by MHDC from the owners of The Butcher's Arms, Eldersfield. After discussion the Council **RESOLVED that, although the business was of benefit to the local community, it would not be reasonable to grant the relief in view of the fact that this would be funded in part by local Council Tax payers.**

**16. Accounts**

It was **RESOLVED that the accounts circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting be approved and adopted as the Accounts of the Council; that they be attached hereto as Appendix A; and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return Sections 1 and 2, and the Council required that the Clerk publish forthwith the relevant Notice as prescribed by regulation.**

**17. Bank Account Signatories**

The Clerk explained that the Council maintained one current bank account upon which there were four authorised signatories; the clerk himself was not a signatory. Payment instructions to the bank were required to be signed by no fewer than two such signatories. One of the signatories was no longer a Councillor.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the authority previously granted to Mrs Mary Mitchell to operate the Council's bank account be revoked and that such authority be granted to Councillor Bryan Parsons.

#### **18. Investment Policy**

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

#### **19. Risk Assessment**

It was noted that the Council had previously adopted Risk Assessment statement and that a review of that statement was now appropriate. Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** that a working party comprising the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and Mrs Powell-Chandler be formed to review the Risk Assessment statement of the Council and to report to the next meeting.

#### **20. Communication with the Public**

It was agreed that the matter had been sufficiently debated during the Parish Assembly and the topic was therefore closed.

#### **21. Insurance**

An offer had been received from AON to renew the Council's insurance for the year commencing 1st June 2011 at a premium of £541.37 (2010: £ 501.79). It was **RESOLVED** that this offer be accepted and the premium paid.

#### **22. Corse Lawn Women's Group (CLWG)**

The practice of the Council to assist local groups by paying the caretaking element of their meetings held at the School was explained by the Chairman for the benefit of new Councillors. It was then **RESOLVED** that the Council make a grant of £ 89.46 to the Cores Lawn Women's Group in respect of their meetings held in 2010.

#### **23. Authorisation of Disbursements**

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

£ 266.49	J L Gabbott
£ 61.78	Inland Revenue
£ 61.16	Worcestershire County Council
£ 541.37	Aon Limited
£ 89.46	Corse Lawn Women's Group

#### **24. Future Meetings**

It was noted that, in accordance with item 19 of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010, future meetings of the Council would take place at Eldersfield Lawn School at 7.30 pm on the following Thursdays in 2011: 14<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> November

## **25. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

- Rural Services Network

## **26. Other business**

The Clerk advised that an application had been received by VOSA in respect of the granting of an Operator's Licence at the Old Timber Yard. The Council instructed him to make representations to VOSA in conformity with the objections made by the Council to the planning application.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.