

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on 7th November 2023 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs C Joseph (Chairman), M Barton, Mrs W Burr, Mrs D E Holt,
Mrs T Owen

In Attendance: District Councillor Mrs Jennie Watkins

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**Members of the
Public:**

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2023 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. Report from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Jennie Watkins said that she was impressed with the litter pick operation which the Council had recently organised, and offered a grant of £100 for the purchase of additional material.

She welcomed the Road Safety Week (from 20th to 24th November) when initiatives would be undertaken, including at the school. She had noted, for example, that some parents were permitting their children to alight from their cars on the traffic, rather than the kerb, side of the car; this was potentially dangerous.

Councillors expressed their gratitude for the donation. A proposal for its expenditure will be made at the next meeting.

6. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

The Parish Footpaths Officer was not present but reported through the Chairman that because of her other commitments she had unfortunately not been able to allocate as much time as she would have wished.

Three parish path issues had been identified, but given the approach of winter it was considered that they should be left in abeyance until after Christmas.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Road Safety

The Chairman said that, given the discussion under Item 5 above, she had no other matters to report.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Holt had attended a presentation on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a document prepared by the local community – usually the Parish Council – which states the views of the residents as to how they wish to see their locality develop over the following few years. It may be long or short, but before becoming an official planning document it must, inter alia, be approved by the residents in a referendum.

Whilst the money and effort that the preparation of such a document might seem to be great, the advantage of having one is that it carries weight when planning decisions are being made. That may be important. Worcestershire County Council does not have a currently valid local plan (although it is developing one, the SWDP, the South Worcestershire Development Plan) and planning decisions will therefore be taken on the basis of national guidelines, which are strongly in favour of development.

It was suggested that areas such as Eldersfield and Corse Lawn, defined as Category 4, were very unlikely to see development given their relative remoteness. Nevertheless, there existed the possibility that that remoteness would be reduced by the provision of a bus route, which a developer might wish to fund by means of a Section 106 grant. However, previous bus provision has not proved viable.

To assist any decision to move forward with a Neighbourhood Plan, it was suggested that as a first step the Council might consider requesting WCC to conduct a (free) housing needs survey. No decision was taken.

10. Defibrillator

Cllr Mrs Owen reported that the defibrillator training course held at the Butcher's Arms had been a success and that a repeat was being considered.

There had been no success in identifying within the Parish a location for a second Council defibrillator and she asked that any landowner who had a suitable location – i.e. one permanently accessible to the public and provided with an electricity supply – and was willing to make it available in the furtherance of a worthwhile cause to contact the Clerk.

11. Lengthsman

The Lengthsman had presented a list of issues which including 13 relating to highways and three to footpaths. These were under consideration.

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman since the last meeting for which invoices had been submitted as follows: September £256; October £128, and an underpayment of £16 and **RESOLVED that these be paid.**

12. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£123.58	J L Gabbott
£79.20	HMRC
£400.00	Jeremy Moore (£256 Sep; £128 Oct; underpayment £16)
£36.00	CALC (Councillor Training)

13. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 9th January 2024, commencing at 7.00 p.m. in Eldersfield Lawn School

14. Any other business

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.54 p.m.

JLG
10.11.23