

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th January 2022 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mrs C Joseph (Chairman), Mrs W Burr, Mrs D E Holt, Mr C Mills,
Mrs T A Owen

In Attendance: County Councillor Tom Wells
District Councillor Bronwen Behan

Members of the Public: 1

1. Apologies for absence

Mr P Chichester

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2021 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

District Councillor Bronwen Behan reported that a draft consultation on ward boundary changes – to include new wards, ward boundaries, and ward names – had been started for wards within the area of Malvern Hills District Council. The consultation closes on 21st March.

County Councillor Tom Wells advised that the finances at County Hall were under heavy pressure. More spending on both health care and social care was becoming necessary as the population aged; and a survey had indicated that the public wanted more to be spent on highway maintenance and improvement.

He reported that a map of gullies in the county was now nearing completion: a small technical development, perhaps, but one which was key to planning their maintenance and thereby preventing houses from being flooded.

6. Public Comment

Mr Martin Davies, Chief Executive of Genesis cte Ltd, operators of the Lawns, advised the meeting that he had undertaken management of the home in November 2019. Since then he

had recruited suitably qualified staff, all of whom were permanently employed by Genesis and were not supplied by an agency.

Over the last two or so years the home had accommodated eight young people. Its capacity was a maximum of four, with three young people currently resident. Some previous residents had benefited enormously, but it did not provide the right environment for everyone and where it was clear that a mismatch had occurred he facilitated the transfer of the relevant individual to more suitable accommodation.

He believed it a mark of the success of the home that no issues affecting parishioners had occurred in the last few years. He also remarked that the current application for a Certificate of Lawfulness did no more than invite MHDC to recognise the use to which the house had now been put for very many years; he emphasised that no change in use was intended or being requested.

The Chairman then raised two matters. It had been noted on various occasions that cars of either staff or visitors to the Lawns had been parked on the verge by the road and there was a danger that this caused an obstruction, or damage to the grass; and she said that she understood that the ditches needed to be cleared. Mr Davies responded that he would ensure that cars were parked within the curtilage of the Lawns, and, with respect to the ditches, he said that although it was not clear who owned the ditches he would nevertheless ensure that they were cleared.

The Chairman then thanked Mr Davies for coming to the meeting and for giving such a helpful and frank presentation; she and the Council wished him and the Lawns all good fortune.

7. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

Simone Bullen, the Parish Footpaths Officer, was absent but offered a report.

Although more footpath signs have been erected, and gates and stiles have been cleared, there are still 53 public footpath issues outstanding within the parish. Nevertheless, this conceals the fact that 10 have been resolved but been replaced by 10 new issues. Progress is being made. She reminded the meeting, and the public, that she could be contacted by email at eldersfieldparishpaths@gmail.com

The Council thanked her for her efforts, which are greatly appreciated.

8. Cheltenham Motor Club

No representative of the Cheltenham Motor Club attended the meeting and no presentation was made.

Correspondence from three parishioners criticising the holding of the rally in 2021 and objecting to a possible holding of a rally in 2022 was noted.

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The working party had identified the numbers and types of trees which it thought would be the most appropriate. It may be possible to acquire these without charge, but there was a possibility that some would have to be bought and if that were the case it should be done

before the next meeting. Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be authorised to purchase trees and associated planting equipment for the purpose of marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee up to the value of £250 excluding VAT.

10. Defibrillator and Training

Councillors discussed whether the Council should purchase another defibrillator. The machine should preferably be permanently available to the public; the questions of location and supply of electricity were raised. Some Councillors questioned whether the machine should be purchased by the Council rather than other organisations within the parish which might be more appropriate. No decision was taken.

Cllr Mrs Owen informed the meeting that she had sufficient applicants to justify the holding of a first aid training course, which would include the use of the defibrillator; the date was yet to be decided. She said that anyone in the parish interested in attending such a course, which would be a couple of hours long and in all probability held at the School, should contact either her or the Clerk.

11. Shed and Catering Equipment

Mrs Holt reported that the working party was still sorting Council's store of cutlery and crockery and identifying those items to be retained. She expected to make a fuller report at the next meeting.

12. Lengthsman

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman since the last meeting for which invoices had been submitted as follows: £118 October, £236 November, £236 December.

13. Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported that Mrs Liane Barton had applied for the post of internal auditor to the Council. She had met the Clerk and the Chairman, and had had discussions with Mr Bryan Parsons, the retiring auditor.

Councillors considered that she was an excellent candidate, and it was **RESOLVED** that she be the Council's internal auditor with effect from 1st April 2022.

Council took note that Mr Parsons had served the Council for many years in the role, and that he had done so without remuneration. His comments were always perceptive, practical and helpful. Councillors unanimously instructed the Clerk to convey to Mr Parsons the grateful thanks not only of the Council but also of the community.

14. Financial Estimates 2021-22 and Budget 2022-23

The Clerk presented the financial forecast for the year ending March 2022 and explained the mechanism for setting a budget for 2022-23.

Members decided that a provision should be made for the purchase by the Council of a defibrillator for £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 2022-23 as presented to the meeting but subject to the modification described above be adopted. (A copy of the Adopted Budget is given as Appendix A to these minutes, on page 879.)

15. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£212.71	J L Gabbott (Clerk)
£52.00	HMRC
£590.00	Jeremy Moore (Lengthsman, £118 Oct, £236 Nov, £236 Dec)
£108.00	CALC (Training, £36 Cllr Mrs C Joseph; £72 Cllrs Mills and Owen)

16. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Monday, 7th March 2022, commencing at 7.00 p.m. at Eldersfield Lawn School.

17. Any other business

Cllr Joseph raised three matters.

1. She questioned why Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) – the signs which illuminate when a motorists approaches the sign above a set speed – could be placed on roads with a 50 mph such as in Tirley, but not in Eldersfield Parish. Other Councillors suggested that it could be that VAS in roads where speed limits higher than 40 mph apply could be maintained by the Highways Department rather than the local parish council.

Other Councillors queried whether VAS had any effect; the speed recommendation sign outside the School did not appear to be obeyed.

It was agreed that the matter would be debated at the next meeting.

2. She also suggested that there was a need for new councillors and asked if the Clerk would include a suitable request in the Parish Magazine.

3. She asked the Clerk to invite parishioners who may be considering holding an event to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and who would benefit from financial assistance to approach the Council."

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.16 p.m.

JLG
13.1.22

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

	2020-21	2021-22		2022-23
	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Budget
		to Dec 21	to Mar 22	Adopted
INCOME				
Precept	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Grant from WCC (lengthsman)	2,242	1,534	1,770	2,006
Grant Chelt MotorX		325	325	
Hire of table, chairs, china		45	45	90
Miscellaneous		1	1	1
VAT refund				600
Transfer from reserves	-	-		-
TOTAL	4,242	3,905	4,141	4,697
EXPENDITURE				
Clerk: salary	1,090	825	1,200	1,200
Clerk: expenses	329	300	300	300
Hire of meeting rooms/Zoom	33	25	75	150
Insurance	258	258	260	260
CALC	393	378	380	400
Lengthsman	2,006	1,298	1,534	2,006
Information Commissioner	40	40	40	40
Training	190	30	30	200
Grant: St John the Baptist	350			
Defibrillator		108	108	2,000
Notice Board				
Shed & Kiosk				500
Marquee		3,478	3,478	
Transfer to reserves	-	-	-	
TOTAL	4,689	6,740	7,405	7,056
Net movement:	- 447	- 2,835	- 3,264	- 2,359

CASH BALANCE B/F	11,304	12,202	10,857	7,593
Add TOTAL INCOME	4,242	3,905	4,141	4,697
Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE	- 4,689	- 6,740	- 7,405	- 7,056
CASH BALANCE C/F	10,857	9,367	7,593	5,234