

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on
Thursday 16th November 2017, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.**

8262 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

8263 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs A Cornwell, County Councillor Mr R Gough

8264 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mrs Boyle reminded councillors that the next surgery would be held on 25th November and that the budget meeting was on the 23rd November. Mrs Boyle said that she had also been invited to the official opening of the public art installation at the railway station on 4th December.

8265 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi told councillors that the Christmas meal had been booked for the 11th December.

8266 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mr Richardson declared a non pecuniary interest in item 8267d as a trustee of Eynsford Village Hall.

Mrs Boyle declared a non pecuniary interest in item 8269e as a member of Eynsford WI, in item 8269c as a member of the Eynsford & Crockenhill Rights of Way Group and in item 8269i as a member of St Martin's Church.

Mrs Haxby declared a non pecuniary interest in item 8269g as an organiser of the Dementia café and in item 8269e as a member of Eynsford WI.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 19th October 2017 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 October 2017, as per Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the accounts are approved and payments made.

d) Outstanding Actions

Councillors discussed items listed that had been outstanding for three months or more.

- Mr Kirby to proceed with a Community Plan – Mr Kirby is still awaiting details of the DVLP programme before meeting with Farningham Parish Council
- Appointment of Trustee to the Eleemosynary Charity – it was agreed that Mrs Boyle would speak with Rev Gary Owen for him to engage with Eric Syddique before appointing another Trustee. Mr Cooke had also spoken to Mr Smith (a friend of Mr Syddique) about the matter.
- August 2017 – The Clerk to find out about the ownership of the bank and land south of the railway. Mr Kirby confirmed that they belonged to Network Rail and Kent Highways.

RESOLVED: That all of the outstanding actions are pursued, as detailed above.

e) General Data Protection Regulations

Councillors were informed that new laws come into force in May 2018 regarding Data Protection and apply to all organisations. The Clerks would be researching what is required of the council under the new Act. The council will need to appoint a Data Protection Officer which could be a councillor or a clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk produces a list of recommendations including the writing of a Data Protection Policy.

f) DVYM Christmas Concert

Councillors were told that an invitation had been received to attend the Darent Valley Youth Music concert on 3rd December at 3pm.

RESOLVED: That Mr and Mrs Boyle would attend on behalf of the council

g) Budget Meeting

The Clerk reminded councillors of the budget meeting to be held on 23rd November at 8pm.

RESOLVED: That is information is noted.

8267 PLANNING

a) Planning Notifications

The following planning notifications had been received since the last meeting:

SE/17/02756/FUL – The Former Greenkeepers Site, Upper Austin Lodge Road, Eynsford – GRANTED

SE/17/02888/HOUSE – Pantiles, Station Road, Eynsford – GRANTED

SE/17/02743/HOUSE – 4 & 5 Mill Lane, Eynsford – GRANTED

APP/G2245/D/17/3180452 – Pax, Eynsford Road, Eynsford – ALLOWED

b) Planning Application SE/17/03475/HOUSE – 11 St Martin’s Drive, Eynsford

Councillors discussed plans for the erection of a single storey and a two storey rear extension with basement, retaining walls and a Juliet balcony, railings to the first floor existing balcony, and erection of a ground floor patio terrace and erection of a veranda to the rear, with alterations to fenestration.

RESOLVED: That no objections are made. That councillors comment that they are happy with the reasonable adjustments shown on this new application.

c) Tree Work Application SE/1703530/WTCA – September Cottage, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors discussed plans for the removal of a willow tree.

Councillors were informed that the Tree Warden had no objections to this work and had passed his comments to Sevenoaks District Council.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Village Hall/Harrow Meadow update

Mr Richardson reported that the plans had been adjusted to take into account comments.

Councillors, village hall trustees and regular hall users had been consulted on the proposed plans and their comments were being taken into account and would be discussed with the architects. The Quantity Surveyor had been asked to create a new costed scheme including the earth works and some works to the changing rooms, but not the football pitch.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8268 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) School Run Safety Campaign Committee

Councillors were told that a couple of key committee members had left the group and it seemed to have lost some momentum. However, a couple of new committee members had come forwards and one member had agreed to act as chair. Councillors were asked to suggest how to proceed.

RESOLVED: That a meeting is arranged including the new members. That a summary of achievements is put together. That Mrs Carter and Ms Rimmer are thanked for their contribution over the last five years and are asked for any further suggestions.

b) Street Lighting

Councillors were told that, in view of comments from residents, Mr Richardson would be undertaking a visual inspection of all street lights in Eynsford to identify where vegetation needs to be cut back. Quotes would be sought from our contractor for this work. It was noted that Network Rail had been cutting back the vegetation around the street lights on the station triangle. Councillors also discussed whether the street lighting around the station and the top of Station Road was sufficient.

RESOLVED: That the street lighting contractor is asked whether the lamp nearest to the dropped kerbs (the crossing point at the top of Station Road) could be made brighter/a wider spread of light/or angled towards the crossing.

c) Pedestrian Path – Scout Hall Car Park

Councillors had been asked to consider quotes for laying a short section of path either side of the pedestrian gate into the scout hall car park. However, the new quote had not been received as expected. Previous quotes ranged from £1600 to £3100. The Clerk also reported that the Scout Group were unwilling to make any financial contribution towards the cost. Mr Baker (Scout Leader) noted that any spoil could be left on site.

RESOLVED: That two further quotes are sought for the work.

d) Eynsford Rail Users

Mr Richardson had arranged a meeting with the Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association to investigate how the Eynsford group could make its voice heard.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8269 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Police Report

None Received

b) Donation – Churchyard Maintenance – St Martin’s Church

Councillors were asked to consider a request for a donation towards churchyard maintenance for St Martin’s Church.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £650 is made from the Churchyard Maintenance budget.

c) Donation – Eynsford & Crockenhill Rights of Way Group

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation to Eynsford & Crockenhill Rights of Way Group.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £70 is made from the Section 137 Regular Donations budget.

d) Donation – Rural Age Concern Darent Valley

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation to Rural Age Concern Darent Valley.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £400 is made from the Section 137 Regular Donations budget.

e) Donation – Eynsford Women’s Institute

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation to Eynsford WI towards the cost of paying speakers.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £100 is made from the Section 137 Ad Hoc budget.

f) River Warden Project

Councillors were told that North West Kent Countryside Partnership had proposed setting up and supporting a river warden group in Eynsford to clear it when needed and to deal with instances of Himalayan Balsam or similar. They would help to recruit volunteers from the village and would lead a work party, providing tools, with the aim of the group becoming self-sufficient in the future. The cost would be £240 per day. Mr Kirby noted that the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership had some funding for work with the river.

RESOLVED: That a meeting is arranged with North West Kent Countryside Partnership to discuss the proposal further.

g) Donation – Eynsford & Farningham Dementia Café

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation towards a new Dementia Café which is due to launch in February. It would be run by trained professionals and would be held once a month in Eynsford Village Hall. It would provide support for those suffering from Dementia and for their carers. Both Eynsford and Farningham Parish Councils had been asked to donate towards the first year’s cost – approx. £500.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £250 is made to the Dementia Café from the Section 137 Ad Hoc budget.

h) 2018 Peace Celebrations

In light of recent correspondence received by the council about marking the centenary of the end of WWI in November 2018, councillors were asked to suggest ways in which Eynsford could celebrate the end of the war.

RESOLVED: That Eynsford Village Society is asked if it would be interested in organising a celebration of some sort, for example a fete or a street party.

i) Lights of Love Donation

Councillors were asked to consider sponsoring a Christmas tree for the Lights of Love festival at St Martin’s Church this Christmas at a cost of £30.

RESOLVED: That a tree is sponsored at a cost of £30 from the Section 137 Ad Hoc budget.

At 9.02pm, the meeting was opened up to questions from the public. The meeting resumed at 9.03pm.

8270 RECREATION

a) Draft Allotment Management Plan

Councillors were informed that Mr Cooke had written a draft management plan and this had been circulated. There was some discussion about the role of the plan and how it would be used in conjunction with the allotment tenancy agreement.

RESOLVED: That any comments are sent to Mr Cooke and a revised version be brought back to another meeting.

b) Tree Inspection

Mr Richardson reported that he had met with one tree inspector and that a meeting with another had been arranged. Quotes for the work would be brought to another meeting.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Riverside Fencing

Councillors considered quotes to replace the fencing at Riverside. Unfortunately a fourth expected quote had not been received. One of the contractors had lowered his quote by £250 but all quotes remained at over £4000.

RESOLVED: That the proposed work is discussed further at the budget meeting and that a proposal is brought back to another meeting.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.25 pm

Chairman: 21st December 2017