

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on 5th November 2024 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs C Joseph (Chairman), Mr M. Barton, Mrs W Burr, Mrs D E Holt (Vice-Chairman), Mrs T A Owen

In Attendance: District Councillor Jenny Watkins

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 24th September 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

The County Councillor was not present and no report was available.

District Councillor Jenny Watkins reported that Mr Wells has resigned as leader of WCC.

She said that a reorganisation of roles within MHDC was likely in the near future and that the possibility existed that she would be invited to undertake additional duties.

She welcomed news that broadband fibre had been extended in the area of the Butcher's and informed the meeting that a further review of the availability of broadband within the District was to be undertaken.

As a keen walker she was aware of an obstacle having been placed on the Jubilee Footpath impeding free movement and would take appropriate action.

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 said that the School Head had written to her and the County Councillor regarding traffic speed issues and near misses, and she confirmed that the Council was keen to continue working to find potential solutions. A meeting with the Police was scheduled.

Councillors remarked that several near misses had been recorded as children at the school had alighted from vehicles on the carriageway side, or had been left insufficiently supervised by their parents.

The state of the parking area opposite the School was raised. The need for maintenance had not been foreseen when the area was constructed and the maintenance now clearly needed would cost about £35,000, an amount which was not available from any source.

9. Dog fouling

The Clerk reported that he had now received confirmation from MHDC that if the Council were to erect either a litter bin or a dog bin MHDC would arrange for it to be emptied regularly.

Councillors considered the matter and decided that in the absence of evidence of serious need it would be inappropriate to take further action.

10. Council website

Council was aware of the need to have a website. However, it was also aware that no notice had been received of the termination of the current arrangements under which the Council's web presence is hosted for free by WCC. In these circumstances it considered that it was being invited to give up something which was free for something for which it would have to pay and in these straitened times that was not an attractive option. Accordingly Councillors decided to take no action.

Similar considerations applied to obtaining .gov mail addresses.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

Council considered again the possible preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman would attend a Teams meeting being arranged on the subject in the near future.

It was agreed that, if having attended the meeting the Chairman thought fit, an application would be lodged for the Parish to be designated a Parish Plan area. This would enable, but not require, the Council to proceed with the development of a Plan.

12. Defibrillator

The Chairman had brought the defibrillator in her possession and the box which she had brought in which to house it. The machine was battery powered and a mains electricity supply would not therefore be needed.

The meeting agreed that it should be stored in the old BT phone box, now owned by the Council, at Bridgend.

It was agreed that appropriate signage should be purchased and the Council **RESOLVED** that such signage be bought at a cost not exceeding £15 excluding VAT.

13. Shed

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had emailed both the School and the Parochial Parish Council explaining to them that the Council had decided not to buy a new shed and that it was therefore willing to transfer to them, on terms to be decided, its holding of catering equipment held in the shed. The PCC had responded indicating that it wished to acquire these items.

In the light of that response Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk execute with the Parochial Parish Council a contract to sell to the PCC the contents of the shed for £1 on such terms as might to him seem reasonable.

14. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman for which invoices had been submitted as follows: September £288; October £144.

15. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£130.70	J L Gabbott
£84.00	HMRC
£432.00	Jeremy Moore (September £288; October, £144)
£8.50	B&Q via reimbursement to Mrs Joseph

16. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 5th January 2025 at 7.00 pm in Eldersfield Lawn School.

17. Any other business

Cllr Mrs Owen announced with regret the death of Mr John Keighley. She said that Mr Keighley had been a member of this Council for many years.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Lengthsman would increase his hourly rate to £20 with effect from 1st April 2025.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

JLG
7.11.24