

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on 9th January 2024 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: -
-

**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 7th November 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

Neither the District Councillor nor County Councillor was present and no reports were available.

6. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

The Parish Footpaths Officer was not present and no report was available.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Road Safety

The Chairman reported that a Road Safety event had taken place at the School in November and had been very successful.

The question of acquiring and posting '20 is Plenty' signs was discussed.

9. Litter Picking

Council thanked the District Councillor, Jennie Watson, for the grant of £100 which she had made from her ward funds to the Parish to assist with the litter picking initiative.

A debate was held and various items useful for litter picking were identified. It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to purchase these items, details of which were to be supplied to him by a working party, on condition that the total expenditure did not exceed £150 excluding VAT.**

10. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that she was awaiting the provision to her of a Neighbourhood Plan of a small parish from which it would be possible to draw lessons relevant to the potential creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for this Parish.

11. Defibrillator

Subsequent to an incident in the Parish, Councillors had become aware that the advice of the majority of ambulance trusts in England, included that of the West Midlands Ambulance Trust, was that when callers request access to a defibrillator they should be informed only of those within 500 metres of their location. The principal reason for this distance limitation is a fear by the Ambulance Trusts of the 'possible impact' on the person fetching the defibrillator arising from the 'possible pressure/stress' to which he may feel himself subjected.

Councillors expressed their belief that this policy was inappropriate for a rural area; they would continue their discussions with the District Councillor who has herself raised the matter with the Member for Parliament.

They also opined, now that they were aware of the policy, that the benefits attaching to the installation of further defibrillators in the Parish were unlikely to outweigh the benefits of deploying the relevant funds in other ways.

12. Council Shed

Councillors noted the dilapidated state of the shed and decided that it was neither serviceable nor economically repairable.

There then followed a discussion where it was suggested that: the principal reason for having a shed was to store tables, chairs and crockery for use, at a fee, by Parishioners; that the major beneficiaries of this facility were the School and the Church, although to neither of these was a fee charged; and that of the other hirers the majority were individuals and groups from outside the Parish. The annual receipts were very small - around £150 - and this was perhaps an indication of the value placed on the facility by Parishioners.

It was accepted that three possibilities existed:

1. the hiring service could be discontinued, in which case the shed and its contents could be disposed of;
2. if the foregoing option was not adopted, a replacement shed, probably of metal, could be procured
 - a. either by being bought at a cost thought, prior to a fuller investigation, to be around £1,000; or
 - b. by being hired.

Council decided to undertake the relevant research and instructed the Clerk to table the subject at the next meeting.

13. Financial Estimates 2023-24 and Budget 2024-25

Council noted the financial estimate provided by the Clerk for the current year.

Councillors then turned to the Budget for 2024-25. They noted that the precept had been set at £2,000 in 2020-21 and had been at that level for four years; nevertheless it was clear that many Parishioners were under financial pressure and in the light of this Council decided that it would be inappropriate to increase those pressures by raising the precept.

It was RESOLVED that the draft budget, circulated prior to the meeting, be adopted as the Budget of the Council and that the precept for 2024-25 be set at £2,000. [A copy of the Budget is attached hereto at the Appendix.]

14. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman since the last meeting; for these invoices had been submitted as follows: November £256. Council **RESOLVED that this invoice be paid.**

Council noted that the Lengthsman had requested an increase in his hourly rate from £16.00 to £18.00 per hour wef 1st April, and approved the increase.

15. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£143.54	J L Gabbott
£92.40	HMRC
£256.00	Jeremy Moore (£256 Nov)

16. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 12th March 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 8.28 p.m.

JLG
11.1.24

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

	2022-23	2023-24		2024-25
	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Budget
		to Dec 23	to Mar 24	Adopted
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Precept	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Grant from WCC (lengthsman)	2,716	2,168	2,200	2,200
Hire of table, chairs, china	159	122	122	150
Miscellaneous	1	1	1	1
VAT refund	702	-	-	-
Transfer from reserves	-	-		-
TOTAL	5,578	4,291	4,323	4,351
EXPENDITURE				
Clerk: salary	1,370	911	1,200	1,400
Clerk: expenses	-	-	-	-
Insurance	196	196	196	220
CALC	386	408	408	450
Lengthsman	2,598	1,912	2,200	2,200
Information Commissioner	40	40	40	40
Training	-	36	36	100
Grant: Butcher's Block	-	650	650	-
Grant: St John the Baptist	147	-	-	150
Defibrillator	-	453	453	-
Catering repair and maintenance	-	-	-	-
Election expenses	-	50	50	-
Shed & Kiosk	111	-	-	-
Marquee	-	948	948	-
Transfer to reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4,848	5,604	6,181	4,560
Net movement:	730	- 1,313	- 1,858	- 209

CASH BALANCE B/F	6,843	7,573	7,573	5,715
Add TOTAL INCOME	5,578	4,291	4,323	4,351
Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE	- 4,848	- 5,604	- 6,181	- 4,560
CASH BALANCE C/F	7,573	6,260	5,715	5,506