

# **Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.**

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## **8943 PRESENT**

### Members Present

Mr M Barker  
Mr A Cooke  
Mrs W Gee  
Mrs F Haxby  
Mr M Richardson  
Mr P Ward

### Others Present

Mr R Gough, Mr J Gee

### Clerk in Attendance

Mrs N Wintour

## **8944 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mrs S Boyle, Mr N Rix, Cllr A Cheeseman

## **8945 CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Mr Ward noted that the insurance claim has finally been settled in full, a total of £5917.00 will be credited to the council's account. The A225 speed reduction from Shoreham has been approved at the last JTB on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Mr Ward also noted that he had recently met with Mr Reece Evans and they have finalised the footpath route for Eynsford, it is shorter than envisaged. Mr Ward advised the council that he attended the AGM for the Eynsford & Crockenhill Rights of Way on 24<sup>th</sup> November, and the group are very grateful for the donation we give them every year. Mr Ward reminded the council that the local plan consultation closes on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and for councillors to submit comments into the clerks by the next committee meeting, which is to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. Lastly, he wished the council a Merry Christmas.

## **8946 CLERK'S COMMENTS**

The Clerks wished the councillors a Merry Christmas and advised that the office will only be open on 20<sup>th</sup> December and 28<sup>th</sup> December and then back open 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. Mrs Wintour noted that she will pick up any urgent emails via her mobile over the Christmas period.

## **8947 GOVERNANCE**

### a) Declarations of Interest

None.

#### b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and the EGM held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 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 November 2022, as per Appendix A.

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

#### d) Budget 2023/23

Councillors were asked to approve to the council budget for 2023/24 and the precept request of £97060.00. Councillors discussed the proposed budget and the prospect of the public works loan in detail.

**RESOLVED:** That the budget is not accepted at this meeting, and the councillors hold another meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 to discuss other options and agree a revised budget.

#### e) Quarterly Newsletter – January 2023

Councillors were asked to agree articles for the next newsletter

**RESOLVED:** That the following articles are included in the newsletter:

Village Hall article – Alan Cooke

Community Rail Partnership – Malcolm Richardson

Eynsford in Bloom – Pauline Penny

Public works loan information & advertising of public meeting – Holly Ivaldi

Parish walkabout – Michael Barker

Coronation article – Ferne Haxby

Warm Spaces – Wendy Gee.

#### f) New Pension Rates

Councillors were informed that the KCC Pension scheme (used by the Clerks) is introducing new rates. There will be an increase from 17.8% to 23.4% for the employers' contribution starting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This should not put costs above the agreed budget.

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

At this point, pm the meeting was adjourned for questions from the public. The meeting resumed and ended at 8:55pm.

## 8948 PLANNING

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

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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

### b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

22/02255/LBCALT	Bower Farm and Bower House	Withdrawn
22/02254/HOUSE	Bower Farm House, Bower Lane	Withdrawn
22/02484/HOUSE	Chalkhurst, Upper Austin Lodge	Granted

## 8949 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

### a) Report of the Last Highways & Transportation Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Highways & Transportation Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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

## 8950 COMMUNITY

### a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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

### b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics for October 2022:

In October 12 crimes were reported as follows:

Upper Austin Lodge Road	1 x Vehicle crime
Lullingstone Roman Villa	1 x violence and sexual offence
Station Road	1 x Vehicle crime
Birch Close	1 x public order offence
St Martins Drive	2 x violence & sexual offence
St Martins Drive	1 x other theft
Saddlers Park	1 x drugs offence
High Street	1 x vehicle crime
Towercroft	1 x public order offence
Mill Lane	2 x violence and sexual offence

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

c) Christmas Lights

Councillors were asked to discuss whether to consider providing Christmas lights or other festive decorations in the village in the future.

**RESOLVED:** That a newsletter article is written and ask the community their thoughts.

d) Donation to Marie Curie

Councillors were asked to consider a donation to Marie Curie.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £100.00 is made.

**8951** **OPEN SPACES**

a) Report of the Last Open Spaces Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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

b) Benches for Lullingstone

Councillors were asked to approve the purchase of new benches at Lullingstone. Mr Ward provided designs for the benches at the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That one engraved bench at Lullingstone is purchased at a cost of £395.00. That we have permission from the Alexanders prior to installation of the bench.

**8952** **FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT**

a) Report of the Last Facilities & Environment Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Facilities & Environment Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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

b) Noticeboard at the Station for Eynsford in Bloom

Mr Barker provided an update on the noticeboard situation and councillors were asked to decide as to what to do. Mr Malone was given the full amount for one noticeboard direct from SDC, but only provided one noticeboard

**RESOLVED:** That we ask Mr Malone for the money back from the one noticeboard he did not install, as the one required, Mr Malone was unable to do. That we purchase the metal one as requested by Eynsford in Bloom.

c) Repair Café

Councillors are informed that the Green Team will be running a Repair Café on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 from 1-4pm at the scout hall. Councillors are encouraged to support this event.

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

d) Eynsford in Bloom – New Entry

Eynsford in Bloom have been nominated by South and South East in Bloom to enter the national Britain in Bloom competition next year. They will need support from the parish council and the rest of the village to complete the work required.

**RESOLVED:** That the information is noted

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Chairperson: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023