

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council
held on Tuesday 27th September July 2022
at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Mrs C Joseph (Chairman), Mrs W Burr, Mrs D E Holt, Mrs T Owen

In Attendance: Mrs Simone Bullen

**Members of the
Public:** -

The meeting opened with Councillors expressing their sadness at the death of H. M. the Queen.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Mr C Mills.

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2022 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 car rally did not take place because it would have occurred during the period of mourning for H. M. the Queen.

5. Report from District and County Councillors

Neither councillor was present and no report had been submitted.

6. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

The Parish Footpaths Officer, Simone Bullen, reported that there were 59 footpath issues within the Parish but she was pleased that 57 of these had been assessed. She said that WCC was acting promptly in rectifying identified deficiencies and she was pleased that finger signs, gates and other footpath furniture was being supplied and installed with despatch.

The Chairman complimented her on her efforts which were clearly achieving success.

7. Public Comment

Councillors had been circulated with comments made to the Clerk by a parishioner about the apparently growing tendency in the matter of planning law for decisions to be made both by MHDC and on appeal contrary to the stated views of the Council. The parishioner also

complained that insufficient publicity had been given to planning appeals and that the public had thereby been denied adequate opportunity to make representations.

The Clerk commented that planning decisions were based in law and not on the views of parishioners, even if these were held by a large majority. Where planning permission was refused the applicant had the right of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate whose decision would (in most cases) be final. Although the Clerk was unaware of the precise regulations, he believed that publication of the fact of the appeal and an invitation for further submissions from interested parties were matters governed by law and he would be surprised if the Planning Inspectorate did not follow these rules scrupulously. Parishioners who thought that the rules were inadequate or inappropriate should contact their MP with a view to changing them.

8. Road Safety

The Chairman raised the matter of '20 is Plenty'. This is a campaign to make drivers aware of the importance of not exceeding 20 mph on certain roads, and to encourage the authorities to impose formal speed limits where appropriate. She said that there had been no developments since she has last reported.

There had however been developments in the acquisition of white gates to be placed by the road side. The Reeves (the 'owners' of the 'common') had given the relevant agreements needed for this to be done and four gates had been chosen from the wide variety available. These would be installed in due course by WCC, alongside the B4211 at the north and south boundaries of the Parish. The cost is to be borne by WCC.

The Chapman said that if these gates prove a success consideration would be given to placing more gates at other locations within the Parish.

9. Defibrillator and Training

Reconnecting electricity to the telephone kiosk at Bridge End would in the view of Councillors be prohibitively expensive and this precluded the possibility of installing a defibrillator in that kiosk.

No further sites for defibrillators had been identified but Councillors would continue their search within the Parish.

The possibility of a further training course in the New Year was raised and would be investigated.

10. Parish Shed and Crockery

It was noted that although great care had been taken by individual councillors to sort and organise the crockery and cutlery some borrowers had not responded by returning items in a clean and sorted state. With the help of the last hirer, crockery was cleaned, sorted and re-boxed.

11. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman.

12. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£34.00	Mrs C Joseph (2 x crockery storage boxes; under Resolution 22071210)
£148.23	J L Gabbott (ref: salary)
£99.20	HMRC
£744.00	Jeremy Moore (Jul £248; Aug £248; Sep £248)

13. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday, 15th November 2022, commencing at 7.00 p.m. at Eldersfield Lawn School.

14. Any other business

A serious fire had taken place on 31st August at the Timber Yard, off Link End Road, occasioning the attendance of four fire appliances and the police. Councillors instructed the Clerk to ask MHDC for an assurance that no planning or other laws had been broken.

Councillors mentioned that there appeared to be a spate of thefts from outbuildings and advised that Parishioners take suitable precautions.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

JLG
28.9.22