

# Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021, via an online video-conferencing session, at 8pm.

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## 8707 PRESENT

### Members Present

Mr M Barker  
Mrs S Boyle  
Mr A Cooke (joined at 8:52pm)  
Mrs W Gee  
Mrs F Haxby  
Mr G Kirby  
Mr M Richardson  
Mr P Ward (Chairperson)

### Others Present

Mr Baker (Tree Warden), Mr Alan Cheeseman (District Councillor) Mr R Gough (County Councillor) joined at 21:03pm for Public Questions.

### Clerk in Attendance

Ms N Morgan

## 8708 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

## 8709 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward expressed his great sadness at the passing of Prince Philip and noted that he was a great man serving the Queen and this country for most of his life. Mr Ward asked the council to hold a minute silence.

## 8710 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Ms Morgan advised the council that the clerks had implemented the London Bridge Protocol and advertised the link for the book of condolence for Prince Phillip.

## 8711 GOVERNANCE

### a) Declarations of Interest

None.

### b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 18 March 2021 were presented for approval.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record and that the recommendations are approved. Arrangements were made for the minutes to be signed.

### c) Finance Notes

The clerk submitted a list of accounts, and a budget report, for March 2021, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented.

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

### d) Outstanding Actions

Mr Kirby noted that he was still waiting for a response regarding the Lucy Box.  
Mr Richardson said that he was currently looking into all aspects of the Henry Cox Eleemosynary Charity, including how recipients are chosen. He will provide an update in due course.

### e) Membership of ACRK

Councillors were asked to agree to the renewal of membership of Rural Kent costing £80.00.

**RESOLVED:** That the membership is renewed

### f) Legislation on Remote Meetings

Government legislation allowing councillors to meet legally via video link comes to an end on 7<sup>th</sup> May. After this date, all meetings must be held face to face, unless the legislation is reviewed. The village hall has been booked for the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. Councillors were asked to discuss when they would be happy to return to meetings in the parish office.

**RESOLVED:** That councillors wish to only return to the parish office after 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. That the clerks look to book either the village hall (Main hall or Darenth room) for the meetings in June 2021.

### g) Call for Evidence – Remote Meetings

The government is carrying out a consultation on how remote meetings have work for local government and we were asked to respond.

**RESOLVED:** That the consultation was responded to online during the meeting.

## **8712 PLANNING**

### a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Planning Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

### b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

Planning Application SE/21/00172/HOUSE – 61 Pollyhaugh	Granted
Planning Application SE/21/00506/HOUSE – 35 Pollyhaugh	Granted

c) Tree Work Application SE/21/00928/WTCA – 8 Malt Shovel Cottages, Station Road, Eynsford

Works to trees in the Conservation Area. Details were sent to the Tree Wardens for comment.

**RESOLVED:** That comments made by the Tree Warden was the works have been discussed by EPC, we all feel that it is a shame that the tree outside the front of the Malt Shovel Pub has been part of the fixtures and fittings for such a long time it will be sad to see it be raised to the ground, however, given the extreme proximity to the cottage we understand the reasons behind this. Therefore, with respect to the above planning application I have no objection to these works, T1, and the works to T2 & T3 being carried out.

**8713** **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Highways & Transportation Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Highways & Transportation Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

**8714** **COMMUNITY**

a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Community Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Community Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics for February 2021:  
1 crime was reported, as follows:

Bower Lane 1 x car thief

**RESOLVED:** That the information is noted.

c) Donation Request – Air Ambulance Kent, Surry & Sussex

Councillors were asked to consider a donation to help fund vital equipment for the service such as new ventilators.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £100.00 is made from Section 137 budget.

d) Post Covid Village Event – June 2022

Mrs Haxby provided a verbal update on the Post Covid Village Event. Mrs Haxby noted that we have held two meetings, with 12 members of the working party. The working party have agreed to hold the event on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, this will coincide with the Queens 70<sup>th</sup> year on the throne. Mrs Haxby advised the council that the plan is to hold an old-fashioned village fete, possibly to be held in the castle grounds during the day, and then in the evening to hold a music festival. This will be

a tri-village free event for the residents of Eynsford, Lullingstone and Farningham. We have reached out to Farningham Parish Council to request match funding from what Eynsford Parish Council has already earmarked for this event. Mrs Haxby will have a full proposal for the council to consider at the next main meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the information is noted.

At this point, 8:55pm, Mr Gough joined the meeting, and it was opened to members of the public. (See Appendix Q)

The meeting continued at 9.21pm.

## **8715 OPEN SPACES**

### a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Open Spaces Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

### b) Reducing the height of trees at the allotments

Quotations have been received to reduce the height of some trees at the allotments.

Plot 81: A large sycamore tree to be reduced by 25% total cost £375.00.

Plot 76: A large sycamore tree to be reduced by 25% total cost £375.00.

Plot 71: A large willow tree to be reduced by 25% and thinned out total cost £475.00.

Three companies were asked to quote, only one quotation received. Councillors were asked to consider the proposed reduction in the trees.

**RESOLVED:** That the item is brought back to a committee meeting as the item needs further discussion to agree if the trees do need to be reduced.

### c) Allotment Water Troughs

Considering the recent thefts at the allotments Mr Cooke suggested placing concrete in the bottom of all three water troughs to weigh them down. To do this it would cost around £250.00.

Councillors asked if the troughs are insured, the clerk noted that she did not believe they were.

**RESOLVED:** That the water troughs are added to our insurance and we do not add concrete to the water troughs.

### d) Grounds Maintenance Contracts A1 & A2

Mr Abel had turned down the contract for A1 and A2 amenity areas, so it has been offered to Mr Free.

**RESOLVED:** That the information is noted.

e) Re-Turfing Riverside

Following the decision to re-turf the area starting in September at the last meeting, Mr Free was asked about rotavating the area before laying the turf. This was not included and would costs an additional £125.00 taking the total price to £955.

**RESOLVED:** That the additional cost is agreed, and ensure Mr Free knows that work is to be completed in September.

**8716 FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT**

a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Facilities & Environment Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Facilities & Environment Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

b) Litter Bin at Roman Villa

Councillors were asked to discuss whether the new litter bin near to Lullingstone Roman Villa in addition to, or to replace the dog bin. The new bin at Riverside cost the council £375.00.

**RESOLVED:** That Mrs W Gee to do further research as to the best place to install a litter bin at this location and approach the appropriate people to discuss further, Mrs Gee to bring her findings back to another meeting.

c) DVLP Darenth Valley Path Working group

Mr Kirby noted that during Covid lockdown the DVLP improvements have not gone ahead, however now a new leader has been appointed and works will be starting from Dartford to Westerham and works in Eynsford will be.

Lullingstone Visitor's centre and Eynsford Castle a Cycle path, a pedestrian path, and a vehicle area.

Footpath from Eynsford Station to Lullingstone Roman Villa.

Mr Kirby suggested a member of the Eynsford Green team to join the DVLP.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr M Barker from Eynsford Green Team to join the DVLP, Mr Richardson and Mr Ward agreed to deputise.

The meeting of the council closed at 9:51pm

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Chairperson: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021