

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on Thursday 20th February 2020, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.

8552 PRESENT

Members Present

Mrs S Boyle
Mr A Cooke
Mrs T Durrant
Mrs F Haxby
Mr G Kirby
Mr M Richardson
Mr P Ward

Other Officials Present

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8553 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr M Barker
Mr R Gough (County Councillor)
Mr A Cheeseman (District Councillor)

8554 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mrs Durrant noted that the next council surgery would be on 29th February.

8555 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi thanked Mr Cooke for replacing the cupboard doors in the office. Mrs Ivaldi also noted that the crisp packet recycling scheme had officially started and had been advertised locally.

8556 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in 8556 f & h. Mrs Boyle declared a non-pecuniary interest in 8559 j.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 22nd January 2020 were presented for approval.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record and that the recommendations are approved.

c) Finance Notes

The clerk submitted a list of accounts, and a budget report, for January 2020, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented. A couple of minor errors were spotted which will be corrected.

RESOLVED: That the accounts are approved, and the payments made.

d) Outstanding Actions

Mrs Ivaldi reported that she was chasing up quotes from the handyman for jobs which were identified at the October meeting.

Mrs Ivaldi reported that Otford PC had just responded about the 'dog tooth' markings coming into Otford from the north, and that they were not involved in that project. It was agreed to ask Kent Highways about these marking and whether they could be applied to Eynsford.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) New Fridge and Microwave for the office

Councillors were asked to agree a budget for the purchase of a new fridge and microwave for the parish office. Rough prices of basic models were provided.

RESOLVED: That a budget of up to £250 is agreed for the purchase of a fridge and microwave.

f) Village Hall Project Agreement

Councillors discussed the revised draft project agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) which sets out how the new village hall project would be managed.

RESOLVED: That the Memorandum of Understanding is approved and will be discussed by the village hall trustees.

f) KALC Survey

Councillors completed an online survey about the services provided by KALC to local councils.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

g) Budget Amendments

Councillors were asked to approve budget amendments to balance expenditure:
Move £150 from Grounds Maintenance Other to Grounds Maintenance Harrow Meadow
Move £20 from Contingency to Website.

RESOLVED: That the changes above are agreed.

h) Village Hall Update

Mr Cooke updated the council on the latest stages of the village hall project. With regards to the application for the new hall, various conditions would be required and would be added to the decision notice if agreed. With regards to the existing hall site, the current application has been withdrawn on the suggestion of SDC. SDC have requested a legal letter linking the new village hall project to the development of the existing village hall site, they also wanted changes to the proposed new houses on the site.

The project sub-committee is in need of a new chairperson and also help with marketing and fundraising. The new members do not need to be village hall trustees.

Mr Cooke said that they may decide to have a two-part tender process to facilitate fundraising. Other councillors made suggestions in terms of fundraising, marketing and ways forward.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8557 PLANNING

a) Planning Committee 3rd February 2020

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 3rd February 2020 and to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the resolution to item 2 is changed to the following: That the Parish council recognises the outbuilding does fall within policy GB3 but believes the extension and outbuilding through size and bulk would harm the openness of the Green Belt and fail to enhance the AONB and therefore, the Council maintains its objection to the application.

That, subject to this change, the minutes are approved, and the recommendations accepted.

At this point, 9pm, the meeting was opened up to questions from the public. (appendix Q)
The meeting resumed at 9.01pm.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

SE/19/03427/FUL – Meadow View, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford – REFUSED

c) Planning Application SE/20/00339/HOUSE, 26 Eynsford Rise, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for a single storey extension to the side and rear at the above property.

RESOLVED: That the council offers no objection.

8558 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Council Land outside Car Park Gate

Councillors were told that this area is being used for unauthorised parking causing the ground to become muddy, and cars have been driving over the concrete pathway. Mr Ward suggested creating a planted area or putting in a tree. There was a discussion about various options.

RESOLVED: That Mr Ward draws up a proposal and brings it back to another meeting.

b) Resurfacing of Castlefield Car Park and Access Road

Councillors were informed that Mr Richardson and the Clerks had been unable to get any other quotes for the resurfacing works and it was therefore recommended that the quote from Mr Sheaf for the work be accepted.

RESOLVED: That the quote of £3060 + VAT is accepted, and that it is confirmed that the area includes the whole of the area between Priory Lane and Castlefield car park.

8559 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Community & Environment Committee 3rd February 2020

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meetings held on 3rd February 2020 and to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are approved, and the recommendations accepted.

b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics from December 2019:

Twelve crimes were reported:

- 1 x Anti-social behaviour – nr Lullingstone Castle
- 3 x Burglary – Eynsford Rise
- 1 x Anti-social behaviour – St Martin's Drive
- 1 x Violence or sexual offence – Saddlers Park
- 1 x Burglary - nr Ford House Car Park
- 1 x Theft – nr Ford House Car Park
- 1 x Vehicle crime – nr Gibson Place
- 1 x Violence or sexual offence – nr Gibson Place
- 1 x Violence or sexual offence – nr Towercroft
- 1 x Other crime – nr Mill Lane.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Tree for Eric Syddique

Councillors discussed planting a tree in memory of Eric Syddique who had recently passed away and had served as a parish and district councillor for many years. Suggested locations were the corner of Eynsford Rise opposite the station or on the corner with St Martin's Rise.

RESOLVED: That the Tree Wardens are asked about the best type of tree and location (possibly a flowering tree).

d) Family Fun Days

Councillors were informed that the Clerk had applied to SDC to run two free family fun days on 8th April and 15th August. There was enough money in the budget to pay for hall hire and additional activities.

RESOLVED: That costs of additional activities are brought back to another meeting.

e) Membership of Rural Kent

Councillors were asked to renew their membership of Action with Communities in Rural Kent at a cost of £80.

RESOLVED: That the membership is renewed at £80 from the Regular Donations budget.

f) Churchyard Maintenance, St Botolph's Lullingstone

Councillors were asked to agree payment of a grant towards the churchyard maintenance at Lullingstone which is budgeted at £200.

RESOLVED: That £200 is paid to St Botolph's PCC from the Churchyard Maintenance budget.

g) Community Rail Partnership – Call for Events

Mr Kirby told councillors that the Community Rail Partnership were looking to advertise regular local events at stations along the route. He asked for details of any regular events that might appeal to visitors.

RESOLVED: That details of any events are emailed to Mr Kirby.

h) Cash Machine for Eynsford

Councillors were asked to consider whether to apply to LINK for a free cash machine. The majority of public feedback had been in favour, with one business showing interest in hosting a machine.

RESOLVED: That an application is made to LINK for a free cash machine.

i) Textile/Clothes Bank

Councillors were informed that we had been contacted by Sevenoaks District Council about having a textile/clothes bank in the scout hall car park, as apparently clothes were being taken from the bank on the A225 layby because of its isolated situation.

RESOLVED: that the query is passed onto the Scout Group.

j) Entry to South & South East in Bloom

Councillors were asked if they would pay for Eynsford's entry into the South & South East in Bloom competition costing £60.

RESOLVED: That the entry fee of £60 is paid.

8560 RECREATION

a) Grounds Maintenance Contracts

Councillors considered tenders for the council's grounds maintenance contracts for 2020.

RESOLVED: That contracts A1 and A2 are offered to Abel Landscapes, that contract C is offered to DVGS. That contract B is deferred for one week until the tender is received from Eynsford Cricket Club. If the Club's tender comes in at the same price as in 2019, then the contract should be offered to them.

b) Skip for Castlefield Allotments

Councillors were asked to approve the hire of skip costing around £230 to remove waste from the allotments, to coincide with a 'tidy-up' day on 15th March to which councillors are invited.

RESOLVED: That a skip is hired to be paid for from the Allotment budget. That councillors are encouraged to attend the tidy-up event at the allotments between 11am and 3pm on Sunday 15th March.

c) Play Area Surfacing

Mr Cooke told councillors about a recent meeting with a rep from a safety surfacing company. This was a type of surfacing that could be spread wet on top of the existing surfacing, however it was very expensive at around £3K for 6.5m². There was a discussion about how to improve the existing surfacing including removing algae. It was suggested that an anti-fungal spray was used or that the overhanging trees are cut back a bit.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Play Area Inspection

Councillors were asked to approve contracting Nick Adams to conduct the official play area inspection in July costing around £100.

RESOLVED: That the inspection is booked and paid from the Playground Furniture Maintenance budget.

e) Litter Warden Contract

Councillors were informed that the Litter Warden Contract had been modified in line with other council contracts to external contractors. The contract had been offered to Mr G Free for the coming year and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

The meeting of the council closed at 10.15pm

Chairperson: 19th March 2020