

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 8th March 2012 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: H.S. Davis (Chairman), C.H. Jeffes, B.N. Parsons,
Mrs C Powell-Chandler, C J Whitehead, Mrs R Willder and O D Williams

In Attendance: County Councillor Tom Wells
District Councillor Bronwen Behan

**Members of the
Public:** 6

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies: R.S. Manwaring MBE, D.J. Tombs

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2012 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

The Clerk reported that he had written to Tewkesbury Borough Council complaining that National Grid, who will be required to give proper notice of venting when the PRI is operational, had in December given less than 24 hours notice. TBC put the matter to NG who agreed that the notice given in December was inadequate and undertook to do better in future.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Tom Wells made comments on the conditions attaching to the planning permission granted for the Compost Unit; these comments are reported at 6a) below.

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported on the changes to the NHS and indicated that some of the changes were to be delayed for a year. The impact on local residents was unclear.

6. Public Comment

Members of the public commented on two matters.

a) Composting Unit: With respect to the Liaison Group which it was intended be set up as a condition attaching to the composting unit planning permission, it was suggested that there could be little trust in the efficacy of that Group given the apparent unwillingness of the Environment Agency to take action.

Tom Wells said that either the Parish Council took a part in the Group or it did not; he envisaged that the Group would be composed of the applicant, County and District Councillors, representatives from each of Pendock and Eldersfield Parish Councils, the Environment Agency, WCC Planning Department and, essentially, at least two members of the public. The first meeting should be held within the next two months. The Group's remit was still to be decided. It was agreed by Councillors (and the public) that notes of the Group's meetings should be produced and published.

b) PRI: With respect to the PRI currently being constructed by National Grid, some residents reported that they had suffered – for very many months - near intolerable nuisance caused at the site: bright lights, albeit intermittently, for long periods even outside permitted working hours, and the intrusion of the noise of loud reversing beepers. They had put these complaints to Tewkesbury Borough Council but felt that they had been received with little sympathy.

7. Planning matters

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SECTION A

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 11/00228/FUL** Change of use to Lorry Park (Retrospective)
- Link End Timber, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4NN
 - R Denniss

Council's Comments

Access to the site is via a narrow meandering country lane (Link End Lane) for approximately half a mile having left the B4211 opposite the parish school.

Our concerns are concentrated on this stretch of lane as follows:

1. The junction with the B4211

Mornings, afternoon and evenings (when a school event is being held) see up to twenty parents park on the both sides of the Link End and walk across the road to the school with their respective children.

Whilst traffic calming has been introduced 'near misses' are reported quite frequently and confirm that this remains a potentially dangerous stretch of road.

Once in Link End Lane vehicles are confronted by activity from the home for vulnerable young adults and children. Large lorries meandering through this congestion are a recipe for disaster

2 Site entrance into Link End Road

The approach lane is barely wide enough for a lorry, with no bell mouth scope to improve entry into Link End Lane, consequently any lorry leaving the site has to cross the centre of the Link End Lane and cuts the verge on the opposite side of the lane

Not only is this stretch of the lane very narrow, erosion of the land edge and ditch maintenance have resulted in extremely narrow verge for 100 yards at least.

This stretch of the Link End Lane is used by walkers, pony riders and large agricultural machinery; the additional activity from the horses would again make this a potentially dangerous stretch of road.

3. Proximity of roadside Cottages to highway

Whilst accepting that lorries currently proceed with care, there is inevitably noise from such large lorries. This has been measured and evidence is available confirming that noise levels are unacceptable

Currently lorry activity starts early morning (often 4.00 am) and continues for several hours. We would not support any operating hours restriction as concerns raised above would only be escalated

Based on the points listed we cannot support this application and must oppose it.

However the site is well secluded and quite remote from any dwelling, offering opportunity to optimise this site potential with a more appropriate venture.

Refused on Appeal

11/000029/CM:

Variation of Condition 18 to “The annual throughout of material through the site shall be limited to a maximum of 9,000 tonnes per annum and records shall be kept for the inspection by the County Planning Authority on request of the amount of throughput of material for the duration of the operations on site” and removal of Condition 19 “The compost shall only be applied to land on the applicant’s ownership of Planning Permission 407703

- Pendock Environmental, Pendock, GL19 4PR
- Pendock Environmental

Council’s Comments

I write with respect to the two planning applications upon which you have recently consulted us.

My council has considered these two planning applications very carefully and I am instructed to pass to you the following comments.

Attendance at the last two meetings of my Council has by historical standards very been large and the key matter of interest has been the above planning application. There is no doubt that all members of the public had very strong, and adverse, feelings on the matter.

Complaints about the existing composting unit were legion and we understand that many of these complaints have been put directly to you or to other officers of your council.

Smell

The one clear stark unassailable fact about the existing plant is that it stinks. We know of no measure by which the strength or degree of unpleasantness of the smell can be measured but we do know that it is sufficiently obnoxious for our two most recent council meetings to have had the highest public attendance we have seen for many years, of people who were clearly beside themselves with the misery imposed upon them by the operation of this plant.

If you were to permit an increase in throughput, then we understand that the process is such that the smell would be even greater and we believe that these are sufficient grounds for you to refuse permission.

Limited Operating Experience

We wish also to bring to your attention that the plant commenced operations only in late 2010 and that the operator of the process has therefore had less than one full year's experience of managing the plant. Because not a full year has passed, it is possible that there are sorts of compost which are even more intractable than those which have already passed through the plant.

The problems caused by the plant are acknowledged by the operator. He has experimented with various factors in the production process in an attempt to identify the cause of the smell and reduce or even eliminate it; unfortunately, all of these attempts have failed. It may be that the operator will one day be able to improve the performance of the plant to the extent that it is no longer the object of complaint by local residents, but to do this he manifestly requires more time.

Developing Technology

We understand that the production process for which this plant has been designed and constructed is under review at European level and that the UK government intends to conduct a review in September. Industrial composting is a developing science. The current process has a number of recognised disadvantages and other more environmentally sensitive processes – such as in vessel composting – might be recommended for national adoption.

We believe that the reasons cited above constitute strong grounds for you to refuse the application for a variation of the terms of the planning consent.

Approved

- 11/000030/CM** Replacement of a temporary mobile office with permanent building
- Pendock Environmental, Pendock, GL19 4PR
 - Pendock Environmental

Council's Comments

With respect to the application for permission to construct a permanent building, we believe that your decision should follow your decision in relation to the variation of planning conditions, i.e. if you grant the change in terms of planning consent, we would have no objection to this application being granted but if you were to refuse to vary the conditions we believe that the building should remain temporary.

Approved

- 11/01711/HOU** Single storey garden room extension
- Ploughs End, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4LZ
 - Mr T Gray

Council's Comments

This single storey garden room extension will sit comfortably with the main dwelling; the impact on neighbouring properties is virtually non-existent. We support the application.

Approved

- 11/01739/HOU** This modest conservatory will sit sympathetically with the main dwelling and, being discretely positioned, will offer little or no impact to neighbouring properties

Council's Comments

We support the application

Approval

- 12/00005/FUL** Removal of two timber stable buildings, extensions to existing steel framed storage building and construction of an all weather manège
- Harp Cottage, Drinkers' End, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4NE
 - Mr & Mrs G Haynes

Council's Comments

No comments.

Approved

SECTION B

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

- 12/00048/HOU** Single Storey extension to dwelling
- Greenfields, Lime Street, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NX
 - Mr L G French

Council's Comments

Demolition of existing garage and conservatory enable additional living accommodation to be achieved with little extension to the existing footprint, offering little impact to neighbouring properties.

We note and support the supporting statement that the property is outside the potential flood zone area

We support the application.

Pending

- 12/00081/HOU** First floor side extension
- Cranley Farm, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4NN
 - Mr A Townsend

Council's Comments

Under consideration

Pending

- 12/00248/FUL** Installation of a 5850 kw solar panel system on an existing building
- Nashend Farm, Eldersfield Marsh, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4PG
 - Mr C Gott

Council's Comments

Under consideration

Pending

- 12/00252/FUL** Erection of cattle shed
- Gunnions Farm, Eldersfield, GL19 4PD
 - Mr John Lodge

8. Composting Unit

Relevant matters had been discussed under para 6 above. It was agreed that Eldersfield Parish Council wished to participate in the Liaison Group, that Councillor Tombs (failing whom Councillor Williams) would be the Council's representative and it was **RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to hire the School Hall for the purpose of holding Liaison Group meetings on such terms as should seem appropriate and proper to him so to do.**

9. PRI noise and light

The Council took note of the complaints expressed by residents earlier in the meeting (and described at para 6b) and instructed the Clerk to write to TBC urging them to investigate the matter expeditiously and to take urgent and appropriate action.

10. Diamond Jubilee

The Chairman reported that identification and development of the Jubilee Walk was proceeding well. He noted that there would be a further meeting of the Jubilee Committee on Monday 2nd April at 7.00 pm in the School Hall and invited all those who wished to assist to attend that meeting. All offers of help were likely to be accepted!

The Clerk reported that he had received a request for a grant of £150 from the Jubilee Sunday Committee for the purpose of making a floral display. It was **RESOLVED that a grant of £150 be made to Mrs Mary Mitchell, as representative of the Sunday Committee, for the purpose of buying flowers for that floral display, but subject to the condition that should the Sunday Committee later find itself in a position to refund part or all of the grant it so do.**

11. Community Fund

It was noted that a kind grant of £ 2,594.07 had been received from the Community Fund. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Community Fund Trustees expressing the Council's gratitude.

12. Finance Committee

The Chairman reported that he had been informed before the meeting that although the Finance Committee created at the Council meeting in November had not yet met progress was being made by the Trustees of the Charity in responding to the Council's queries.

13. Corse Lawn Women's Group (CLWG)

It was noted that a request for a grant of £80.32 in respect of their meetings held in 2011 had been received from CLWG and it was RESOLVED that a grant in this amount be made to the Group.

14. Churchyard

The Council noted that a request for a grant had been received from the Treasurer of St John the Baptist Church, Eldersfield. It was **RESOLVED that a grant of £400 be made to St John the Baptist Church, for the purposes of maintaining the churchyard.**

12. Authorisation of Disbursements

It was **RESOLVED** that the following disbursements be made:

£248.85	J L Gabbott
£51.13	HMRC
£ 80.32	CLWG
£400.00	St John the Baptist Church
£150.00	Mrs Mary Mitchell (for Jubilee Sunday Committee)

16. Future Meetings

It was noted that, in accordance with item 19 of the meeting of 11th November 2011, future meetings of the Council would take place at Eldersfield Lawn School at 7.30 pm on the following Thursdays in 2012:

10th May, 12th July, 13th September, 8th November

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

Received:

- CALC: Updates
- Highways Agency: M50 structures refurbishment works
- MHDC: Heritage Assets

Sent:

- Charity for Recreation and Allotments (sent 14th November; no reply received)

17. Other business

None

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.