

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 10th October 2018 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: A. Davies (Chairman)
Mrs D Holt, J. Keighley, Mrs T Owen, Dr L Reynolds

In Attendance: Mr David Clarke (MHDC)

**Members of the
Public:** 2

1. Apologies for absence

P. R. Chichester, Mrs S Rush

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 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. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman thanks Mr Clarke of MHDC for attending the meeting.

Mr Clarke advised that Parish Councils were encouraged to consider preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Such a plan would be in respect of a geographical area, not necessarily that of a single, or whole, parish; it would describe only those planning considerations which residents wished to see applied in their area. When adopted, which would happen after it approval at a referendum, it would rank with national planning guidelines and the South Worcestershire Development Plan (with both of which it would have to be consistent). It was therefore a significant way in which local residents could influence the development of their neighbourhood.

He warned, however, that to produce a plan would take time - probably well over a year, depending on the length and complexity of the plan – and that there would also be costs, although these could be offset by a grant of up to £9,000. He added that the life of the plan would be about five years.

(Mr Clarke also commented that MHDC was about to start a consultation with respect to possible changes to the South Worcestershire Development Plan. That Plan also had a life of five years, which expired in February 2021, and without being either confirmed or updated it would expire.)

Councillors thanked him for his contribution.

In the ensuing discussion on whether the Parish should develop a Neighbourhood Plan it became clear that there were strong arguments on both sides; it was therefore decided that a decision would be deferred until a later meeting.

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

Neither County Councillor Tom Wells nor District Councillor Bronwen Behan was present, nor were reports from them available.

Councillors remarked that the absence of both the County Councillor and the District Councillor, neither of whom had attended a single meeting of the Parish Council in the current financial year, was highly regrettable. Many of the issues debated in the Parish Council required action by the District or County Council and the absence of these two councillors from the Parish Council's meetings denied them the opportunity to gain an understanding of their constituents' concerns and problems.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Broadband

The Chairman apologised that his recent absence from the Parish for work reasons had delayed the progress of the project. He confirmed, however, that he would be communicating individually with each of the respondents to the questionnaire within the next week or so to inform them of the broadband options available to them, as currently understood. He was aware that conflicting information had been emanating from the various parties involved in the provision of broadband.

He also confirmed that it remained his intention that a public meeting be called at which both Openreach and Worcestershire County Council would be present in order that matters could be fully and definitively explained.

9. Defibrillator

Councillors discussed the documentation circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting and unanimously expressed their conviction that the acquisition of a defibrillator by the Council would be a major benefit to the community. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk, **having consulted the Chairman, acquire a defibrillator on such terms as may seem appropriate to him.**

10. Great War

Council noted that 11th November would be the centenary of the end of the Great War and that the School was preparing an exhibition to mark the event and had need of Union Jacks for the children. After a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council purchase

120 flags for the children of the school at a cost not exceeding £50 and that these flags be presented to the School.

11. South Worcestershire Development Plan

Given the explanation provided by Mr Clarke above, the matter was considered closed.

12. Police Report

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

13. Future Meetings

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

14. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.

JLG
11.10.18