

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 7th January 2016 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: A. Davies (Chairman), Mrs D Holt, J. Keighley, Mrs C Powell-Chandler
Mrs S Rush, Mrs Willder, O. Williams

In Attendance: County Councillor Tom Wells

**Members of the
Public:** 8

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from A.J. Etherington.

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chairman asked whether there were any amendments to the draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th November 2015 and which had been circulated to all members on 13th November 2015. Members had no comment to make. The Chairman however proposed that the words

To reduce the budget, the Clerk was instructed to place a notice in the parish magazine identifying that funds we available for small grants to be made to individuals/groups to assist with projects and actions of benefit to the community.

be inserted at the end of item 14.

Subject to this one amendment the minutes 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. Reports from District and County Councillors

[The Clerk introduced the County Councillor to the Chairman.]

Tom Wells told members that he wished to advise them of important or topical issues at County Hall. One important concern which he currently had was the effect that the privatisation of some of the Council's traditional roles was removing a pool of talent and knowledge from within the Council and thereby reducing its ability to monitor the quality of services being provided to it.

He also spoke about broadband within the parish. He was adamant that the only way to ensure that the broadband service was upgraded was by making the strength of feeling – measured numerically rather than qualitatively – known to those who make the decisions.

Castlemorton had held a meeting at which the hall was packed to overflowing. He recognised that there was lack of clarity as to whether any Eldersfield upgrade would be financially supported by Worcestershire, given that the parish lay within that county, or by Gloucestershire, given that the telephone exchange was in Gloucestershire. He undertook to make enquires and revert to the Clerk.

Bronwen Behan, the County Councillor was not present and no report was available.

6. Report from the Police

None. The Clerk was instructed to invite the Police to attend the next meeting.

[The Police representative later apologised to the Clerk that he had been called away to attend investigation into a burglary.]

7. Public Comment

Various members of the public expressed their views on the provision of broadband within the parish: that it was too slow and that it was of insufficient quality. They also noted - with considerable dismay – that there was a lack of clarity as to whether the Parish fell within the improvement project supported by Worcestershire County Council or, given that the majority of telephones in the Parish were connected to the Tirley exchange, by Gloucestershire County Council.

The Chairman recognised these concerns and said that they would be given due weight when the matter came to be discussed by members.

8. Broadband

Members took note of the comments made by the Public during the previous item and concluded that in the parish there was both dissatisfaction with the broadband service currently provided and a lack of clarity about what, if anything, was proposed to remedy it. Accordingly the Council agreed that a working party be set up with the remit to investigate how improvement to the broadband service could best be effected.

The members of the working party were to be Mr Keighley, Mrs Powell-Chandler, Mr Gabbott and, from the public, Tracy Hall, Nathan Eaton, Brian Parsons. The working party would have the power of co-option.

The party was invited to make a report to the next meeting of the Council.

9. Planning

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 15/00909/OUT | Outline application for 10 dwelling with all matters, except for access, reserved. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Adj Nutshells, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, |
|---------------------|---|

Council's Comments

[see minutes of meeting held on 5th November 2015]

Withdrawn

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- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 15/01202/HOU | Demolition of coach house, two storey extension to side of existing property and enlargement of bay window and balcony above, to front property |
| of | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Dowding, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4NB |

Council's Comments

We have no objection to this application.

Approval (Full) Planning Householder

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- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 15/01222/HOU | Single storey and two storey extensions. Replacement windows. Addition of cladding. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hunters Way, Lime Street, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NX |

Council's Comments

We have no objection to this application.

Approval (Full) Planning Householder

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

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|---------------------|--|
| 15/01525/FUL | Change of use to convert former granary into a dwelling including single storey extensions, access and residential curtilage |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cromer Farm, Pendock, Worcestershire, GL19 3PG |

Council's Comments

We offer no objection to this application.

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- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 15/01566/FUL | Erection of replacement dwelling |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Annexe At, Ploughs End, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4LZ |

Council's Comments

We have no objections.

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- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 15/01575/FUL | Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Cottage, Gadfield Elm, Staunton, Worcestershire, GL19 3PB |

Council's Comments

[under consideration]

- 15/01581/FUL** Two additional gypsy pitches together with formation of hardstanding ancillary to that use to include reconfiguration of existing permitted pitch grant at appeal (ref 08/00886/FUL)
- Fieldview, Malvern Road, Staunton, Worcestershire,

Council's Comments

We are concerned that the proposed increased density on the site will place too much demand on the water supply that serves both the site and close neighbours. We understand that the water supply comes through a pipe that was laid privately - and so is not the responsibility of Severn Trent. We understand that on one occasion, when there was an gathering of travellers on the site, the water supply could not cope with the additional demand. Hence there are fears that, with increased occupancy, this could become a regular occurrence and a hazard to health be thereby created.

We note also that the gates to the site are on a stretch of road where there is poor visibility, yet unfortunately there is no safer alternative position. With the increased volume of traffic that an expanded site will generate plus the speed and volume of the traffic that already travels along this stretch of road, we believe that the proposed access would not offer an acceptable degree of safety.

In the absence of satisfactory resolution of the above two concerns we cannot support the application.

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- 15/01626/HOU** First floor extension to side of property, orangery/conservatory to rear of property and internal alterations to accommodate planned family.
- Old Cider Barn, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4PE

Council's Comments

We have no objection.

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- 15/01776/FUL** Proposed 4 no new dwellings with 2 no. access points
- Land adjoining Brookmead Pendock, Worcestershire

Council's Comments

[under consideration]

10. Bank Account Signatories

The Clerk reported that he had been informed by Lloyds Bank that the four nominated members of the new Council were recognised as signatories by the bank and that he had submitted to the bank a request that the two remaining signatories of the old council be deleted. The bank had not responded and he would contact them again.

11. Telephone boxes

The Clerk advised the meeting that a request had been received from Tewkesbury Rugby Club that the Council donate to the club the telephone box at Swindley Lane. It would be used to house a defibrillator. The Clerk advised members that, if they were minded to accede in principle to the request, the transfer should be done in the form of a sale, not a gift, in order that the terms of the transfer should be clear and legally enforceable.

After a short discussion it was resolved that the Council sell to Tewkesbury Rugby Club for £1.00 the Council's telephone box at Swindley Lane on such terms as the Clerk may decide.

Mr Parsons, as representative of the Club, thanked the Council and paid the proposed purchase price in cash to the Clerk.

12. Lengthsman

The Clerk gave a short description of the work undertaken by the Lengthsman during November and December. Councillors expressed their satisfaction. It was resolved that the Lengthsman's invoices for November and December, each for £236, be paid.

13. Council shed

Councillors had noted the state of the shed and in particular that a) there were a number of boards which required replacement and b) that the wood overall required re-treatment. It was thought unlikely that the work could be undertaken until the weather was drier. Members agreed that the Clerk should seek a quote.

It was noted that there were 45 stacking chairs in the shed and that more were required. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk, having consulted the Chairman, purchase for not more than £400 up to 10 additional chairs.

14. St John the Baptist

Members noted that a request for a grant had been received from St John the Baptist for assistance in respect of maintenance of the churchyard. After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £650 be made to the Eldersfield Parochial Church Council.

15. Grants

It was noted with disappointment that although that the Clerk had placed advertisements inviting the submission of applications for grants in the Parish Magazine no such application has been received. It was thought that the exercise should be repeated and the Clerk was again instructed to offer advertisements for insertion.

16. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 113.01	J L Gabbott
£75.20	HMRC
£40.28	WCC: Hire of School hall (meetings 7 th January and 24 th March 2016)
£236.00	Mr J Moore, Lengthsman services November 2015
£236.00	Mr J Moore, Lengthsman services December 2015
£650.00	Eldersfield Parochial Church Council.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted

Received:

- CALC updates
- MHDC: News Updates
- Rural Opportunities Bulletin
- Local Government Chronicle

18. Future Meetings

It was noted that future meetings of the Council would be held on Thursday 24th March and 5th May at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

19. Other business

19.1 The Chairman raised the question of whether to apply for a grant for a defibrillator. He thought that if there were a defibrillator available within the Parish it would be of potential use to people within a 20 mile radius (i.e. from Worcester to Stroud). He said that many emergency ambulances were old and were not therefore equipped with such a machine and that even if only one life were saved it would be a considerable success.

Other members expressed scepticism: it was difficult to imagine people in an emergency travelling 20 miles for a defibrillator and the radius of potential use was therefore significantly less than that suggested; ambulances might be old but that did not prevent them carrying emergency equipment which was both portable and considered by many to be essential.

Given that for an application for a grant to be successful it would first have to be approved by the NHS, members agreed that the Clerk make an application.

19.2 One councillor reported that a public footpath had been fenced proximate to Coombe Hill Cottage and that a trench was in the course of being dug but that he had not reported the matter to WCC; he asked the Clerk to do so.

19.3 One councillor reported that a finger post had been destroyed at Clay Cross, Tirley Road but that he had not reported the matter to WCC; he asked the Clerk to do so.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.02 p.m.

JLG
11.1.16