

ELDERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Eldersfield Parish Council held on 7th January 2025 at Eldersfield Lawn School, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

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

In Attendance: District Councillor Jenny Watkins

**Members of the
Public:** -

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Members' interests

None

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2024 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

The County Councillor was not present and no report was available.

District Councillor Jenny Watkins reported that the news that MHDC would cease to exist after 2027 had raised a large number of questions but to date few answers. It might perhaps be expected that some assets would be transferred to communities.

An area in which she expressed concern was that planning decisions would be taken more remotely and by people with little or no knowledge of the area.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman had undertaken research on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). She reported that the Civil Parish of Eldersfield was already a designated area for NP purposes but continued that the preparation of the NP would require significant dedication,

resources, time and probably money. It would also require clear evidence of stakeholder engagement, i.e. Parishioners would have to be enthusiastic about the project, and of this there was as yet no evidence.

One of the elements of an NP could be a Housing Needs Assessment, which would be prepared by MHDC, and the question was debated whether the Council should request one. The advantage of having such an Assessment, whether or not a NP was produced, would be that its findings would serve either to support or undermine applications for development.

It was agreed that the Chairman investigate further and it was **RESOLVED that the Clerk, if having consulting the Chairman decided that the production of a Housing Needs Assessment was in the interests of the Council, be authorised to request that MHDC make such an Assessment.**

Any NP would be likely to take as a point of reference the Parish Plan, which the Council published in 2021 (and which is available on the website). Not only can this document already be produced as evidence to the Planning Authority of the aims of the Council, albeit with less force than that of an NP, but it is likely to serve as a key reference document should the decision be taken to proceed with the preparation of an NP. Accordingly it was decided that the Council would update the existing Parish Plan.

The question of producing an NP was deferred to the next meeting.

8. Road Safety

The Chairman said that

- She had received *Go Slow* signs from the Police and distributed them appropriately;
- the School had requested from Highways that a permanent 30 mph zone be created in front of the school; she thought the chance of this request being granted was remote;
- the 30 mph sign in Moorend Road is placed after the first house and ideally would be placed before it. She will investigate with Highways whether this can be accomplished;
- she had had talks with the Police about the possibility of acquiring and installing one or more Vehicle Activated Signs.

She undertook to report back at the next meeting.

9. Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that registration of the defibrillator in the Telephone Box at Bridge End was in hand [now completed] and that replacement pads were required for both the Bridge End defibrillator and the Council's defibrillator at the School, and that a new battery was needed for the Bridge End machine.

It was therefore **RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to purchase defibrillator pads and a battery for an amount not exceeding £500 including VAT.**

The Chairman noted that a temporary AED sign had been placed on the telephone box but it was thought that better signage was available; Cllr Owen undertook to investigate.

10. Shed

Council noted that a contract for the sale of the contents of the shed had been effected. It was now the duty of the Parochial Parish Council to remove those contents. It was then for the Council to dispose of the shed. Councillors expressed their gratitude to Cllr Barton for offering to undertake this task.

11. Lengthsman

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

12. Financial Estimates 2024-25 and Budget 2025-26

Councillors noted the financial statement and draft budget circulated prior to the meeting.

After noting that the draft budget which was based on maintaining the precept at its current level would produce a reduction in the funds available to the Council, and considering that the precept had not been adjusted since April 2020 during which time inflation had been 24.5%, Council, **RESOLVED** that the precept for the year from April 2025 to March 2026 be £2,200. [The Approved budget is attached to these Minutes]

13. Authorisation of Disbursements

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

£576.00 Jeremy Moore (November £288; December, £288)

14. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.00 pm in Eldersfield Lawn School.

15. Any other business

None

JLG
8.1.25

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

	2023-24	2024-25		2025-26
	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Budget
		to Dec 24	to Mar 25	Adopted
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Precept	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,200
Grant from WCC (lengthsman)	2,680	2,040	2,645	3,000
Hire of table, chairs, china	122	110	110	-
Miscellaneous	101	2	2	-
VAT refund		-	-	-
Transfer from reserves	-	-		-
TOTAL	4,903	4,152	4,757	5,200
EXPENDITURE				
Clerk: salary	1,348	1,111	1,666	1,500
Clerk: expenses				
Insurance	196	196	196	220
CALC	408	427	427	475
Bank charges	-	-	-	50
Lengthsman	2,808	1,984	2,645	3,000
Information Commissioner	40	40	40	40
Training	36	-	-	100
Grant: Butcher's Block	650	-	-	-
Grant: St John the Baptist	147	-	150	150
Defibrillator	453	9	200	300
Election expenses	50	-	-	-
Shed & Kiosk		197	197	-
Litter picking	143	-	-	-
Marquee	948	-	-	-
Transfer to reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7,227	3,964	5,521	5,835
Net movement:	- 2,324	188	- 764	- 635

CASH BALANCE B/F	7,573	5,249	5,249	4,485
Add TOTAL INCOME	4,903	4,152	4,757	5,200
Less TOTAL EXPENDITURE	- 7,227	- 3,964	- 5,521	- 5,835
CASH BALANCE C/F	5,249	5,437	4,485	3,850