

# ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.25 p.m.

**Present:** Mrs C Joseph (Chairman), Mrs D E Holt (Vice-Chairman),  
Mr M. Barton, Mrs W Burr, Mrs T A Owen

**In Attendance:** District Councillor Mrs Jennie Watkins

**Members of the Public:** Mr A Holt

### **1. To elect a Chairman**

Mrs Joseph announced that she was willing to stand for election as Chairman; no other candidate presented himself. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Joseph be Chairman.

### **2. To elect a Vice Chairman**

Mrs Holt announced that she was willing to stand for election as Vice-Chairman; no other candidate presented himself. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Holt be Vice Chairman.

### **3. Apologies for absence**

County Councillor Tom Wells

### **4. Members' interests**

None

### **5. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting**

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were presented to Council. It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the Schedule in Item 13 (Marquee) being amended to read:

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Within 12 months of purchase:         | 75% |
| Between 13 and 24 months of purchase: | 50% |
| Between 25 and 36 months of purchase: | 25% |

they be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Subsequent to adoption of the resolution the Chairman of the meeting signed the minutes as such a record.

### **6. Matters arising**

None

## **7. Report from District and County Councillors**

County Councillor Tom Wells was not present and no report was available.

District Councillor Jennie Watkins raised various points.

The child road safety initiative had proceeded well. She noted that this might have an indirect impact on the problem of speeding in the parish: she saw hope in the possibility that children, now aware of the dangers of excessive speed, might bring influence to bear on their parents should they be amongst those driving at excessively high speeds.

She had held a fruitful meeting with the Member of Parliament, West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) and others. The provision of defibrillators was important in treating cardiac arrest but for them to be of value they had to be in service within a matter of minutes of the arrest. Because of this, WMAS did not make available to 999 callers details of defibrillators located beyond what they considered to be an appropriate distance – in a rural location this was 500 metres.

## **8. Public Comment**

Mr Andrew Holt offered to the Council the thanks of the PCC for the grant made to the PCC at Easter. He said that it had helped fund a community event which was attended by over 100 people and which had featured Easter egg hunts and model-making for the children.

## **9. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer**

The Chairman reported on behalf of the Parish Footpaths Officer that there were no matters requiring the Council's attention and which had not been raised by the Lengthsman at the Parish Assembly.

## **10. Road Safety**

The Clerk reported that he had held discussions with the Clerk of London Parish, which included that area of Long Green lying to the north of the A438. Longdon Parish Council was aware of the problem of speeding in that village and had been advised that motorists tend to moderate their speed when they were in, or believed themselves to be in, an area where there were likely to be pedestrians, such as a village. For that reason Longdon was considering erecting, at a cost to it of £xx, two signs on the A438, one at each end of Long Green. Eldersfield PC, in which the southern part of the village lies, was invited to pay for the sign of the south side of the road, i.e. the sign intended for westbound traffic.

Councillors considered the matter but were unwilling to make a decision unless and until it was confirmed that no funding was available from the County Council either directly or from the discretionary allowance available to the County Councillor.

The matter was to be tabled at the next meeting.

## **11. Defibrillator and Training**

Further to the remarks by the District Councillor earlier, Cllr Mrs Owen reported that she had attended the Six Parish Meeting called by the District Councillor. A representative of WMAS was present and he informed the meeting that in his view in the event of cardiac arrest (outside hospital) the single most important factor for survival was the early application of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

He added that in a rural location any defibrillator was likely to be of potential service to only a very few people.

He further said that WMAS was setting up a system under which volunteers who had been trained in the use of defibrillators would be alerted by telephone (in a cascade process) by WMAS to a nearby cardiac arrest; the volunteer would collect a defibrillator from an appropriate location and would then proceed to the casualty whom he would treat.

Statistically within the six parishes one might expect two or three cardiac arrests per annum. It followed that if there were twelve volunteers each might expect to be called out once every four or six years.

Councillors understood from this report that great importance attached to the awareness of CPR and they undertook to consider the matter further at the next meeting.

#### **12. Lengthsman**

Council noted the report from the Clerk on the services provided by the Lengthsman for which invoices had been submitted as follows: £256 March; £144 April.

#### **14. Shed**

Council noted that action had been required urgently to maintain the Council's shed in a usable condition and **RESOLVED** that the invoice of Anti-Graffiti Systems Ltd in the amount of £197.40 be paid.

Councillors then discussed the future of the shed and its contents. The main assets of the Council, stored in the shed, were tables and chairs, crockery and cutlery and of these the most popular were the tables and chairs; these were used predominantly by the Church and the School, neither of which it was the practice of the Council to charge. Income from (all) these assets in the last financial year had been £122, and this compared very poorly not only with the actual cost of maintaining the shed – payment of an invoice for £197 had just been approved – but also the likely cost of replacing the shed which would certainly be many hundreds of pounds. The view came to emerge that if the crockery and cutlery were disposed of the tables and chairs could be retained, and a smaller shed be obtained for their storage. It was noted that there were significant disadvantages to sharing the shed with other users.

The working party would report at the next meeting.

#### **15. CALC**

After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council renew its membership of Worcestershire CALC for the year commencing 1st April 2024 at a cost of £427.44.

#### **16. Insurance**

Councillors reviewed the policy offered by Zurich Municipal and agreed to renew it on the terms offered.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Council effect insurance with Zurich Municipal at a premium of £196.00.

#### **17. Accounts: Adoption of Accounts**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council approve and adopt as the Accounts of the Council for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2024 the draft accounts circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **18. Accounts: Internal Auditor for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2024**

The Council noted the Internal Auditor's report.

#### **19. Accounts: AGAR Certificate of Exemption**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Certificate of Exemption for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

#### **20. Accounts: AGAR Section 1**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Section 1 for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

#### **21. Accounts: AGAR Section 2**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Section 2 for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

#### **22. Investment Policy**

It was **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with item 15 of the minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006, the Council's investment policy remain that all funds be maintained in a current account and that this Policy be reviewed annually.

Councillors noted that in the last year interest rates had risen significantly and therefore instructed the Clerk to review whether it would be feasible and advantageous to open a deposit or other account to which funds not immediately required could be transferred and so earn interest, and to report at the next meeting.

#### **23. Risk Assessment**

Councillors considered carefully the Council's Risk Assessment and decided that no amendment was required.

#### **24 Authorisation of Disbursements**

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

|         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| £199.81 | J L Gabbott                       |
| £130.00 | HMRC                              |
| £400.00 | Jeremy Moore (£256 Mar; £144 Apr) |
| £197.40 | Anti-Graffiti Systems Ltd         |
| £427.44 | Worcestershire CALC               |
| £196.00 | Zurich Insurance                  |

## **25 Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024, commencing at 7.00 p.m. at Eldersfield Lawn School.

## **26 Any other business**

None

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.44 p.m.

JLG  
10.5.24