

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on
Tuesday 1st September 2020 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:** Mr B Parsons

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

None

3. Members' interests

Cllr Chichester expressed a personal interest in Item 9 in that he stood to benefit personally from the provision of better broadband.

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 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

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had circulated a report from the Police prior to the meeting, and that an invitation to the Police to be present at a future meeting was being progressed.

6. Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Bronwen reported that a performance review was being undertaken by MHDC and that members of the public were invited to contribute. She also advised that a study was being undertaken at national level to decide whether cost savings could be effected by rationalising the structure of local government.

7. Public Comment

Neighbourhood Watch: Mr Bryan Parsons reported that he was establishing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the Corse Lawn area, and he requested the Council's assistance, both in terms of publicising the existence of the scheme and potentially in

supporting any miscellaneous costs. He advised the meeting that he had made contact with the police and other schemes. To date, 14 local residents had joined the Corse Lawn scheme.

The Chairman welcomed the initiative and assured Mr Parsons of the Council's support.

Motor Rally: Mr Jeff Wheeler, an official from Cheltenham Motor Club, provided details of the Hills Ford Three Shires Stages car rally which will be held on Sunday 5th September 2021. The route will involve the closure of some public roads in the Parish on that day, as permitted by new laws allowing motorsport events to take place on closed roads under the Road Traffic Act. All properties and businesses directly affected by the road closures will be visited by a member of the organising team as soon as the route is confirmed; these visits will be conducted in accordance with all relevant government advice on Coronavirus. Other properties and businesses indirectly affected and situated within close proximity to the closed roads will be notified by letter.

8. CALC Area Committee Meeting

The meeting had been attended by Cllrs Mrs Holt and Mrs Joseph who had submitted a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

They recommended that the Council provide input to the White Paper consultation request launched by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and that this be made through CALC; this manner of submission would, in their view, ensure that the Parish Council's views were accorded greater weight.

Councillors concurred, and Mrs Holt and Mrs Joseph were asked to prepare an appropriate document for submission by the Clerk. To assist administration, it was agreed that they would provide it to the Clerk no later than 22nd October. The Chairman expressed a desire to review the document - which would take no more than 24 hours - and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk would provide him with a copy no later than 26th October. The deadline for submission to CALC was 29th October.

9. Broadband

A report was received from the Broadband Working Group.

A pre-registration request has been submitted for funding vouchers from the DCMS:

- This request covers Phase 1 - Drinkers End, Lime St, Moorend Road, Church Lane, Frogmarsh, Hogs Pitch, Bridgend, Eldersfield Marsh properties.
- Phase 2 will cover Newland and Staunton road properties.
- Phase 3 will cover properties along the common and Poolhay areas - Chris Mills will be pursuing take-up with these properties.

At the stage if all properties in Phase 1 sign up there is a commercial model to be able to build the network, to support Phase 1 properties. Other phases will be dependent on level of sign up.

Under the current plans it is likely that the community will own the network and this might be facilitated by setting up a limited company.

Information exchange has taken place with other communities which own their broadband network in order to establish the optimum way to progress matters.

Councillor Linda Reynolds advised the Council that the project would have initial costs of about £500 and asked if the Council would be willing to assist with these.

The Chairman welcomed the report and again thanked Mr Reynolds for having driven the project this far. Council members gave an assurance that any request for financial assistance would be treated sympathetically.

9. Parish Plan

Cllrs Mrs Holt and Mrs Joseph advised the meeting that work on the Parish Plan was proceeding at pace and that a draft would be circulate to Councillors on or shortly after 8th September. They reaffirmed the need for, and the importance of, identifying public footpaths within the parish and recording these in the definitive map, since if this is not done the public's right of access will be terminated.

11. 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 £236.

12. Information Commissioner

It was noted that the Council was registered with the Information Commissioner and that the annual fee of £40.00 was now payable.

13. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£ 133.53	J L Gabbott
£33.20	HMRC
£40.00	Information Commissioner
£236.00	Jeremy Moore (Lengthsman, £236 July)

14. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 10th November 2020, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

15. Any other business

Mr Keighley had written to the Council remarking that in his view the condition and safety of Drinkers End Road between Drinkers End Farm and Wrights Farm had been neglected to the extent that it was now dangerous. [WCC have since announced that extensive roadworks will be undertaken on this stretch.]

It had been noted that motor bikes had been driving along the B4211 in Corse Lawn at a speed which was grossly excessive, and that the Police had been informed. It was understood that action would be taken.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.14 p.m.

JLG 4.9.20