

# **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.**

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## **8516 PRESENT**

### Members Present

Mrs S Boyle  
Mr A Cooke  
Mr G Kirby  
Mr M Richardson

### Other Officials Present

Mr R Gough, County Councillor (9.05 – 9.35pm)

### Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

## **8517 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mrs T Durrant  
Mrs F Haxby  
Mr P Ward

In the absence of Mrs Durrant, Mrs Boyle chaired the meeting.

## **8518 CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Mrs Boyle thanked members for coming.

## **8519 CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Mrs Ivaldi noted that the newsletters were almost ready for delivery. She also noted that she would be taking annual leave during half term.

## **8520 GOVERNANCE**

### a) Declarations of Interest

None.

### b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and the minutes of the EGMs held on 28<sup>th</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 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 August and September 2019, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented.

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

d) Outstanding Actions

TPO on Crockenhill Lane – Mr Baker confirmed that he had submitted an application to Mr L Jones at Sevenoaks District Council.

Mr Richardson and Mr Cooke confirmed that they had met and had agreed to draw up a simplified flood plan and would bring it back to the council by the December meeting.

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

e) Consortium Meeting

A copy of the notes from the Darent Valley Consortium meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September was circulated to members.

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

f) Financial Regulations

Councillors were asked approve the new Financial Regulations based on the new NALC template.

**RESOLVED:** That, subject to a prepaid debit card being approved, members are happy for the new Regulations to be used by the council.

g) Annual Return 2018/19

Councillors were informed that the auditors had written to confirm that they had completed their Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the parish council and that no issues were raised.

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

h) Electricity Contract for Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms

Councillors were asked to consider changing the electricity contract for the changing rooms from EDF to Octopus. The quotes received were – EDF: 15.72p/kwh and 23.5p/day; Octopus: 15.12p/kwh and 23p/day. Octopus uses 100% green energy.

**RESOLVED:** That an electricity contract for the changing rooms is taken out with Octopus on the above rates.

## 8521 PLANNING

### a) Planning Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> September & 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and to accept the recommendations.

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

### b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

None

### c) Planning Application SE/19/02657/FUL – Hulberry Farm, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford

Plans relating to the replacement of two buildings, used for business purposes and destroyed in a fire, with a single building for a retained B1 use were tabled for discussion.

**RESOLVED:** That councillors object to this application on the grounds that the large increase in height of the proposed building is detrimental to the openness of the Green Belt.

### d) Planning Application SE/19/02697/FUL – The Chequers Inn, High Street, Farningham

Councillors discussed plans for a temporary change of use of the ground floor of the premises from Public House to Additional Residential Accommodation for a period of five years.

**RESOLVED:** That councillors object to the loss of a valuable village amenity.

## 8522 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

### a) Highways & Transportation Committee 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Highways & Transportation Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and to accept the recommendations.

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

### b) Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Councillors were asked to consider the installation of one or more electric vehicle charging points on the outside of the parish office. This was prompted by a request from a local resident. Due to security and access issues, not all councillors agreed with the idea of having points at the parish office.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk researches different options and gets advice from Sevenoaks District Council who have installed charging points. That options of attaching to lamppost electricity points, Ford House car park, points in the car parks of local pubs/businesses and at the station are looked at.

## 8523 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

### a) Community & Environment Committee 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and to accept the recommendations.

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

### b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk had found the following crime figures for August 2019

- 1 x Burglary – Lullingstone Park
- 1 x Criminal Damage/Arson – Lullingstone Castle
- 3 x Violence/Sexual Offence – Lullingstone Roman Villa
- 1 x Other Theft – Eynsford Station
- 1 x Vehicle Crime – Eynsford Rise
- 1 x Criminal Damage/Arson – Saddlers Park
- 1 x Other Theft – Saddlers Park
- 1 x Anti Social Behaviour – Riverside
- 1 x Other Theft – Riverside
- 1 x Violence/Sexual Offence – Old Mill Close

The Clerk also reported that Kent Police were recruiting more police officers following the recent government announcement.

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

### c) Eynsford Village Society – Public Art Installation

Councillors discussed a request from Eynsford Village Society to install a ‘sculpture’ at Common Meadow on the bank of the river as part of the public art trail. The sculptures would be in human form, but made from plant pots. Councillors discussed the positioning and the durability of the sculpture and whether it would be vandal-proof. Mr Kirby suggested additional funding could be available from DVLP.

**RESOLVED:** That a member of the public art trail committee is invited to the next committee meeting to discuss the proposal further.

At this point, 9.04pm, the meeting was paused for questions from members of the public. The meeting resumed at 9.35pm.

### d) Hedgerow Planting

Councillors were told that North West Kent Countryside Partnership have funding to plant native tree hedgerows in the Darent Valley. They would like local landowners to identify sites where hedgerows can be planted or restored, by 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**RESOLVED:** That the parish council writes to local landowners including Eagle Heights, the Alexanders, Millfield Trust, Pollyhaugh Farm, and Mr Billings about the scheme. That the scheme is publicised.

**8524 RECREATION**

a) Recreation Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and to accept the recommendations.

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

b) Memorial Bench Request

A request had been received for permission to put up a memorial bench at a suitable location in Eynsford in memory of a couple who had both lived in Eynsford.

**RESOLVED:** That permission is given to install a new bench at Common Meadow, but that guidance is given on the type of bench required including costs of the bench and installation.

c) Harrow Meadow Sub Committee

Councillors were asked to approve the notes from the meeting of the Harrow Meadow Sub Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Cooke noted that the suspected break-in was due to loose bolts meaning that the doors were not properly locked.

**RESOLVED:** That the notes are approved.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.56pm

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Chairperson: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019