

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 17th September 2015 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: A. Davies (Chairman), Mrs C Powell-Chandler, J. Keighley Mrs S Rush,
A.J. Etherington

In Attendance: 1

**Members of the
Public:** 23

Mr Etherington signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and took his seat as Councillor.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Mrs Willder and Cllr Williams. District Councillor Bronwen Behan had also

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th July 2015 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. Cooption

After a short discussion during which it was noted that Mrs Holt had indicated that she had offered to serve as Councillor, it was **RESOLVED** that **Mrs Dawn Holt be co-opted member of this Council.**

Mrs Holt signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and took her seat as Councillor.

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

Neither the District nor the County Councillor was present and neither had submitted a report.

7. Report from the Police

The police informed the meeting that there had been very few crimes reported in the Parish. A badger cull was expected to start within the next few weeks.

The public were reminded that the police could be contacted in emergencies on 999 and for non-emergencies on 0300 333 3000.

8. Public Comment

The principal interest of the public was in Planning Application 15/00909/OUT. During the lengthy discussion members of the public commented that

- no appeal had yet been submitted in respect of planning application 15/00211/FUL
- no notice had been displayed at the application site and that this was an infraction of the law (the Clerk commented that given the number of people present at the meeting it was unlikely that great weight would be attached, either by MHDC or by a court, to this omission);
- septic tanks would be required and could be the cause of future problems;
- the B4211 was a very busy road and additional traffic would exacerbate a xxx
- children from the site going to the primary school would have to walk along a busy road which did not have a pavement;
- the Orchard Trust might have relevant views;
- the area was incapable of providing jobs for 10 for families;
- given the absence of public transport, the only means of transport would be by private car;
- the need for private transport would reduce the attraction of the site for those needing affordable housing;
- water run-off from the site, already in certain circumstances threatening houses in Pool Hay with flooding, would be exacerbated;
- the Council had acted improperly in suggesting to MHDC that a Tree Preservation Order be issued in respect of the site.

The Chairman thanked the public for these comments and undertook that they would be borne in mind by Councillors when considering the Council's response to MHDC's consultation.

The matter of poor broadband coverage with the Parish was also noted.

10. Advertisements on Notice boards

The Clerk explained that there were three notice boards within the Parish which were the property of, and maintained by, the Council. The policy which he had implemented to date was to give priority to Council notices, then notices by local people and then non-parish notices. Reticulating this structure was a requirement that notices be current and tidy, together with an expectation that they take up no more space than needed.

Councillors accepted this schema and undertook, given the Clerk's reduced proximity, to apply these standards when appropriate.

11. BT boxes

The Clerk was invited to ascertain suitable means for re-painting the boxes.

12. Charities

The Clerk reminded Council that it had a right but not a duty to appoint two trustees to each of two charities, Allotments For Exercise And Recreation (Charity 1063222) and Allotments For The Labouring Poor (Charity 502031). Such trustees need not be councillors and did not

represent the councillor; indeed, they were liable in their own right for the actions they took as trustees.

Mrs Ellen Challoner indicated that she would be willing to serve. After a short discussion councillors resolved that Miss Eleanor Challoner be appointed one of the Council's nominated trustees for Allotments for Exercise and Recreation (Charity 1063222) and Allotments for The Labouring Poor (Charity 502031) to serve as such from 17th September 2015 to 16th September 2019.

13. Bank Account Signatories

The Clerk reported with disappointment that the Bank had declined to accept the forms submitted subsequent to the previous meeting; had refused to act on any of the three requests to change the registered address and had refused to discuss the matter with him.

In these circumstances the Clerk invited Councillors to complete a further set of Mandate Variation Forms.

14. Planning

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 15/00277/HOU** Single storey side and rear extensions.
- The Bungalow, Gadfield Elm, Staunton, Worcestershire, GL19 3PB

Approval (Full) Planning Householder

- 15/00558/S73** Application to vary condition 4 of Planning Permission 13/01565/HOU to allow use of Tata profile roofing material
- The Old Forge, Bridgend, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4PP

Council's Comments:

My council has considered the application 15/00558/S73 at a plenary meeting.

It notes that the Tata steel currently used as roofing gives to the building an industrial rather than agricultural look; because of this, the building sits stridently next to the Old Forge to which it is closely proximate.

My Council believes that a harmony should be established with the surroundings, not discord, and accordingly recommends that this application be refused.

Withdrawn By Applicant

- 15/00841/FUL** Proposed barn for the storage of hay, straw and machinery
- Land off Lawn Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire

Council's Comments:
We have no objection.

Approval (Full Planning)

- 15/00908/HOU** Side extension
- Grove Farm Frogmarsh Corse Lawn Gloucester GL19 4PW

Approval (Full) Planning Householder

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

- 15/00539/HOU** Reduction of outbuilding and erection of solar panels
- The Old Forge, Bridgend, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4PP

Council's Comments:
See Minutes of Council meeting of 16th July 2015.

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- 15/01087/HOU** Loft Conversion.
- Long Barn, Church Lane, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NP

Council's Comments
My council has no objection to this application.

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- 15/01088/LBC** Loft Conversion.
- Long Barn, Church Lane, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4NP

Council's Comments
My council has no objection to this application.

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- 15/01012/FUL** Removal of two agricultural buildings and replace them with a single farm building.
- Burghill, Gadfield Elm, Staunton, Worcestershire, GL19 3PB

Council's Comments
My council has no objection to this application.

- 15/00909/OUT** Outline application for 10 dwelling with all matters, except for access, reserved.
- Land Adj Nutshells, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire,

Council considered the application and noted that, although the proposal would not be without benefits for the parish, the site – located in open country and without public transport of any description - was unsuitable for a development of the major size being proposed and which would be unsustainable. The loss of a green space – home to an ancient orchard with its rich biodiversity – would be a severe loss. Councillors had been alarmed by the reports of residents living locally to the site that their houses had come near to flooding during a recent brief but torrential downpour; Councillors noted with concern that the hydrology report was incomplete but they were of the view that the only effect of the construction of 10 houses on open land would be to increase the rate and quantity of water runoff and thereby exacerbate the flooding threat. Accordingly Council decided that it would recommend refusal of the application and the Clerk was instructed to reply to MHDC accordingly.

15. Lengthsman

The Clerk gave a short description of the work undertaken by the Lengthsman. Councillors expressed their satisfaction.

16. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 132.85	J L Gabbott
£84.00	HMRC
£26.49	MHDC - Uncontested election expenses
£90.00	CALC - Training courses
£354.00	Mr J Moore, Lengthsman services July 2015
£236.00	Mr J Moore, Lengthsman services August 2015

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted

Received:

- CALC updates
- MHDC: News Updates
- Local Government Chronicle

18. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Thursday 5th November at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

19. Other business

None

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

JLG 21.9.15