

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 13th March 2014 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: H.S. Davis (Chairman), C.H. Jeffes, R.S. Manwaring MBE
Mrs C. Powell-Chandler B.N. Parsons, Mrs R. Wilder,

In Attendance: District Councillor Bronwen Behan
Pc Naulls

**Members of the
Public:** -

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from C. J. Whitehead and O.D. Williams

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2014 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported that

- she had raised the matter of the Parish Council receiving paper, as opposed to electronic, copies of planning application with the Planning Officer but had not received the reply the Council hoped for;
- the Planning Officer was intending to hold a training session for parish councillors on permitted development;
- MHDC had recently lost a significant number of planning appeals and was therefore likely to be put into special measures with respect to large developments. The fundamental cause lay in MHDC's not having adopted the necessary underlying policies.

6. Reports from Police

Pc Naulls reported that

- the policy 'surgery' by the school had had to be abandoned because of the heavy rains; it would however be re-scheduled for an appropriate time within the next month or so;
- the recent spate of thefts of catalytic converters appeared to be abating;
- residents should be aware of thefts of credit cards and PINs by deception: never give your PIN to anyone over the phone.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Planning Matters

Councillors noted their continuing displeasure at receiving electronic and not paper copies of planning applications and instructed the Clerk to make appropriate representations to the MHDC Planning Officer, the Portfolio Holder, the Monitoring Officer and CALC.

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 13/01441/COM** Variation of condition 8 on planning permission (Reference Number: 407703) dated 28th March 2008 to extend delivery hours at composting facility
- Pendock Environmental Site Office, Pendock, Worcestershire
 - Pendock Environmental

Council's comments

Our concern regarding this proposal to bring forward the site opening time focuses totally on the impact to the approach road infrastructure.

Opening from 8.00 am would clash with both school and work traffic on an already busy stretch of road.

The impact of this clash can only be evaluated by traffic census monitoring, capturing volume and spread.

We request that the Highways dept conduct a thorough review and furnish the planning officer with their findings and recommendations

Note: As we approach the Christmas shutdown it is vital that any Highway initiative captures 'normal' routine activity.

No Objection (County Matter)

- 13/01563/S73** Removal of Condition 6 on Planning Permission 05/00370/FUL- to be used as independent unit and variation of Condition 7 to window and replace with door
- remove
- The Old Forge Bridgend Eldersfield GL19 3PL
 - Mr Scott Winnard

Council's Comments:

Subject to consent being given to application 13/01565/HOU, we have no objection to the proposed removal of conditions.

Withdrawn By Applicant

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

- 13/01282/HOU** Old Cider Barn, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4PE
- Detached garage, built from brick and tiles similar to the main house
 - Mr Oliver May

Council's Comments
Under consideration

Pending Decision

- 13/01565/HOU** Erection of home office/gym
- The Old Forge Bridgend Eldersfield GL19 3PL
 - Mr Scott Winnard

Council's Comments:

The proposes extension to the Old Forge will dominate and totally overpower the character of the Old Forge

We appreciate that the Old Forge itself is very small and that a modest and sympathetic extension would be beneficial.

Accordingly, we do not support this proposal.

We recommend that:

- 1) the applicant liaise with the Planning Officer and seek a more sympathetic proposal, e.g. by reducing the size and by using materials in keeping with the Old Forge;
- 2) comprehensive landscaping be a condition of any future planning consent

Pending Decision

- 14/00121/HOU** 2 bay oak framed garage and workshop
- End House, Corse Lawn
 - End House, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4NN

Council's Comments:
Under consideration

Pending Decision

- 14/00133/FUL** Construction of a 25m x 50m manège in the paddock adjoining the property, for personal use
- Upper Denbury House, Swinley Lane, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4PF
 - Mr Sam Smith

Council's Comments:
Under consideration

Pending Decision

- 14/00144/FUL** Change of use of holiday let/student/caretaker accommodation to use as an independent residential dwelling
- The Old Forge, Bridgend, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4PP
 - Mr Scott Winnard

Council's Comments:
Under consideration

Pending Decision

9. Drainage

Councillors were unaware of any houses within the parish flooded during the recent adverse weather and attributed this good result to the greater attention which had been paid to the maintenance of ditches.

10. BT Phone Boxes

The Clerk reported that BT had now disconnected the electricity supply to the box at Wad Lane. Councillors discussed the future of that box and decided that the Chairman should propose to the School that the School buy it for £1 on condition that they removed it from the existing site.

11. Application for Rural Rate relief

Councillors discussed the application and noted that the business emphasis of the pub had changed from being local in nature to regional; it was however thought that this should not necessarily be decisive in the Council's consideration of the application. It was agreed that the pub was of benefit to the community, although the nature and scale of that benefit was less clear. Council was also mindful of other businesses within the parish to which the advantages of rural rate relief were not available.

Accordingly Council took the view that the business, even though apparently very successful, should be encouraged and it was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Council recommend to MHDC that Option B be adopted.

Councillors noted the comments made in the application about the views allegedly held by the Council and did not recognise them as a fair statement.

12. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 163.47	J L Gabbott
£39.60	HMRC

13. Correspondence

Received:

- CALC: Updates
- Mr John Keightley: Request to pressure govt to upgrade A417 at Maisemore
- Rural Services Network: Updates
- Wores Citizens' Advice Bureau (Paula Kington): Community Champions

The Clerk explained that the Citizens' Advice Bureau was seeking 'local champions' who would act within communities as a first point of contact for people needing the CAB's assistance. Council viewed this initiative favourably and affirmed its support of it.

14. Future Meetings

It was noted that future meetings of the Council would, in accordance with Minute 19 of the meeting of 14th November 2013, take place at 7.30 pm at Eldersfield Lawn School on the following Thursdays in 2014: 8th May, 10th July, 11th September, 13th November.

15. Other business

The Chairman noted that this was the last meeting of the Council before the elections and thanked the Vice-Chairman, the councillors, and especially the Clerk for their help and co-operation over the last four years; without that assistance, achieving the Council's goals would not have been possible.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

JLG
14.3.14