

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 11th March 2010 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: H.S. Davis (Chairman), C.H. Jeffes, R.S. Manwaring MBE, N.R. Stephens,
C.J. Whitehead, Mrs R Wilder, O D Williams

In Attendance: County Councillor Tom Wells
District Councillor Bronwen Behan
Pc Naulls
Miss Ellen Challoner

**Members of the
Public:** -

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Mrs M Mitchell.

2. Personal or prejudicial interests

None.

3. To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2010 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk reported that he had again requested that grit pots be placed at selected locations in the parish, but that he had received the same unfavourable reply.

County Councillor Tom Wells added that the matter of snow measures was being discussed. Supplying pots of grit for use by the public today had safety implications undreamt of forty years ago, and these were being studied. It was suggested to him that more accidents would happen if there were no grit pots, and that the county council's reluctance to accede to the request for pots was motivated by a desire to limit its own liability rather than to reduce accidents to the public.

In response, Mr Wells said that other measures might be possible, for example the employment of lengthsman who would be trained in safety matters. This was noted by Councillors for future consideration.

5. Report from Police Beat Manager

Pc Naulls reported that there had been were no incidents within the parish, but that nearby there was a spate of thefts of caravans and 4x4s. The Chairman advised Pc Naulls that the monitoring of the speed of motorists outside the school during its rush hours (showing an average speed of 43 mph) had been completed; Pc Naulls said that he would conduct a speed

check campaign in the near future, although he said, to general regret, that he could not be precise as to when this would occur.

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Tom Wells raised the question of the imposition of speed limits on the A438, from just west of its staggered junction with the B4211 westwards to Home Farm, in order to satisfy the residents of Long Green who were overwhelmingly in favour of a limit. Councillor Wells agreed that a limit was appropriate but he was very conscious that motorists travelling eastwards along the A438 would encounter a derestriction sign immediately before the staggered junction with the B4211, a site where there have been 5 accidents causing serious injury in the last 10 years. He asked the advice of the Council.

The Council recognised the dilemma. After discussion councillors formed the view that if a speed limit were to be imposed it should be extended to east of the staggered junction, and the Clerk was asked to put this view to the Highways Authority.

Councillor Wells then informed then meeting that large economies were currently being made in administration and were likely to be increased in the years ahead. One means of making these economies was by sharing and centralising services, but when this happened proximity to the public was reduced and local sensitivities and priorities were ignored. The overall effect was the creation of one centralised management and it would only be a question of time before the *raison d'être* of lower tier councils was questioned. He thought that there should be a county wide debate on the nature and role of government within the county.

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported that a survey was being undertaken of the county and that a set of statistics had been circulated to councillors. A meeting would soon be called at which councillors would be invited to indicate whether these statistics accorded with their perceptions.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Planning Matters

SECTION A

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 08/01665/FUL (TBC) | Construction of a new National Gas Pressure Reduction Installation and associated works and landscaping, including boiler and generator buildings, above ground pipework, security fencing and earth bunding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land adj to Flat Farm, B4213, Tirley• National Grid |
|---------------------------|---|

Council's Comments

Letter circulated separately.

Refused

SECTION B

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

10/00211/FUL

- Replacement dwelling
- Villa Farm, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire GL19 4ND
 - D Moore

Council's Comments
Under consideration

Pending

10/00192/HOU

- Proposed single storey extension to form additional living accommodation and new stables and carport to replace existing out buildings
- Barletts House Link End Road Corse Lawn Gloucester GL19 4NN
 - R Ridley

Council's Comments
Under consideration

Pending

9. BT Phone Boxes

The Clerk reported that there was an electricity supply to both telephone kiosks and that the estimate received for removal of this supply was £300 to £500 per box. Councillors considered that owning a telephone kiosk with a functioning electricity supply would impose upon the Council unacceptable risks and obligations. Councillors further decided that they could not take a decision to buy the telephone kiosks without a firm quotation for the removal of the electricity supply and asked the Clerk to seek such a quotation.

10. Communication

The Clerk invited Miss Challoner to present her proposals for improving communication with the public. She suggested that she prepare a newsletter, in an informal and easily digestible style, containing matters which were of importance and relevance to parishioners. As a trial, such copies of the newsletter could be made available at the School and the Butcher's Arms for people to take away or read on site.

A second suggestion she made was that she issue a Press Release to local newspapers, for possible inclusion in their section on news from the villages.

The Chairman welcomed, to general assent, the promised availability of information about the Parish in a style which would compare dramatically with the boring and humourless manner in which the Council's minutes were always couched.

These suggestions were accepted by the meeting.

11. Standing Orders

The Clerk explained that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had drawn up a model standing orders and recommended to local councils that they adapt and adopt the model as their own standing orders. Such an adapted versions had been circulated prior to the meeting. The draft incorporates various legislation passed since the current standing orders were adopted by the Council in 2004. It was **RESOLVED that the Council adopt as its Standing Orders the draft standing orders issued prior to the meeting and appended to these minutes as Appendix A.**

12. Service of notice

The Clerk explained that the law required that summonses to Councillors be sent by ordinary mail; the law had not caught up with the electronic age. In practice, most Councillors had been receiving such summonses by email for a number of years. In order to regularise the position, it was proposed that the Council formally adopt email as an acceptable means of serving notices on a Councillor where he had indicated his agreement. Having accepted summonses by email for a number of years would be deemed an indication of agreement. Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED that the Council recognised that notices and summonses served on Councillors by email would be deemed to have been served as though they had sent by surface mail and that the date of transmission of the email would be considered to be the supposed date of arrival had the notice or summons been sent by first class surface mail.**

13. CAPRI

Joseph Gabbott, Secretary of CAPRI, advised the meeting that Tewkesbury Borough Council had refused planning permission unanimously, by 15 votes. National Grid had lodged an appeal against that decision; it was thought that the appeal would be heard by Public Inquiry which sit some time in the summer. CAPRI intended to fight the appeal and he expected that it would shortly launch an appeal for funds.

14. Keys for shed

It was noted that Councillor Mrs Mitchell had had keys cut for the Council's shed at a cost of £7.50 and was **RESOLVED** that reimbursement of this amount be made to her.

15. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 192.16	Mr J L Gabbott
£ 44.81	Inland Revenue
£ 7.50	Mrs Mitchell

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

Received:

- Copy of complaint re footpath adjacent to Lucas Farm, Corse Lawn*
- Rural Services Network: newsletters*
- Worcs CALC: newsletters*
- MHDC: View from the Hills

Sent:

- Worcestershire Hub: request for update on request for grit pots*

* by email

18. Any other business

None

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