

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
13th May 2019 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.43 p.m.**

Present: Mrs D Holt, Mrs T Owen, Dr L Reynolds

In Attendance: County Councillor Tom Wells
District Councillor Bronwen Behan

**Members of the
Public:** 3

[Mrs D Holt, Mrs T Owen and Dr L Reynolds signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Responsible Financial Officer and took their seats as councillors.]

1. To elect a Chairman

Dr Reynolds offered herself as chairman but for the present meeting only. It was **RESOLVED** that Dr Reynolds be Chairman for the present meeting.

2. To elect a Vice Chairman

There were no volunteers. It was agreed that the matter would be raised at the next meeting

3. Apologies for absence

None

4. Members' interests

None

5. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2019 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

6. Matters arising

It was again reported that the lights at the School had continued to flash during the school holidays despite numerous requests having been made by the Council to WCC that this problem be addressed.

7. Co-option of additional members

The desirability of co-opting to the Council additional members was agreed by the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that Mrs Wendy Burr, Mr Paul Chichester, and Mrs Karen McKenzie Budd, having offered to serve as Councillors, be co-opted to the Council with immediate effect.

[Each of the aforementioned then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Responsible Financial Officer and took their seats as councillors.]

8. Reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Tom Wells introduced himself to the new councillors.

He advised the meeting that the County Council's budget was stretched by the need to fund services for the elderly; the demand for these services was growing at a rate such that the cost would soon consume the entirety of the Council's budget. It was, in his view, a problem requiring a solution at national level.

He also advised that he had a small discretionary fund. He sought to use this fund to assist worthwhile local projects and he invited the Council to make to him any proposal which they thought appropriate.

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported that alternate weekly waste collection, introduced in April 2018, had been received favourably by residents and that a reduction in general waste and an increase in recyclable waste had been noted. The Council has also given £50,000 to local transport projects and £30,000 to help food banks.

9. Police Report

Members were disappointed that no report had been received from the Police.

10. Public Comment

Mr Andrew Holt thanked the Council on behalf of the Parochial Parish Council for the donation of £650 made by the Council for the purposes of defraying the cost of the concert to take place at Eldersfield Court on Saturday 15th June. He said that this grant had ensured a high standard of musicianship by enabling the PCC to engage professional musicians. He mentioned that tickets were still available, at £20 each, and that they would give access from 6 pm to the gardens, food, music and enjoyment.

11. Broadband

Councillors discussed the state of the broadband project but recognised that they held a less than complete understanding of the progress made to date. They asked the Clerk to contact members of the Broadband Working Group for information.

12. Defibrillator

The Clerk advised that the Council had bought a package which included a short training course, and that it was now appropriate to consider when, where and to whom this training should be made available.

After discussion, it was agreed that training should be made available to any member of the Parish who wanted it, subject to the limits of the contract and a suitable and convenient date and time being arranged. The Clerk was asked to take soundings, with a view to a training course taking place in September or October.

13. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors recognised that the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan could be a significant task in terms both of time and expense. Little interest had been shown by the public and no

concerns or aspirations had been brought to the attention of the Council, despite appropriate publicity being given to the matter in the Parish Magazine. It was, however, recognised that the preparation of a Plan could have advantages for the Parish.

Accordingly, and in order to permit new councillors to familiarise themselves with the relevant issues, it was agreed that further discussion be deferred until the next meeting.

14. Insurance

The Council considered the offer insurance received from the Council's current insurer and resolved that the Council renew its policy with Zurich Municipal for the year commencing 1st June 2019 at a premium of £257.60

15. CALC

After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council renew its membership of Worcestershire CALC for the year commencing 1st April 2018 at a cost of £382.11.

16. Lengthsman

The report of the Lengthsman was noted.

17. Accounts: Adoption of Accounts

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council approve and adopt as the Accounts of the Council for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2019 the draft accounts circulated prior to the meeting.

18. Accounts: Internal Auditor for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2019

Council noted the report of the Internal Auditor for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2019 as circulated prior to the meeting

19. Accounts: AGAR Certificate of Exemption

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Certificate of Exemption for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2019.

20. Accounts: To approve AGAR Section 1

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Section 1 for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2019 as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

21. Accounts: To approve AGAR Section 2

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Section 2 for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2019 as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

22. Account Signatories

Councillors recognised the fact that all the existing signatories authorised to operate the Council's bank account had retired at the last election and that it was desirable that they be replaced by four new signatories. Accordingly it was **RESOLVED** that all existing authorised signatures be deleted and that Mrs Wendy Burr, Mr Paul Richard Chichester, Tracy Owen and Dr Linda Jane Reynolds be hereby authorised to operate

the Council's current account 02737822 with Lloyds Bank on condition that any instruction to disburse funds be made on the written instructions of not fewer than two of the aforesaid.

23. Investment Policy

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

24. Risk Assessment

The Councillors considered the Risk Assessment Policy adopted on 14th July 2011 and decided that no amendments were required.

25. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 208.67	J L Gabbott
£34.20	HMRC
£25.47	WCC (hire of hall, May 2019)
£118.00	Lengthsman (£118.00, March 2019)
£257.60	Zurich Municipal
£382.11	Worcs CALC

26. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Wednesday 3rd July 2019 at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

27. Any other business

It had been noticed that the Council's notice board outside the Church was in need of repair. The Clerk undertook to seek quotes.

Councillors recognised the value of the work performed by councillors of the Council which had just ended and instructed the Clerk to write to those Councillors to express their thanks.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

JLG
17.5.19