

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 by tele/video conferencing, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr P R Chichester MBE (Chairman), Mrs W Burr,
Mrs D E Holt, Mrs C Joseph, Mrs K McKenzie Budd,
Mrs T A Owen

In Attendance: -

Members of the Public: -

1. Tele/video conferencing

Councillors noted that the meeting was being held by tele/video conferencing under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

2. Apologies for absence

None

3. Members' interests

None

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2020 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. In view of the fact that the current meeting was being held remotely, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk sign the minutes on behalf of the Chairman.

5. Matters arising

The Clerk informed the meeting that instructions had now been given to the Council's bankers to enable online banking and he asked those councillors who had been authorised to operate the account to ensure that they had activated the relevant means of access.

With respect to the traffic warning lights outside the School, he was pleased to report that he understood that WCC were in communication with School with the object of ensuring that the lights operate only at relevant times.

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

Distinct Councillor Bronwen Behan said that there had been 220 confirmed cases of Coronavirus recorded in Malvern Hills District and that of these 46 had resulted in death; 20 of these deaths had occurred in care homes. She reminded Councillors that the disease remained a serious threat and she urged everyone to take the precautions recommended by the Government.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Broadband

A report was received from the Broadband Working Group. Initial willingness of contractors to develop the project has now been replaced by reluctance, apparently because their reading of the rules has been subject to re-interpretation. Government guidance in these matters is weak and the pull for the companies of other and more clearly profitable investment opportunities is strong. The Group has therefore contacted Harriett Baldwin MP who is now seeking meetings with the Chief Executive Officers of Gigaclear and Airband (a meeting which representatives of the Group would attend) with a view to progressing the matter.

9. Parish Plan

Councillor Mrs Holt advised the meeting that the Working Group had been unable to meet during the pandemic but with that the easing of restriction a meeting may now be more feasible. A quotation had been received for printing the Plan had been received, although a decision still had to be taken whether this would be the best means of publication.

She also said that it had been brought to the attention of the Working Group that public footpaths which are not shown as such on the official map would in the near future lose that designation unless they are registered. She invited anyone who is aware of such a footpath to contact her.

10. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman since the last meeting for which the Lengthsman had submitted invoices totalling £590.

11. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 156.54	J L Gabbott
£39.20	HMRC
£40.00	CALC – councillor training
£590.00	Jeremy Moore (Lengthsman, £0 April; £354 May; £236 June)

12. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 1st September 2020, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

13. Any other business

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had been contacted by The Margaret Westwood Memorial Charity which supports the physical, educational or moral welfare and benefit of children and young people (up to the age of 25) who reside in the County of Worcestershire and he understands that the Charity is seeking to make appropriate grants. Anyone in the parish who is considering applying for such a grant is invited to contact the Clerk for further details.

Councillor Mrs Joseph commented on the number of suspicious vehicles in the area. These were being monitored and reported to the police. She asked that a representative of the police be invited to attend the Council's next meeting.

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

JLG
9.7.20