

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
8th January 2020 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: P Chichester (Chairman), Mrs W Burr, Mrs D Holt, Mrs Owen,
Dr L Reynolds

In Attendance: District Councillor Bronwen Behan

**Members of the
Public:** 14

1. Apologies for absence

Mrs McKenzie Budd

2. Members' interests

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2019 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. To consider and if thought appropriate co-opt a councillor

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had been made aware that Mrs Carole Joseph had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the Council. He invited her to introduce herself to the Council and then he proposed that she be c-opted. It was **RESOLVED** that Mrs Carole Joseph be a co-opted as a member of the Council.

[Mrs Joseph then signed the statutory declaration in the presence of the Clerk.]

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Behan informed the meeting that the churchyards had been designated a pollinator site and in the near future would be subjected to a formal survey which Council representatives were invited to attend.

7. Public Comment

Presentations were made by two members of the public.

The Lawns: The children's home is now under the management of Genesis CTE Limited. The Chief Executive of that company explained to the meeting that the home has recently re-opened, under different management, and will accommodate a maximum of four girls, all to be of a similar age, who cannot return to their own homes. Given the current improved staffing levels and revised selection criteria, he could see no reason for concern by

neighbours. He wished to develop a friendly and constructive relationship with the community and invited anyone interested in the home to contact him.

Motor Rally: A representative of the Cheltenham Motor Club informed the meeting that a motor sport event would be held in the Three Counties on Sunday 6th September when 120 cars would be competing in time trials on public roads. The cars would pass any particular point at 30 second intervals, i.e. over about an hour, and would perform two laps. Although the roads affected would be closed to the public for the whole of that day, each resident along the affected route would be given full details well in advance.

8. Climate Emergency

See 9. below.

9. Vulnerable flora and fauna

It was considered that both this and the preceding item had been adequately considered during the discussion which followed the District Councillor's advice that the churchyard had won the status of pollinator suite.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Mrs Holt undertook to research the matter and report to the next meeting.

11. The Lawns

The Chairman noted the comments of the Chief Executive of the Lawns given during the session available for Public Comment. He welcomed this démarche and assured the Chief Executive that the Council would do what it could to assist in the integration of the home into the community. He suggested that a review meeting might be held, perhaps at the Parish Meeting in May.

12. Broadband

Mr Tony Reynolds presented a report on broadband. The Broadband Working Party has been working with both OpenReach and Gigaclear to examine available options, but it appears that Gigaclear are the better positioned to take forward any project. The proposal under study is to provide FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) to properties in the Drinkers End, Moorend Road and Lime Street areas, and quite possibly others where these can be reached economically. It should deliver speeds of up to 300 Mps. The working party is to meet Gigaclear before the end of January when there is the possibility that an agreement in principle to proceed could be reached. If it is, the project would be started with a matter of months.

The Chairman renewed his thanks to Mr Reynolds and to the Working Group for its efforts.

13. Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that a training session had been held on Thursday 7th November at 7.00 pm.

14. Notice Boards

It was noted that the new notice board had been erected at the Church; the Notice Board at Bridge End appeared still to be in a serviceable condition and it was not thought appropriate to take further action.

15. Financial Estimates 2019-20 and Budget 2020-21

The Clerk presented the financial forecast for the year ending March 2020 and suggested a Budget and Precept for the year 2020-21.

Members were confident that the level of cash within the budget period appeared to be sufficient to meet known costs and to provide for unexpected contingencies. They expressed particular satisfaction that the Precept proposed, at £2,000, showed another year of reduction. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Budget and Precept for the year 2020-21 as presented to the meeting be adopted. (A copy is given at Appendix A to these minutes.)

16. Application for Discretionary Rural Rate Relief

An application for Discretionary Rural Rate Relief had been lodged by the Moores Farm Competition Centre with MHDC who had consulted the Council on its suitability, and to know whether the Council would contribute to such relief.

The value of the Moores Farm Competition Centre to the life to the community was recognised but it was not known thought to be of a level which would merit a contribution by the Council. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Council recommend to MHDC that Discretionary Rural Rate Relief be granted to Moores Farm Competition Centre at the intermediate rate.

17. Lengthsman

The report of the Lengthsman was noted. The meeting was reminded that the Lengthsman was not authorised to conduct work on roads where the speed limit was greater than 40 mph.

18. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£309.68	J L Gabbott
£73.80	HMRC
£472.00	Jeremy Moore (Lengthsman, £118 Oct; £236 Nov; £118 Dec)
£50.00	Jeremy Moore: erection of Notice Board at church
£50.94	WCC (hire of hall 6 Nov and 8 Jan)

19. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at Eldersfield Lawn School commencing at 7.30 p.m.

20. Any other business

Councillors noted that the speed limit warning lights outside the school, intended to flash during arrival and departure times at the school, were operating throughout the school holidays. They considered that this was likely to desensitise drivers to the importance of these signs and asked the Clerk to request WCC, again, to rectify this shortcoming.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.57 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Half year	Forecast	2020-21 Budget Adopted
INCOME				
Precept	13,000	3,000	6,000	2,000
VAT repayment	-	-		
Hire of table, chairs, china	93	67	67	90
Grant from WCC	1,884	1,656	1,656	1,884
Grants (Other)	1,473	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Transfer from reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	16,450	4,723	7,723	3,974
EXPENDITURE				
Clerk: salary, expenses	1,795	664	1,750	1,750
Insurance	258	258	258	270
CALC	353	382	382	400
Lengsthman	2,124	1,062	594	1,884
Neighbourhood Plan	-	-	-	1,000
Notice Board	-	462	512	700
Grant: St John's	650	-	-	650
Grant: CLWG	63	-	75	75
Grant: Flower Arranging	-	-	-	-
Grant: Car parking spaces	2,000	-	-	-
Grant: Others	-	-	-	-
Hire of meeting premises	255	101	200	200
Training	-	-	50	100
Contingency	-		-	-
Defib	1,748	-	-	-
Election	-	40	40	-
Other	85		60	60
Other: Info Comm	-	40	40	40
Transfer to reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9,331	3,009	3,961	7,129
Net movement:	7,119	1,714	3,762	- 3,155

CASH BALANCE B/F	971	8,090	8,090	11,852
Add TOTAL INCOME	16,450	4,723	7,723	3,974
Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE	- 9,331	- 3,009	- 3,961	- 7,129
CASH BALANCE C/F	8,090	9,804	11,852	8,697