

# ELDERSFIELD PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Assembly  
held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, 7.30 pm, at Eldersfield Lawn School

## Present:

<b>Chairman:</b>	A. Davies
<b>Parish Councillors:</b>	P. R. Chichester, Mrs D Holt, J. Keighley, Mrs T Owen, Mrs C Powell-Chandler, Mrs S Rush
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mr Mike Perry, the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
<b>Members of the Public:</b>	1

## 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Assembly held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were confirmed as being a true record of that meeting.

## 2. Matters Arising

None

## 3. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman made the following statement:

“Welcome to tonight’s meeting. This is my third year as Chairman and this is my report. I would like to start by thanking my fellow councillors and the parish clerk who keeps us on the straight and narrow for their support over the last 12 months.

As usual, alterations and extensions to dwellings within the parish dominate our work. Eldersfield is still classified as a “below level 3” parish and therefore currently not deemed suitable for further development.

Since becoming Chairman it has always been my aim that the Council should be seen as being a proactive Council rather than a reactive one. I believe we are getting there. In the last 12 months we:

- Were part of the working group comprising the County Councillor, Worcestershire County Council Highways Department, the PTFA, the school and the Reeves to finally resolve the parking situation outside the school. I am pleased to report that finally the work has been completed. The dramatic reduction in “near misses” and reported damages to parked vehicles has meant that children can now cross the road relatively safely. The introduction of the *go slow* signage at the either end has had a significant impact and on my observations it is pleasing to see that most drivers adhere to the 20 mph speed limit during the prescribed hours.

- Introduced a book swap store in the redundant telephone kiosk at Bridgend. This is proving very popular. There appears to be a large turnover of books on a regular basis. I am sure that as word of mouth spreads or as people see it on the Facebook page then it will become even more popular.

For 2018 your Council are looking at three initiatives. The first is to improve the broadband for all of the Community. Some residents are lucky enough to live near a junction box and therefore receive really fast speeds whilst others are less fortunate. We have been in discussions with OpenReach to see what can be done to improve the situation. So, over the last couple of weeks a band of willing volunteers have been knocking on doors and collecting information to pass onto OpenReach. This has now been completed and the necessary data passed to OpenReach for them to investigate into associated costs for improvement of the Broadband. There are 241 residences within the parish. We had 158 positive responses in which residents want to learn more, 4 definite “No’s” at this time and 79 nil responses. When we receive the information back from OpenReach it is our intention to hold a public meeting with OpenReach in attendance for us as a community to decide on the way forward.

Secondly, we as a Council feel that the Community should look at having a defibrillator installed within the Parish. Its location is still subject to debate but the school is the most likely solution due to its location. In rural areas, it takes time to get medical help, so Community Public Access Defibrillators have a very important part to play in helping save lives. Community defibrillator schemes are reckoned to be about 10x more effective in saving life than other community schemes alone.

Thirdly, the parish council are now starting to consider the need for implementing a local neighbourhood plan. A neighbour plan determines the future of communities and how they can change for the better. They are documents that set out a vision for the future of a parish and outlines how that can be achieved in an action plan.

Throughout the year we will update you on the three key initiatives and any others that may arise over the next 12 months.

As always, we are keen to improve the life of the community by assisting local groups with grants. Should you wish to apply for a grant then please contact the Parish Clerk to discuss your request further. The request will then be discussed at the next appropriate Council meeting.

Our Parish is a very small Parish. However, I trust you will find that over the last 12 months you will have seen that we are being proactive in trying to secure services that we all deserve. Should you have any issues or ideas that you would like your Council to get involved with then please do not hesitate to contact me, one of my fellow councillors or the Parish Clerk.

Finally, I encourage you to read our notice boards, go online at the parish council website or even find us on Facebook to find out the many activities that do occur within the parish.

Thank you.”

Members of the public received the Chairman’s report and expressed their general approval.

#### **4. Report of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**

The Chairman welcomed Mike Perry of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Mr Perry introduced himself as the Head of Resources for the Trust and expressed his pleasure at being able to address the meeting.

He said that he was pleased to confirm the Trust had completed the purchase of Hardwick Green Meadows. This was an important acquisition. About 97% of meadowland in England had been lost in the last seventy years and there were now only 3,500 acres of floodplain meadow left in the UK, equivalent to the size of Heathrow Airport. Hardwick Green Meadows represented 1.5% of these meadows and so was significant in a national context.

Hardwick Green Meadows are rich in plants like great burnet, pepper saxifrage and corky-fruited water dropwort and in turn, this rich but scarce collection of flowers supports butterflies, bees, birds and much more.

The acquisition by the Trust will guarantee the future of the site.

The Trust now wished to involve local people in the project and was intending to hold an open day towards the end of June, details of which it would announce shortly. It was considering running an oral history project: inviting young people to record conversations with older people and make the resulting recordings available for the present and later generations. It was developing a cycle route which would provide a pleasant leisure opportunity, enhanced by its routing via a number of hostelrys.

In all, he found the acquisition of Hardwick Green Meadows an exciting project, and he encouraged all Parishioners to enjoy this splendid resource located so conveniently for them.

#### **5. Public Comment, Questions and Discussions**

None.

There being no further business, the Assembly closed at 9.10 pm.

JLG  
4.5.18