

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 1st November 2016 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

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

In Attendance:

Members of the 3
Public:

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from: A.J. Etherington, J. Keighley, and from District Councillor Bronwen Behan

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th September 2016 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

None

6. Report from the Police

None

7. Public Comment

Members of the public expressed their concerns about the poor state of broadband provision with the parish and were keen that an improvement to generally acceptable standards should be expeditiously implemented.

Concern was also expressed by the public about the Lawns, a concern exacerbated by ignorance of the future of the institution.

8. Green Lane

The Clerk advised the meeting that

- the Council had complained to the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board (LSIDB) in May about the work undertaken by the LSIDB in the Green Lane, Eldersfield in the first quarter of 2016 and had requested a meeting to discuss that work, but the LSIDB replied that it ‘had no intention of attending a site meeting or Parish Council meeting’.
- The Council then suggested that a meeting take place to discuss the work scheduled for September. The LSIDB undertook to advise the Council before such future work was re-started; that work had been re-started and, indeed, completed; and the Council had not received the advice promised;
- the LSIDB now suggested that it could not hold a meeting with the Council for fear of prejudicing its handling of the complaint submitted by the Council in May and sought to know whether the Council was satisfied with the responses it had received to date.

Councillors found this situation most unsatisfactory and instructed the Clerk to put its concerns to the District Councillor who was a member of the Board of the LSIDB.

9. Car parking outside the school

The Chairman remarked, to the general agreement of members, that parking outside the School, especially when children were being collected at the end of the school day, appeared dangerous. He had also noted that, because of the practice by motorists of parking half on, half off, the carriageway, the verges were being damaged.

The Clerk was instructed to write to MHDC to enquire what plans, if any, were being considered to mitigate this situation.

10. Superfast Broadband

Members noted the comments of members of the public earlier and regretted that the standard of broadband provision within the Parish was lamentable.

The Chairman reported that he had been in communication with various telecom bodies and understood that fibre had now been brought to three cabinets which served the parish. He further understood that a decision was awaited on which houses should be offered the upgrade.

One councillor reported that Sky had informed him that he could expect a significant improvement in broadband during the first quarter of 2017.

11. The Lawns

Members also took note of comments made by the public about The Lawns. Although some of these comments appeared to relate to matters which fell entirely within the sphere of the relationship between neighbours and as such were not properly the concern of the Council, others had a direct impact on residents of the parish and were a cause of disquiet to Councillors.

The need of working closely with the managers of the Lawns was emphasised, and the Clerk, as a first step, was instructed to write to those managers seeking their intentions for the future and offering the co-operation of the Council where that was possible.

12. Telephone Kiosk:

A quotation had been received from Martin Reeves for the refurbishment of the telephone kiosk at Bridge End for the amount of £290. It was **RESOLVED** that the quotation be accepted.

13. Audit

The Clerk reported that the Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion on the Accounts. He had, however, made three further comments; two related to the technical matters affecting the presentation of the accounts and the third was an observation that the Council was retaining reserves which were excessive in relation to its apparent needs.

14. Planning

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 16/01034/HOU** First floor side extension with balcony and porch to front elevation
- Rose Tree Cottage, Lime Street, Eldersfield, Gloucester GL51 6SH

Council's Comments

We have no objection.

Approval (Full) Planning Householder

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

- 15/01566/FUL** Erection of replacement dwelling
- Annexe At, Ploughs End, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4LZ

Council's Comments

We have no objections.

Pending Decision

- 16/01157/HOU** Demolish existing conservatory and replace with sunroom, addition of bay window/doors, porch and other alterations including demolition of existing chimneys.
- The Meadows, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4PE

Council's Comments

We have no objections.

Pending Decision

- 16/01183/PDU** Proposed conversion of an agricultural building to a dwelling.

- Marsh Court, Bridgend, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4PN

Council's Comments

We have no objections.

Pending Decision

15. Committed Funds

The statement of Committed Funds circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

16. Workplace Pension for Employees:

The Clerk reported that the Council was obliged, as an employer, to register with the Pensions Regulator and had done so. It would be obliged in the near future to offer to its employees, of whom it had one, a Workplace Pension. The Clerk thought it unlikely that the employee would accept.

17. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£472.00	Mr J Moore, Lengthsman services (September £118.00; October £236.00)
£450.00	E J Williams, repair to Council shed
£ 110.98	J L Gabbott
£70.00	HMRC
£20.47	WCC, (hire of School Hall 1 st November 2016)

18. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted

- Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board (various)
- CALC Updates
- Eldersfield Lawn School: letter of thanks for Queen's Commemorative medallion

19. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 12th January 2017 at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

20. Other business

None.

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

JLG
2.11.16