

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Tuesday 3rd May 2016 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.50 p.m.

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

In Attendance: -

**Members of the
Public:** 1

1. To elect a Chairman

Mr Davies offered himself for election as chairman. After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Mr Davies be appointed Chairman.

2. To elect a Vice Chairman

After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Willder be appointed Vice-Chairman.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Willder and Cllr Williams.

4. Members' interests

None

5. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th March 2016 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

6. Matters arising

None

7. Reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Behan was not present and no report was available.

The Council asked the Clerk to convey to District Councillor Tom Wells their wishes for a speedy recovery from his recent accident.

8. Report from the Police

None.

9. Public Comment

Mr Keith Turner introduced himself as a local resident. He brought to the Council's attention that in February employees of the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board (LSIDB) had

‘cleared’ the green lane which runs northwards from the Red House, apparently with the intention of reducing the risk of flooding.

He said that they he had lived in the area for the past 41 years and was unaware of any farmland or habitation which had ever been flooded. He accepted that some clearance was required, principally of undergrowth in order to facilitate the passage of the users of the lane, but the actions of the LSIDB went far beyond this.

They had felled 126 trees, comprising 11 species and with girths of between 2 and 30 inches.

They had cut down two hundred year old oaks.

They had badly damaged the last known habitat in the parish of the butterfly Purple Hairstreak - oaks on the east side of the lane estimated to be more than a century old. The presence elsewhere in the parish of this butterfly has not been recorded, supporting the description of its national status as ‘local and increasingly scarce’.

He had suggested to the workmen that some of the trees were suitable for pollarding, but they were unfamiliar with the term.

Mr Turner said that he therefore concluded that the LSIDB had undertaken a work which was not necessary and which was beyond its competence. He suggested that the Council should seek to take measures to avoid a repetition.

10. HM The Queen’s Birthday:

A discussion was held about how the Council should recognise the forthcoming 90th birthday of HM The Queen. It was agreed that the Council should own a Union Jack which it would lend to the school on appropriate occasions and that it would give to each child in the school a commemorative medallion.

Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk, having consulted the Chairman, purchase

- a) for not more than £200, a Union Jack measuring approximately 1m x 1.5m and provided with eyelets, and**
- b) for not more than £400, sufficient medallions of a suitable design and that one of these be given to each child at the school.**

11. Green lane

Councillors indicated that they were deeply concerned by the information given to them by Mr Turner. They believed that it was reasonable in the first place to ask the LSIDB for a proper explanation of the actions they had undertaken and they instructed the Clerk to request this of the LSIDB.

They were also concerned that other ecologically sensitive areas within parish – of which they were perhaps not aware – could be at risk from the depredations of the LSIDB or other agencies and they accepted the suggestion that an Environmental Group be instituted within the Parish with the objective of identifying such areas and alerting the Council. Cllr Keighley and Mr Turner agreed to serve on the Group.

12. St John the Baptist, Eldersfield

Council noted that a request had been received from the Parochial Church Council of Eldersfield that a grant be made to the PCC to help defray the cost of re-roofing the Lady Chapel.

Councillors considered whether they had the legal power to make such a grant and were advised in the affirmative by the Clerk who also explained that an annual limit on such expenditure was imposed by law.

Having regard to all the facts before them, Councillors **RESOLVED** that a grant of £2,000 be made to Eldersfield PCC to help defray the cost of re-roofing the Lady Chapel.

13. Bank account signatories

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had only recently received a letter from Lloyds informing him that the mandate variation instructions had been implemented; it was not, however, clear which instructions were being referred to and he would seek clarification.

He took the opportunity of inviting the Council to note that a request for a new cheque book appeared to have been delayed, or perhaps declined, by the bank. He would investigate the matter.

14. Planning

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 16/00118/HOU** First floor side extension and single storey porch.
- Rose Tree Cottage, Lime Street, Eldersfield Gloucester GL51 6SH

Council's Comments

We have no objection.

Withdrawn By Applicant

- 16/00121/HOU** Replacement of the existing porch and single storey extension to front elevation of dwelling.
- Corners Meet, Wad Lane, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4LT

Council's Comments

We have no objection to this application

Approval (Full) Planning Householder

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

- 15/01566/FUL** Erection of replacement dwelling
- Annexe At, Ploughs End, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4LZ

Council's Comments

We have no objections.

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| 15/01581/FUL
pitch | Two additional gypsy pitches together with formation of hardstanding ancillary to that use to include reconfiguration of existing permitted grant at appeal (ref 08/00886/FUL) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fieldview, Malvern Road, Staunton, Worcestershire, |
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Council's Comments

We are concerned that the proposed increased density on the site will place too much demand on the water supply that serves both the site and close neighbours. We understand that the water supply comes through a pipe that was laid privately - and so is not the responsibility of Severn Trent. We understand that on one occasion, when there was an gathering of travellers on the site, the water supply could not cope with the additional demand. Hence there are fears that, with increased occupancy, this could become a regular occurrence and a hazard to health be thereby created.

We note also that the gates to the site are on a stretch of road where there is poor visibility, yet unfortunately there is no safer alternative position. With the increased volume of traffic that an expanded site will generate plus the speed and volume of the traffic that already travels along this stretch of road, we believe that the proposed access would not offer an acceptable degree of safety.

In the absence of satisfactory resolution of the above two concerns we cannot support the application.

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| 16/00307/HOU | Replacement single storey extension; new porch and amended roof to annexe <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Brook Cottage, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4LU |
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Council's Comments

My Council has considered the application in greater detail and believes that the proposed development would be disproportionately large compared with the existing dwelling and would be visually intrusive.

Accordingly my Council recommends refusal.

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| 16/00405/FUL | Proposed new access <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Barn at Marsh Court Farm, Bridgend, Eldersfield, Worcestershire, GL19 4PN |
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Council's Comments

We have no objection.

- 16/00453/HOU** Two storey side extension to provide lounge with bedrooms over. Two storey side extension to provide garage and utility with office over. Single storey extension to provide sun room. Revised scheme 14/01725/HOU. (Part retrospective)
- Orchard Rise, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Worcestershire, GL19 4NN

Council's Comments

We have no objection.

15. Accounts

It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting be approved and adopted as the Accounts of the Council; that they be attached hereto as Appendix A; and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return Sections 1 and 2, and the Council required that the Clerk publish forthwith the relevant Notice as prescribed by regulation.

The Chairman requested that in future the Agenda specify the funds committed but not spent.

16. Investment Policy

It was **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with item 15 of the minutes of the meeting of 11th May 2006, the Council's investment policy remain that all funds be maintained in a current account and that this Policy be reviewed annually.

17. Risk Assessment

The Councillors considered the Risk Assessment Policy adopted on 14th July 2011 and decided that no amendments were required.

18. Financial Regulations

After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the draft revised Financial Regulations circulated prior to the meeting be adopted as the Financial Regulations of the Council.

19. Hire of the school hall

After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council pay Worcestershire £20.14 in respect of the hire of the school hall for the meeting to be held on 3rd May 2016.

20. Lengthsman

The Clerk gave a short description of the work undertaken by the Lengthsman during January and February. Councillors expressed their satisfaction. It was **RESOLVED** that the Lengthsman's invoice for March 2016, for £236, be paid.

21. Insurance

After a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council renew its insurance with Zurich Municipal for the year commencing 1st June 2016 at a premium of £251.85.

22. CALC

After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council renew its membership of Worcestershire CALC for the year commencing 1st April 2016 at a cost of £292.59.

23. Authorisation of Disbursements

It was RESOLVED that the following disbursements be made:

£ 230.25	J L Gabbott
£153.20	HMRC
£236.00	Mr J Moore, Lengthsman services March 2016
£292.59	Worcestershire CALC.
£20.14	WCC
£251.85	Zurich Municipal

24. Correspondence

It was noted that the Clerk had received a substantial quantity of correspondence.

25. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 14th July at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

26. Other business

None.

The meeting closed at 9.36 p.m.

JLG
04.5.16