

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Thursday 10th January 2019 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: A. Davies (Chairman) Cllrs Mrs C. Powell-Chandler, P. R. Chichester,
Mrs D Holt, J Keighley Mrs T Owen, Dr L Reynolds

In Attendance: County Councillor Tom Wells
District Councillor Bronwen Behan
Mr Robert Stepniewski (WCC)
Mr Stephen Ashton (WCC)

**Members of the
Public:** 24

Given the large number of members of the public present it was agreed that Item 8 would be considered first.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Mrs S Rush and Cllr O. Williams

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 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. Reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Tom Wells reported that WCC had decided on a 3.99% increase in budget for the coming year, motivated in large measure by the need to provide for social care for the elderly. Because of the demographics, social care costs, on current trends and without mitigating action, would consume the entirety of WCC's budget by 2030.

He also commented that the outsourcing of many services had changed the manner in which the Council was operated. Services, which it was the Council's responsibility to provide, were now provided by outsiders. The question of who was responsible when things went wrong remained to be decided.

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported that the strategic housing needs of the area were the subject of study in the light of projected future demographic changes and the demands of central government policy.

6. Police Report

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

7. Public Comment

None

8. Broadband

The Chairman gave a summary of the current position. Gigaclear had laid cable in Gloucestershire up to the Worcestershire boundary but no farther. The study undertaken had indicated that for supplying 58 houses with fibre broadband (i.e. fibre to the premises, FTTP) the cost would be approximately £304,000, i.e. very high and, if the service were not taken up by everyone, would be higher still.

Mr Stepniewski informed the meeting that Gigaclear had initially shown interest in providing a BB service to parts of Eldersfield but that their interest seemed to have disappeared. He was aware that some of their projects were behind schedule and it may be that they were of the view that incurring additional work would increase the delay, and therefore reduce the profitability, of their existing projects.

Tom Wells said that he was aware that Gigaclear believed that WCC were too stringent in the requirements they placed on contractors who did road works. Practices acceptable to GCC were not necessarily acceptable to WCC. Mr Stepniewski said that WCC remained very open to proposals by Gigaclear to undertake road works (to lay cable) and would treat such requests sympathetically.

It was agreed that the challenge facing the community was how to re-engage Gigaclear. To this end it was thought that it would be sensible for the community to have an idea of the project it wished to proposed, and then to seek quotes. It was normal for one of these quotes to be a 'self-dig' option under which the community would do some or all of the trench laying.

It was agreed that a Broadband Project Group be established which would examine these matters and develop the proposal. People wishing to serve on the Group were invited to put their names forward to the Clerk no later than Monday 14th January.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed that further work would be conducted preparatory to a decision being made on whether to adopt the project.

10. Defibrillator

Councillors considered proposals for the acquisition of a defibrillator and **RESOLVED that a defibrillator be purchased from Primary Care Supplies for £1,548 plus VAT and that it be delivered to the School for installation.**

11. Financial Estimates 2018-19 and Budget 2019-20

The Clerk explained the estimates and forecast which he had circulated prior to the meeting.

He said that the draft budget for 2019/20 included a provision for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan; the making of grants for the benefit of the community, and a sum which would give a reasonable level of reserves in case of unforeseen requirements.

Councillors accepted the draft and **RESOLVED** that the draft budget circulated prior to the meeting [and attached hereto at Appendix A] be the budget of the Council for the year 2019-20 and that the precept for that year be £6,000.

12. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£198.38	J L Gabbott
£0.00	HMRC
£354.00	Lengthsman (£236.00 Nov; £118.00 December 2018)
£25.47	WCC (£25.47, meeting 10 Jan 19)
£1,857.60	Primary Care Supplies Ltd (defibrillator)

13. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

14. Any other business

The question of enforcement action in respect of planning matters was raised.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.03 p.m.

JLG
16.1.19

For information, the following post-meeting events occurred:

- Contact has been made with Gigaclear. They have agreed to come back to us by the end of the month to look at the viability of extending their current service to the residences around Lime Street. They understand that the current voucher scheme will not last forever, so part of their consideration will be whether they have the capacity to get it designed and built in time which will be over and above their current commitments.
- If you have not done so already, can you please register your interest on their web-site <http://www.gigaclear.com>. This will help provide an indication of interest to them.
- OpenReach surveyors have been asked to have another look at the schema to re-visit the cost issue. It is hoped that they will reply by the end of the month.
- Voneus have confirmed that they will be continuing their "quick look" analysis and aim to come back to us week commencing 21st January to state whether there is viability in providing their solution to the community.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	Forecast	2019-20 Budget <i>Adopted</i>
INCOME				
Precept	-	13,000	13,000	6,000
VAT repayment	-		-	
Hire of table, chairs, china	88	100	80	100
Grant from WCC	2,124	2,413	2,124	2,714
Grant from Gvt (Transparency)	-	-	972	-
Miscellaneous	-	100	-	
Transfer from reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,212	15,613	16,176	8,814
EXPENDITURE				
Clerk: salary, expenses	1,717	1,800	2,034	1,800
Insurance	258	260	258	270
CALC	341	300	353	360
Lengthman	2,242	2,413	2,124	2,714
Neighbourhood Plan	-	-	-	1,000
Grant: Church	600	-	-	-
Grant: CLWG	132	60	-	60
Grant: Flower Arranging		60	-	50
Grant: Car parking spaces	8,000	2,000	2,000	-
Grant: Others	-	3,000	-	4,000
Hire of meeting premises	178	125	255	225
Training	-	125	10	100
Contingency	-	500	-	250
Defib	-	2,500	2,000	-
Election	-	-	-	100
Other: Shed & Kiosk	-	200	-	500
Other: Bookstore + Info Comm	329	-	40	-
Transfer to reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	13,797	13,343	9,074	11,429
Net movement:	- 11,585	2,270	7,102	- 2,615

CASH BALANCE B/F	12,556	905	971	8,073
Add TOTAL INCOME	2,212	15,613	16,176	8,814
Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE	- 13,797	- 13,343	- 9,074	- 11,429
CASH BALANCE C/F	971	3,175	8,073	5,458