

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Tuesday 14th November 2017 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: A. Davies (Chairman), Mrs D Holt
J. Keighley, Mrs S Rush,

In Attendance: -

Members of the 3
Public:

1. Apologies for absence

A.J. Etherington, Mrs C Powell-Chandler, O. Williams

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2017 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Co-option

It was noted that Paul Richard Chichester and Tracy Owen had each indicated their willingness to serve as Councillor. It was **RESOLVED** that **Paul Richard Chichester and Tracy Owen be co-opted as councillors.**

[Each then signed in the presence of a proper Officer of the Council the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to Observe the Code of Conduct.]

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

Both District and County Councillors were absent and no report was available.

7. Police Report

The Police Report circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Broadband

The Chairman reported that for many properties with poor broadband the distance from the nearest junction box remained the critical problem; the attenuation of signal over a copper wire was proportional to distance from the junction box and was defined by physics.

Alternatives were, however, available but a cost – potentially significant - was attributable to each.

For £30,000 a solution – which he described as ‘95%’ – could be achieved. This could perhaps be reduced if part of the work – mainly digging trenches – were to be undertaken by parishioners *pro bono*. A wireless solution could be available.

The total cost of each of these solutions was relatively fixed but the cost to an individual would reduce the more individuals who subscribed: the more, the cheaper.

Accordingly the first question to be answered was whether it was worth undertaking a project, and the answer to that question would depend on the speed which it was possible to offer and the price which individuals thought worth paying for that speed. What would demand be if it were possible to offer a good service at 14 meg, or 50meg?

The Chairman concluded by saying that a working party would be studying these matters over the coming weeks and he intended to submit a further progress report at the next Council meeting. He also expected to hold the meeting, which had unfortunately been postponed, with a representative from BT/Openreach.

10. Boundary Commission

Council noted that under the current proposals before the Boundary Commission it was likely that the parliamentary constituency within which the parish fell would be transferred to Evesham.

Councillors believed that they required more time to consider the full import of this proposal and adjourned the matter until the next meeting.

11. Defibrillator

Cllr Chichester reported that the School had agreed that, if requested, it would in principle be willing to host a defibrillator.

From further information now available, councillors understood that a person needing a defibrillator would ideally be not further than 200 yards from the apparatus, given that if travel beyond that distance were needed the time taken would significantly reduce the potential benefits of using the machine.

It was recognised that the Council was not currently in a financial position where it could proceed with the acquisition of such an item; it was, however, noted that the Council’s budget would be decided at the next meeting and the Clerk was requested to include within his draft an appropriate amount.

12. Telephone kiosk

Councillors considered that the most likely, and probably most appropriate, use to which the telephone kiosk at Bridge End could be put appeared to be that of a book exchange. The Chairman believed that he had identified a near neighbour willing to act as librarian.

The cost of modifying the kiosk for the intended purpose was discussed. The Chairman undertook to make a personal inspection of the premises and to report to the next meeting.

13. Trustee Appointment

Council resolved that subject to confirmation of his acceptance of office, Mr Marc Spurling be appointed as Trustee to each of two charities, being the Allotments for Exercise and Recreation (1063222) and Allotments for the Labouring Poor (502031), to serve for a period of four years commencing on 15th November 2017 and ending on 14th November 2021.

14. Planning

Councillors considered the need for the continued inclusion of this item in future agendas. Authority to respond to statutory consultations with respect to planning applications had been delegated to the Clerk, who responded on behalf of the Council after consulting councillors. The information included in this report is available on the MHDC website (at <https://plan.malvern hills.gov.uk/>) in a comprehensive and easily accessible format. Accordingly it was agreed that Planning would not normally be included in future agendas.

SUMMARY OF PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 17/00644/HP** Proposed porch extension and two bay oak framed garage
- Linkend Cottage, Link End Road, Corse Lawn, Gloucester, GL19 4NN

Council's Comments

We have no objection.

Approved

- 17/00701/HP** Single storey lean to extension to side and rear and first floor extension over kitchen.
- Brook Cottage Bridgend Eldersfield Gloucester GL19 4PL

Council's Comments

We have no objection.

Approved

- 17/00736/HP** Demolition of existing single-storey side extension. Construction of two-storey extension.
- The Cottage Gadfield Elm Staunton Gloucester GL19 3PB

Council's Comments

We have no objection.

Approved

- 17/00863/HP** Two storey rear extension, Two new dormer windows and new flue in rear elevation, replacement of an existing cider shed with a new cider shed and replacement of an existing garage with a car port.
- Witsend Corse Lawn Gloucester GL19 4NB

Council's Comments

We have no objection.

Approved

- 17/00911/FUL** Erection of stables and change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use.
- Berth House Moorend Road Eldersfield Gloucester GL19 4NS

Council's Comments

Support. We have no comments

Approved

- 17/01161/FUL** Proposed agricultural worker's dwelling.
- Gunnions Farm Eldersfield, Gloucester GL19 4PP

Council's Comments

Support. We have no objection.

Withdrawn

- 17/01184/LB** Replacement of treads and risers on staircase between ground floor and first floor. (Retrospective)
- Hooze Farm Eldersfield Gloucester GL19 4PJ

Council's Comments

Support. We have no objection.

Pending decision

- 17/01200/FUL** Demolition of pre-fabricated bungalow and construction of replacement dwelling
- Burghill, Gadfield Elm, Staunton Gloucester GL19 3PB

Council's Comments

Support. We have no objections

Withdrawn

- 17/01265/HP** Car Port
- Greenleaves Corse Lawn, Gloucester, GL19 4PE

Council's Comments

Support. We have no comments

Approved

SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING DECISION

- 17/00883/HP** Erection of a two-storey extension to the front elevation; alterations to the existing two-storey front extension and provision of a new window in the western elevation of the dwelling at first floor level and associated works.
- Hooze Farm Eldersfield Gloucester GL19 4PJ

Council's Comments

Pending decision

- 17/00884/LB** Hooze Farm Eldersfield Gloucester GL19 4PJ
- Erection of a two-storey extension to the front elevation; alterations to the existing two-storey front extension and provision of a new window in the western elevation of the dwelling at first floor level and associated works

Council's Comments

Pending decision

Also Pending Decision:

- 17/01406/HP**
1 Hardwick Green Cottages Eldersfield Marsh Eldersfield Gloucester GL19 4PH
Proposed single and two storey rear extensions

17/01359/LB

Hardwick Court Farm Eldersfield Gloucester GL19 4PJ
Conversion of two redundant barns to holiday accommodation.

17/01358/FUL

Hardwick Court Farm Eldersfield Gloucester GL19 4PJ
Conversion of two redundant barns to holiday accommodation.

17/01487/HP

China Cross Tirley Road Corse Lawn Gloucester GL19 4NA
Proposed single storey side and rear extension.

17/01488/FUL

China Cross Tirley Road Corse Lawn Gloucester GL19 4NA
Proposed replacement outbuilding

17/00534/FUL

The Grove Lime Street Eldersfield, Gloucester GL19 4NX
Demolition of tin storage shed and erection of new tin storage shed for equestrian storage (retrospective).

17/01393/HP

Conversion of attached barn to extend residential dwelling
The Stables Hill Court Farm Frogmarsh Corse Lawn Gloucester GL19 4PW

17/01541/FUL

Oakfield Wad Lane Corse Lawn, Gloucester GL19 4LT
Extensions to front, side and rear, retention of 2no. garden sheds and extension of residential curtilage (retrospective) - amendment to permission 15/00087/HOU.

15. Audit

The Report of the Auditors on their Review of the Annual Return of the Council and their comments thereon were noted.

The Clerk informed the Council that in future the Review by External Auditors was being discontinued and that reliance for assurance of the integrity of the Council's procedures would rest with the Internal Auditor.

16. Grant Request

It was noted that the Corse Lawn Women's Group had requested from the Council a grant in the amount of £50.70 for 2015 and £50.70 for 2016 in respect of meetings held by the Group at the School in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Councillors queried the lateness of the request. The Clerk explained that the requests had been sent by ordinary mail to the Council's previous address and had not been forwarded; the mistake had only recently been identified and was now being corrected.

Some councillors queried whether it was right to make a grant to an organisation which had shown that, by entering into a financial commitment without an assurance that it would be offset by a corresponding grant, it did not rely on the grant.

Others councillors expressed the view that payment of this grant of £101.40, because it had not been specifically identified within the budget [of £3,383 adopted by the Council for grants made under powers given to the Council under Section 139 of the Local Government Act 1972], would make the Council's financial forecasting unacceptably inaccurate.

The view was expressed by the Chairman that in future, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, only applications for grants made before the event to which they related should be considered.

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £101.40 be made to the Corse Lawn Women's Group to assist them defray the costs of meetings held by them at Eldersfield Lawn School during 2015 and 2016.

17. Receipts

It was noted that £68.00 (not £86.00 as indicated in the Agenda) had been received in respect of the hire of tables, chairs, etc.

18. Committed Funds

The statement of Committed Funds circulated before the meeting was noted.

19. Bank Signatory

Councillors recognised the value of having four councillors authorised to operate the Council's bank account. Accordingly it was **RESOLVED** that Paul Richard Chichester be appointed a signatory on the account.

20. Lengthsman

The reports and invoices submitted by the Lengthsman for September (£236.00) and October (£118.00) were noted. It was **RESOLVED** that the Lengthsman's invoice in the amount of £354.00 be paid.

21. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 173.22	J L Gabbott
£104.40	HMRC
£354.00	Lengthsman (£236.00 September, £118.00 October)
£25.47	WCC (hire of hall 13th July 2017)
£101.40	Corse Lawn Women's Group

22. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 8th January 2018 at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

23. Other business

Cllr Keighley asked whether it would help if he were to promote Eldersfield *E* to those interested in Broadband. The Clerk replied in the affirmative.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

JLG, 17.11.17