

ELDERSFIELD PARISH

Minutes of the **Annual Assembly** held on Tuesday 9th May 2023, 7.00 pm, at Eldersfield Lawn School

Present:

Chairman:	Cllr Mrs Carole Joseph
Parish Councillors elect:	Mr M K Barton, Mrs W Burr, Mrs D E Holt, Mrs T A Owen
In attendance:	County Councillor Tom Wells District Councillor Jennie Watkins
Members of the Public:	2

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2023 were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting.

2. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented the following report:

“I would once again like to thank our Parish Clerk, Joseph Gabbott, for his support to myself and Councillors in ensuring that we follow the correct processes and procedures for a Parish Council (PC). It can sometimes be a bit of a minefield. We are extremely fortunate that the Councillors work very much as a team, supporting each other and sharing sound knowledge and experience when needing to make decisions on behalf of the Parish.

Whilst we are a smallish parish in terms of assets we must maintain, and the dispersed nature of our residents. We have nevertheless tried to be active, to engage and communicate our activities.

1) Litter Picking: We continue to organise at least 2-3 formal litter picking events each year, with many more parishioners also litter picking informally whilst out dog-walking or just walking. We have a ‘Little Picking WhatsApp’ group which anyone is welcome to join so that we can communicate events. Contact the Clerk or any of your Councillors to pass your name and mobile phone number on to be added to the group.

2) Parish Events Items for hire: The Parish has a number of tables, chairs and crockery that can be hired out to Parishioners, and neighbouring parishes, for local

parish events or for private use. Contact eldersfieldpc@yahoo.co.uk for hire information.

3) Tree Planting Working Group: As reported last year, we decided our contribution to the Queen's 70th Jubilee would be to support the 'Queen's Green Canopy' and we duly obtained a number of free trees, and purchased a small number, to plant around the Parish. The key objective is that any trees planted must be accessible to the public, not on private land. A Working Group was set up to include Councillors and parishioners. Working mostly with the Commoners Committee (Reeves), and the Wildlife Trust, we identified a number of locations and planted trees on the Common in Corse Lawn (although it is often called a common it is in fact 'Regulated Pasture') around the entrance to Poolhay Meadow, and some in Eldersfield. We ordered more trees in the hope of planting a 'copse' of some 150 trees and identified an area with the Commons Committee at the bottom of Wad Lane. However, in the event this proved problematic, after we had planted them (!), so we removed about 75% and these have now been relocated to along footpaths mainly in Eldersfield and some more in areas across the Common. Thanks must go to the Working Group for the fortitude in getting this work completed – who would have thought planting trees would be so difficult!

4) Defibrillator: We still have only one public access defib in the Parish located to the left of the School front door, facing the road. Finding alternative locations has proved difficult due to the need for electricity. However, the Butcher's Arms are installing one and have set up a crowd funding appeal to meet the cost. One training course was arranged but at the time of this writing, lack of interest has put on hold any future courses for now. Anyone wishing to identify a suitable location or donate funds to help secure more defibrillators should contact the Parish Clerk at eldersfieldpc@yahoo.co.uk

5) Parish Paths: Our Footpaths Officer continues to work with Worcester County Council, and Landowners, to keep our footpaths inspected and in order, reporting to the Parish Council. Contact Eldersfieldparishpaths@gmail.com to report any issues

6) Traffic calming along B4211 (Corse Lawn): We finally have 'white gates' at either end of Corse Lawn along the B4211. We still await a new 'Welcome to Corse Lawn' sign at NE end (by garage). Operation Snap to report speeding or other bad driving practices signage is in place. We have received feedback that vehicles do appear to slow down when they see the gates. We will continue to monitor and work with our County Highways Liaison Officer on any other initiatives we can do in and around Eldersfield.

Finally, we welcome any suggestions from Parishioners on issues that affect our Parish that the Parish Council should be aware of and may be able to offer assistance, within our statutory remit."

The report was warmly received.

3. Road safety within the Parish

Various residents raised matters concerning road safety in the Parish. There was concern that speeding appeared to be on the increase. There was joy that the MotorsportUK rally had not

been held in 2022 but fear that it might return in a future year. The lights at the School flashed a warning to motorists, regardless of whether it was a bank holiday or the school was on holiday.

County Councillor Tom wells remarked that

- the speed limit advertised outside the school was currently advisory, but discussions were being held within Worcestershire County Council to see whether the limit imposed by this and other such signs could be made mandatory.
- He was aware of the problem created when the warning lights flashed regardless of whether the school was in session; he recognised this as an instance of ‘calling wolf’ and considered that it undermined the objective of improving safety which the commissioning of the lights had set out to achieve. He was told that despite many approaches by both the Parish Council and the School to WCC no action had been taken to rectify the problem, which he thought could be done by a minor software change.
- He sought the views of parishioners about the MotorsportUK rally and recognised that the views expressed in the letters he had received were widely reflected within the community.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

JLG
11.5.23