

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 6th September 2018 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mrs D Holt (Chairman)
Mrs T Owen, Mrs C Powell-Chandler, Mrs S Rush

In Attendance: -

**Members of the
Public:** 2

Both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman being absent, the members present appointed Mrs Holt as Chairman for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

P. R. Chichester, A. Davies, J. Keighley, O. Williams

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2018 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 Dr Reynolds had indicated that she had offered to serve as Councillor, it was **RESOLVED** that **Dr Linda Reynolds be co-opted member of this Council.**

Dr Reynolds 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

There was no reports available from either the County or District Councillor.

7. Police Report

Members noted the report received from the Police and circulated prior to the meeting.

8. Public Comment

Captain Carr addressed the meeting on two issues.

He said that the information provided in the minutes of the previous meeting about BT's response on the upgrading of broadband was entirely insufficient for any parishioner to be able to form a reasonable view of the options open to them. The Council had indicated that a public meeting was to be called, but none had been. Given that two months had now elapsed and that no apparent progress had been recorded, he was concerned that the matter was being treated by the Council in a manner which did not reflect the keen and urgent interest which was felt by a large number of parishioners. He called upon the Council to publish on its website all communication with BT to date and to arrange a public meeting expeditiously.

He queried also why any financial contribution should be required from residents to the proposed supply of unlimited speed fibre broadband (FTTP). It was his understanding that BT was under an obligation to provide broadband with a minimum speed of 10 MB/s to all properties where the cost of so doing did not exceed £3,400.

On the matter of the Neighbourhood Plan, Captain Carr said that the preparation of a Plan by the community was vital if the views of parishioners on matters such as development were to be taken into account by the planners. He expressed his opinion that such views, if framed within a Neighbourhood Plan, would decisively constrain the ability of MHDC in the making of planning decisions. He added that grants and technical advice were available.

9. Broadband

In the absence of the Chairman, who had been the sole contact with BT, Councillors were unable to advance the debate. They agreed that the matter be deferred until the next meeting.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported that, given that both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had advised him that they would be absent from this meeting, he had take the step of asking the official who was to have made a presentation on Neighbourhood Plans to delay his presentation until a later meeting.

Councillors noted their continued interest in the possibility of producing a Plan and agreed that the matter should be tabled at the next meeting.

11. Planning Applications:

18/01001/LB and 18/01000/HP

Objections received from one parishioner had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Councillors noted that the proposed development was within 25 metres of a listed building, which they considered undesirable and potentially unlawful; that it was unreasonably close to a neighbour; that it would impinge on the privacy of a neighbour; that it could potentially compromise the integrity of a wall and that it was likely to prevent maintenance of that wall; and that the proposed summer house, given its proposed location, was excessive in size. Accordingly the Clerk was instructed to object to the application on the above grounds.

18/00993/FUL

Objections received from one parishioner had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Councillors noted that the proposed development was close to a boundary fence and would constitute an invasion of privacy of a neighbour; that it did not provide a sufficiently large turning circle for cars; that vehicular access was poor; and that it was likely to increase surface water run-off in an area known for its flooding potential and that this could cause a nuisance to a neighbour. Accordingly the Clerk was instructed to object to the application on the above grounds.

12. South Worcestershire Development Plan

Councillors noted with interest the consultation announced by South Worcestershire councils into whether a Development Boundary Review was necessary. They considered the matter carefully and the debate was wide-ranging. Given the potentially wide areas of the matters which should properly be reported to the South Worcestershire councils in their consultation, Councillors delegated to the Clerk the responsibility of responding to the consultation.

13. Lengthsman

The reports and invoices submitted by the Lengthsman for June, July and August 2018 (£236.00 per month) were noted.

14. Defibrillator

Councillors expressed their continuing intention to proceed with this project and asked that the Clerk produce proposals at the next meeting. The Chairman undertook to confirm with the School that their previously expressed willingness to host a defibrillator remained unchanged.

15. Information Commissioner

The Clerk explained that because, as Clerk, he held his own personal data on a computer he was considered a data manager and it was therefore a legal requirement that the Council register with the Information Commissioner, for which a fee of £40 was payable.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council register with the Information Commissioner and that the fee of £40 be paid.

16. Authorisation of Disbursements

It was **RESOLVED** that the following disbursements be made for goods and services received:

£ 160.92	J L Gabbott
£100.00	HMRC
£708.00	Lengthsman (£236.00 June; £236.00 July; £236.00 August)
£50.94	WCC (hire of hall £25.47 for each of 5 th July and 6 th Sep)
£40.00	Information Commissioner

17. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 9th October 2018 at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

18. Any other business

- One councillor had noted difficulty in reporting defects in road signage on the relevant webpage.
- Grossly excessive speeds by bikers travelling through Corse Lawn on Wednesday evenings had been noted; the Clerk undertook to advise the police.
- The illuminated school speed signs had been illuminated – throughout the summer holidays. It was felt that this reduced the warning value of the signs. The Clerk undertook to take up the matter WCC.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.

JLG
7.9.18