

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council
held on 4th July 2023
at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Mrs C Joseph (Chairman), M Barton, Mrs W Burr, Mrs D E Holt

In Attendance: County Councillor Tom Wells
District Councillor Mrs Jennie Watkins

**Members of the
Public:** 4

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs T Owen

2. Members' interests

None

3. Co-option

There being no candidates, no new councillor was co-opted.

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2023 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

None

6. Report from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Tom Wells acknowledged that the hardstanding opposite the school was in a poor condition and noted that at the time of commissioning the question of maintenance had not been considered. The matter had now been studied by Worcestershire County Council but he regretted to inform the meeting that it had been decided that, in view of the high cost of the works required, no action would be taken.

On a brighter note he reported that as District Councillor he had been granted a total of £10,000 which he could award to projects within the parishes for which he was responsible and he was therefore keen to receive applications from groups and organisations whose activities contributed to the well being of residents.

He noted the concerns of Councillors about excessive speeding and he undertook to make available a speed gun in order that information on offenders could be recorded.

District Councillor Jennie Watkins said that as she was becoming familiar with her parishes she was recognising that the most demanding issues often related to planning and drainage.

She was proposing a meeting of the parish councillors and clerks within the Longdon Ward with a view to meeting the Chief Planning Officer at MHDC. This would be an excellent chance to improve collaboration with MHDC in the matter of planning and would also serve as an occasion to develop networking with neighbouring parishes.

She also recognised that speeding was a local concern and was hopeful that a representative of the police would be able to attend a meeting in the near future.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Watkins for her interventions to queries raised to date.

7. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

The Parish Footpaths Officer was not present and no report was available.

Councillors noted the letter received from a visitor to the Parish in which he had commented adversely on the state of several public footpaths within the Parish.

Councillors observed that the standard of maintenance and accessibility of these footpaths sought by the Parish was one consistent with a rural, working agricultural environment and that this was different from that which would be appropriate on a well-used path such as Hadrian's Wall or the Dorset Coastal Path. Nevertheless, in the absence of the Footpaths Officer it was felt that a substantive response to the matters raised by the correspondent could not be supplied until the Officer had commented.

8. Public Comment

Mr Andrew Holt again thanked the Council on behalf of the PCC for the loan of the marquee. He reported that the community event the previous week-end, at which the marquee had been used in its new and more versatile configuration, had raised directly £2,000 for the repair of the cemetery retaining wall; that further donations of £3,000 were firmly expected and that more might follow. The total cost of the repair was expected to be in excess of £10,000.

Mr Gareth Hall referred to his planning application M/23/00624/HP in respect of Elm Villa, Corse Lawn. He intended to make an extension at the rear and replace the front PVC porch with one of oak. He invited members of the Council, if they so wished, to attend the property for an inspection.

Dr John Heap brought to the Council's attention the works currently under way in respect of planning application M/22/00965/GPDQ at Brook Barns, Eldersfield. Construction traffic occasionally blocked the road thereby making passage impossible. District Councillor Jennie Watkins asked for details, which Dr Heap undertook to pass to her.

9. Road Safety

The Chairman reported that she was waiting for a new sign to be installed at the north end of Corse Lawn.

She also informed the meeting that an extra Operation Snap sign had been delivered and it was agreed that this be placed at Moorend Road.

Anecdotal evidence indicated that the white gates at either end of Corse Lawn were having an effect in slowing traffic but she recognised that speeding remained a concern within the Parish and was grateful to County Councillor Tom Wells for the offer of the loan of a speed gun.

10. Tree planting project

Cllr Mrs Burr reported that the project is now complete and the plantings are performing well. The next step will be to decide on a commemorative plaque.

11. Defibrillator

- a) The correspondence with the Butcher's Arm was duly noted. Given that Cllr Mrs Tracy Owen is the lead on defibrillators and associated training it was felt best that the matter of coordinating training be left to her on her return.
- b) No report was available
- c) Council noted the need for replacement parts and the Clerk was instructed to make the appropriate purchases.

12. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman since the last meeting for which invoices had been submitted as follows: May £248; June £248 and **RESOLVED that these be paid.**

Councillors requested clarification on various aspects of the Lengthsman's work categories, including the precise location of the work undertaken, and asked that the Clerk arrange a meeting with the Lengthsman in order that Councillors might put their queries directly.

13. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£112.31	J L Gabbott
£71.60	HMRC
£496.00	Jeremy Moore (May £248; Jun £248)

14. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 5th September 2023, commencing at 7.00 p.m. in Eldersfield Lawn School

15. Any other business

None

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.46 p.m.

JLG
6.7.23