

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 6th March 2019 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: A. Davies (Chairman) Cllrs Mrs C. Powell-Chandler,
Mrs D Holt, J Keighley Mrs T Owen, Dr L Reynolds, Mrs S Rush

In Attendance: District Councillor Bronwen Behan

Members of the

Public: -

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from P. R. Chichester, and Cllr O. Williams

2. Members' interests

Mrs Holt and Mrs Powell-Chandler expressed a financial interest in Item 14.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2019 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

It was reported that the lights at the School had continued to flash during the half term break, despite three requests from the Council to WCC that this problem be addressed.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported that studies were being undertaken as to what developments, if any, were to be made to the current recycling arrangements. She also noted that two rough sleepers had died in Malvern in recent months, despite their have been offered accommodation.

6. Police Report

Members noted the report received from the Police and circulated prior to the meeting. They were disturbed at reports of recent burglaries in and near the parish.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Broadband

The Broadband Working Group had presented a report, circulated before the meeting, which was noted.

The Chairman reported that progress was continuing, albeit slowly. He himself had had contact with Voneus but they, too, had reported that they were short of funding and invited the Council to place Eldersfield on their waiting list, where it would be in position 161.

9. Planning Application 19/00042/FUL

Councillors considered the above proposal. The Council had objected to a similar proposal made previously. It was agreed that the Clerk would, after having taken appropriate advice, respond to MHDC under the powers already delegated to him.

10. Proposed public path diversion

An application had been lodged with MHDC to divert Footpath EF-678 as indicated in documents circulated prior to meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objection to the proposed diversion.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors deferred discussion of this item until the next meeting.

12. Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that purchase of the defibrillator was now complete and that the machine had been installed at the School, on the external wall facing the road. Access is by means of a code which would be passed by the ambulance service to a person finding a need for its use. The suppliers of the equipment also provide training, and this will be the subject of further announcements.

The cost of installing the equipment had been borne by the School, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council reimburse to the School this cost, being £200.

13. Corse Lawn Women's Group

The Clerk advised that a request had been received from the CLWG for assistance in defraying the cost of meetings held at the School during 2018. It was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £62.82 be made to CLWG for the purpose of defraying the costs of holding meetings in the School during 2018.

14. St John the Baptist

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Eldersfield (the 'PCC') had approached the Council requesting a grant to assist the PCC in defraying cost incurred by the church. The Clerk explained that although for many years the Council had made grants specifically for the maintenance of the graveyard the current legal view as expressed by the National Association of Local Councils ('NALC') was that under Section 8 (1) (l) of the Local Government Act 1894 grants by parish councils for the purpose of maintenance of 'property relating to affairs of the church' were not permitted.

The Chairman expressed his disagreement with this statement and quoted from a NALC bulletin advising that grants by parish councils for the maintenance of closed churchyards were permitted. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Eldersfield graveyard was not closed.

The Clerk also informed the Council that NALC's interpretation of the law was not shared by the Government and that he was unaware of any legal or other action having been taken against a parish council which had made such a grant.

He also advised that the PCC was intending to present a concert at Eldersfield Court in the summer; that there would be costs associated with that project and that it was open to the Council to make a grant to the PCC for the purpose of defraying those costs.

After a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council make to the PCC a grant of **£650 for the purpose of defraying the costs of the concert to be held in the summer.**

15. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£174.77	J L Gabbott
£236.00	Lengthsman (£118.00 Jan 2019, £118.00 Feb)
£25.47	WCC (£25.47, meeting 6 Mar 19)
£200.00	WCC (refund of defib installation cost)
£650.00	Parochial Church Council
£62.82	Corse Lawn Women's Group

13. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Monday 13th May 2019 at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

14. Any other business

The Clerk reminded the meeting that all present Councillors would retire immediately after the elections on 2nd May. He also had available Nomination Forms for those wishing to stand for election to the new Council and noted that they were also available from MHDC and online.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.52 p.m.

JLG
8.3.19