

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on 24th September 2024 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs C Joseph (Chairman), Mrs D E Holt (Vice-Chairman),
Mr M. Barton

In Attendance: -

**Members of the
Public:** -

1. Apologies for absence

Mrs W Burr

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 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 County Councillor nor the District Councillor were 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 she had asked Worcestershire Highways to measure the speed of vehicles in the Parish. They had responded that they did not have the resources available.

9. Dog fouling

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by a parishioner concerned about dog fouling in the area of the Butcher's Arms. The parishioner said that she had contacted MHDC who had informed her that if the Parish Council were to erect a dog bin they (MHDC) would empty it.

The Clerk had emailed MHDC twice for confirmation but had received no reply.

Council instructed him to send a third email.

10. Defibrillator and Training

The Council discussed the use to which a portable defibrillator currently held by the Chairman could be put. It was suggested that it might be placed in a box and be positioned at or near the Church and accordingly **it was RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to purchase a suitable box for not more than £15 excluding VAT.**

11. Shed

The Chairman announced that Mrs Mitchell, who had managed the letting out of the Council's store of tables and chairs for more than 25 years, had announced that she would retire from the job.

The Council expressed their deep appreciation of the work which she had done and which had contributed to the support of community life within the Parish. They instructed the Clerk to write to Mrs Mitchell to express these sentiments.

Mr Barton then presented the Council with estimates for the replacement of the existing shed with a shed of similar size; these varied between £3,329 for a UPVC shed on a concrete base to £600 for a wooden shed but with no base and with an expected life shorter than that of the UPVC shed.

Council noted that the items which the shed was intended to store – tables and chairs, and some crockery – generated an income of about £150 a year.

In the light of the above, Council decided that there was no economic argument for replacing the shed, and decided not to do so.

Council recognised, however, that the tables and chairs were used principally by the School and by the Church, neither of which paid a hire fee. The Council further recognised that this was a benefit to both bodies, and thereby to the community, and wished if possible that the facility be continued. This, however, depended on finding an alternative storage location.

The Clerk was accordingly instructed to contact both of the bodies mentioned and to see what possibilities existed. If none could be found, the Council would be forced to consider disposing of the items at the best price available.

12. Information Commissioner

It was **RESOLVED that the annual fee of £40 due to the Information Commissioner and paid by Mrs Joseph be reimbursed to her, and that a direct debit authority be granted to the Information Commissioner in respect of future years.**

13. Financial Regulations

After a short discussion the Council **RESOLVED that the draft Financial Regulations circulated prior to the previous meeting be adopted as the Financial Regulations of the Council.**

14. Lengthsman

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

15. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£189.01	J L Gabbott
£46.20	HMRC
£576.00	Jeremy Moore (July £288; August, £288)
£40.00	Information Commissioner (reimbursement to Mrs Joseph)

16. Future Meetings

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

17. Any other business

Councillors noted that

- Pendock Village Hall had been refurbished;
- greater authority was being delegated to planning officers to make planning decisions, and that these were sometimes being made by officers with limited or no knowledge of the relevant area;
- CALC recommended that the precept be increased annually even where there was no financial need for such an increase;
- a dedicated Council web site and .gov email addresses held advantages.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.03 p.m.

JLG
25.9.24