

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Tuesday 19th January 2021 by tele/video conferencing, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Mr P R Chichester MBE (Chairman), Mrs W Burr,
Mrs D E Holt, Mrs C Joseph, Mrs T A Owen

In Attendance: District Councillor Bronwen Behan

**Members of the
Public:** -

1. Tele/video conferencing

Councillors noted that the meeting was being held by tele/video conferencing under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

2. Apologies for absence

Councillor Mrs K McKenzie Budd
County Councillor Tom Wells

3. Members' interests

None

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2020 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Because the current meeting was being held remotely, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk sign the minutes on behalf of the Chairman.

5. Matters arising

None

6. Report from the Police

The Clerk advised that he had contacted the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) and had invited them to attend the Council's meeting by Zoom but they had declined, citing difficulties posed by their shift pattern.

7. Reports from District and County Councillors

County Councillor Tom Wells

The reports of County Councillor Tom Wells for xx, distributed before the meeting, were noted. [The public may obtain a copy from the Clerk on request].

District Councillor Bronwen Behan

District Councillor Behan reported that

- bird flu had been identified in various parts of Worcestershire. Although this flu was not believed to be dangerous to humans, she reminded the Council that Government had introduced regulations that those keeping birds, including chickens, were under a legal obligation not to allow the birds to go outside;
- she was aware that flooding had occurred in the Parish and she reminded the Council that anyone affected should contact Worcestershire County Council to discuss the possibility of a grant under a scheme operated by that council;
- the B4211 would be closed from 15 February from Long Green to Swinley Lane in order that the road surface could be patched;
- and finally, she advised that public comments on the Sustainability Appraisal relating to the South Worcestershire Development Review would be accepted by MHDC for a seven week period from 1st March.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Broadband

The Chairman advised that a distribution cabinet had been installed in Church Lane, and that this cabinet was the hub from which the fibre network would be extended throughout the area. No firm date was available for when the cabinet would be connected to the national fibre network, but it was hoped it would be in early February, when work will start connecting the cabinet to individual properties.

10. Parish Plan

Cllr Mrs Holt advised that work was proceeding on the Parish Plan and that she hoped to have a draft available for circulation to Council members before the next meeting.

11. Three Shires Stages

It was noted that the Three Shires Stages motor rally would take place in the Parish on 5th September 2021. Councillors reported that they had no comments on the safety and administrative measures which were proposed and of which a copy had been circulated to them prior to the meeting.

12. Ditches

Following a report from the Lengthsman, it appeared that work was required to be performed by both WCC and local landowners in maintaining ditches, waterways and kerbs; the failure of maintenance can lead to properties being flooded and lead to misery for those who are affected. Recent heavy rains have proved this point. The Council asked the Clerk to take appropriate action.

13. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) (Slow Down signs)

The Council considered the Note issues prior to the meeting by the Clerk. In discussion, they recognised that although there were many instances of cars travelling at excessive speed, it was not clear that the presence of flashing lights would have a significant deterrent effect, and when to that doubt were added both the disadvantages of having lights flashing near people's homes and the difficulty of ensuring that the VAS batteries were replaced and recharged weekly, they came to the conclusion that the project was not on balance justified.

The Clerk was accordingly instructed to convey the Council's thanks to the County Councillor for his offer of making the VAS available, but to decline.

14. Defibrillator

The Council noted that the question of access to the defibrillator box had been resolved but recognised that the matters of maintenance of the defibrillator and administration of the system needed to be addressed. It was suggested that any solution needed to be both sustainable and certain, and it was therefore suggested that the Lengthsman might undertake these tasks; if this were to prove impossible, three councillors indicated their willingness to perform the necessary duties on a rotating basis.

15. Zoom

The Council noted that the Clerk had purchased on behalf of the Council a monthly subscription to Zoom, and agreed to reimburse to him the monthly cost of £11.99 plus £2.40 VAT.

16. Request for grant from Eldersfield Parochial Church Council

Councillors referred to the Note circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. They noted that the request from Eldersfield Parochial Parish Council was for a grant for maintenance of ecclesiastical property, and they noted the advice from CALC that the giving of grants for that purpose was unlawful. They therefore declined the request.

That being said, the Council expressed itself sympathetic to assisting the Church in its activities and asked the Clerk to explore with the PCC ways in which it could do this.

17. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman since the last meeting and for which the Lengthsman had submitted invoices totalling £354.

18. Financial Estimates 2020-21 and Budget 2021-22

The Clerk presented the financial forecast for the year ending March 2021 and explained the mechanism for setting a budget for 2021-22.

Members decided that a provision should be made for the expenditure of grants by the Council of £2,000 and that it would be appropriate to retain the precept at £2,000.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the draft Budget and Precept for the year 2021-22 as presented to the meeting but subject to the two modifications described above be adopted. (A copy of the Adopted Budget is given as Appendix A to these minutes, on page 856.)

19. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£267.52	J L Gabbott
£64.20	HMRC
£23.98	J L Gabbott (Zoom, Jan and Feb)
£354.00	Jeremy Moore (Lengthsman, £236 Nov, £118 Dec)
£30.00	CALC: training re Cllr Joseph

21. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 9th March 2021, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

22. Any other business

The matter of the posting box at the junction of Swinley road and the B4211 was raised: the area around the box was deeply rutted. It was suggested that this might be caused by cars from the garage manoeuvring rather than by cars cutting the corner.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.09 p.m.

JLG
20.1.21

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 to Nov	Forecast	2021-22 Budget <i>Adopted</i>
INCOME				
Precept	6,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
VAT repayment	-	-	-	-
Hire of table, chairs, china	67	-	-	90
Grant from WCC	2,128	1,416	1,800	1,884
Grants (Other)	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Transfer from reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,195	3,416	3,800	3,974
EXPENDITURE				
Clerk: salary, expenses	1,476	785	1,500	1,750
Insurance	258	258	258	270
CALC	382	393	393	400
Lengsthman	2,174	1,416	1,800	1,884
Neighbourhood Plan	-	-	200	800
Notice Board	462	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	2,000
Grant: Local Groups	-	-	-	75
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Grant: Others	-	-	-	-
Hire of meeting premises	153	-	25	200
Training	-	100	150	100
Contingency	-	-	-	-
Defibrillator	-	-	-	50
Election	-	-	-	50
Other	76	-	-	60
Other: Info Comm	-	40	40	40
Transfer to reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4,981	2,992	4,366	7,679
Net movement:	3,214	424	- 566	- 3,705
CASH BALANCE B/F	8,090	11,304	11,304	10,738
Add TOTAL INCOME	8,195	3,416	3,800	3,974
Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE	- 4,981	- 2,992	- 4,366	- 7,679
CASH BALANCE C/F	11,304	11,728	10,738	7,033