

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 19th August 2021, at Eynsford Village Hall, at 8pm.

8772 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr M Barker
Mr A Cooke
Mrs W Gee
Mrs F Haxby
Mr G Kirby
Mr M Richardson
Mr P Ward (Chairperson)

Others Present

Mr A Cheeseman, District Councillor, Mrs A Marshall, Mrs Helen Smith

Clerk in Attendance

Ms N Morgan

8773 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs S Boyle, Mr R Gough, Mr J Gee.

8774 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward noted that Mrs Boyle was out of hospital and wishes her continued recovery. Mr Ward also noted that he has a meeting with Kent Police and SDC tomorrow (Friday 20th August) to discuss ASB at riverside ahead of the bank holiday and he will report back to the council.

8775 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Ms Morgan advised the council that the family fun day had a really good turnout despite the weather and thanked Mrs Wendy Gee for her help at the fun day, a profit of £46.00 was made on the teas and coffees.

8776 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 22nd July 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 July 2021, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented. Mr Cooke raised a query regarding the water rates at Harrow Meadow, the clerk agreed to review the water rates. Mr Ward asked what the £1000.00 income was for, the clerk advised that it was received from the film company for the use of Riverside for filming.

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

d) Outstanding Actions

Mr Kirby had no updates regarding the Lucy Box.

Mr Richardson said that no further progress had been made regarding the Henry Cox Eleemosynary Charity, including how recipients are chosen.

Mr Barker said he had a meeting with the tree works committee and agreed that a tree survey should be completed yearly

Mrs Holly Ivaldi dealing with air source and ground source heat pumps.

e) Site investigation – Harrow Meadow

Councillors are asked to approve expenditure of up to £5000.00 to allow for site investigation for the new hall project including on land belonging to the Alexanders. The investigation needs to be carried out in September to avoid interference with the farmers' seasonal work. Only one quote has been received for £4700.00. Mr Cooke advised the councillors what the investigation would be for. Mr Ward noted that he had a couple of concerns; first concern is the need for more than one quote, difficult to approve the expenditure with only one quote. The second concern is that the council do not want to commit too much money before full approval of planning permission is received from SDC.

RESOLVED: That further quotes are sought and brought back to the next meeting on 6th September 2021.

f) Health & Safety policy

Councillors are asked to approve a Health & Safety Policy for the council.

RESOLVED: That the policy is approved.

8777 PLANNING

a) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

None received.

b) Planning Application SE/21/02057/HOUSE -6 Upper Austin Lodge Fam Cottages, Upper Austin Lodge Road.

Councillors discussed an application to demolish existing dilapidated concrete garage and erect a timber garage. The deadline for this application was 19th August, the clerk responded 'No Objection' to this using delegated powers

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Planning Application SE/21/01616/LBCALT – Lullingstone Castle, Lullingstone Lane Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for essential safety works to Bath House. The deadline for this application was 18th August, the clerk responded ‘No Objection’ to this using delegated powers

RESOLVED: that the information is noted.

d) Tree Work order SE/21/02469/WTPO – 33 to 44 Old Mill Close, Eynsford

Alder reduce crown by 2m. Details were sent to the Tree Wardens for comment, the Tree Wardens did not comment on this application as there was no need.

RESOLVED That the information is noted.

e) Planning application SE/21/02409/HOUSE – The Lodge, Station Road, Eynsford.

Councillors discussed an application for the demolition of a swimming pool, sunken patio area, pool pump house. Propose detached garage, external works to driveway and garden area to include landscaping barbeque enclosure with pergola, new step, wall and gates.

RESOLVED: That the council makes no objection.

f) Planning Application SE/21/02492/HOUSE – 46 Eynsford Rise, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for terraced decking, associated steps, balustrading, and boundary treatments.

RESOLVED: That the council, makes no objection.

Cllr Cheeseman asked if the council wish to refer 40/42 Riverside planning application to the development board. The council objected but SDC are mindful to approve. A discussion was held on SDCs planning policies regarding parking. It was agreed to refer the application to the development control board and Mr Richardson to review SDCs policies and if they state garages are not included in the parking policy to ask for the application to be withdrawn from the development control board.

8778 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Saddlers Park

A resident had raised concerns regarding parking on the verge and turning into a blind corner for pedestrians and for drivers. She and the clerk have contacted KHS who have installed two bollards right on the corner, but this isn't preventing people for parking on the verge. She has reported that at present there are two high sided vans parked around the corner – on the straight, flat bit of the road that runs adjacent to the park, and then in the evenings, a car now parks on the verge – creating a right angle of parked cars. This ‘right angle’ creates a completely blind corner for drivers and pedestrians. She has asked KHS for a third bollard – which would prevent parking on the verge, but they have said that only need to put two in place because there have only ever

been two bollards there. She has enquired about yellow lines to protect the corner or maybe a new planted tree on the verge. Councillors discussed this issue in detail and agreed a tree would be knocked down, they agreed to monitor the situation but no further action to be taken at present.

RESOLVED: That the situation is monitored but no further action is taken at the moment.

8779 COMMUNITY

a) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics for June 2021:
22 crimes were reported, as follows:

Eynsford Station	1 x criminal damage/arson 1 x other theft
Station Approach	1x ASB
Station Road	2 x criminal damage/arson 1 x ASB
Riverside	1 x criminal damage/arson 7 x ASB 1 x violence/sexual assault
Car Park	1 x ASB 1 x public order 1 x violence/sexual assault
Harrow Meadow	1 x criminal damage/arson
Old Mill Close	1 x violence/sexual offence
Bower Lane	2 x violence/sexual offence

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

b) Darenth Valley Community Rail Partnership Update.

Mr Kirby reported that no work has as started at the station on the toilets or repair on the shelter. Mr Kirby noted that the works have been approved, funded, and planned.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Riverside Watch update

Mr Kirby advised the council that he had reported to Riverside Watch that the council is organising a new fence around Common Meadow and that CCTV has been installed at Common Meadow and Riverside until the end of September on loan from SDC. Their next meeting is 1st September and Cllr Alan Cheeseman is now deputy Chair.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Poppy Appeal

Councillors were asked to decide whether they wish to purchase a wreath or flowers this year. Lists of wreaths were available at the meeting. Councillors asked if there was a 'green' option of a wreath, the clerk noted that she had enquired last year regarding a 'green' option but there was nothing available she will ask again.

RESOLVED: That the clerk asks the Royal British Legion if there is a 'green' option for a wreath and bring the item back to another meeting.

e) Cameras at Riverside

Two CCTV cameras have been installed at Riverside and can be monitored remotely via an app. Videos are stored on a SD card which can be removed and downloaded as necessary; however, the cards will be overwritten when full. Mr Ward noted that the batteries are not lasting, Mr Kirby suggested looking at solar panels for power.

RESOLVED: That we approach SDC regarding solar panels for the power. That the cameras are fully charged for the bank holiday weekend.

At this point, 9.00pm, the meeting opened for questions from the public and Mr Cheeseman left. The meeting resumed at 9.20pm.

f) Affordable Housing sites.

Members of the council met to identify possible sites or affordable local needs housing in Eynsford. Mrs Haxby noted that they had identified five possible areas.

A – Land adjacent to Mote Cottages – we believe this is owned by William Alexander of Castle Farm, Shoreham.

B – Land adjacent to Riverway, Riverside – we believe this is owned by James/Robert Alexander of Home Farm, Eynsford

C/D – This land is out of sight, and we do not know if it is in use a large greenhouse/nursery area, but we believe this has been unused for some time. There is also a large green area, and we don't know if/how this is used. We don't know who owns this land, but some of it may belong to the property on 'Furlongs Road' Riverside that it backs onto.

E – This is a new suggestion and would be in Green Belt – using a piece of land on Bowe Lane. This land is, we believe, owned by Pollyhaugh Farm.

This information has been passed to Rosemary Selling at rural Kent. Then Rural Kent will contact the landowners and start talks with them if they are suitable.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted

g) Family fun day

The family fun day on 30th July went well and was well attended considering the changeable weather. As well as activities for children, two PCSOs were in attendance with their police van which was popular. The Sevenoaks District Chairperson and her husband also attended. The parish council ran a refreshments stall that was manned by the clerks with assistance from Cllr Gee.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8780 OPEN SPACES

a) New Fence & Gate at Common Meadow

Mr Cooke noted that there was no further update other than what was discussed at public questions. The kissing gate has arrived and is in the Parish Office, a meeting with the fence contractor has taken place and they have taken measurements and materials have been ordered and is due for delivery tomorrow (Friday 20th August). The fence is to be in place prior the Bank Holiday.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

b) Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms

Chlorination of the water tanks has been arranged for the end of August to allow for the reopening of the Harrow Meadow changing rooms for the new football season. The situation will be reviewed if government guidelines change.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Benches at Harrow Meadow Playground.

Quotes have been received for work to the two benches in the playground: Option 1, to rub down and stain benches in play area at Harrow Meadow; labour £250.00 materials £100.00 total £350.00. Option 2: to wire brush of and clean benches Labour £120.00.

RESOLVED: That the benches are rubbed down and stained at a cos of £350.00

c) Approval of RAMS for Grounds Maintenance Contractor

Councillors are asked to officially approve³ the Risk Assessment/RAMS statement of the grounds maintenance contractor and to approve his suitability for work. Unfortunately, the RAMS was not sent to councillors prior to the meeting for councillors to review, therefore councillors agreed to defer the item to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the item is deferred to the next meeting.

8781 FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT

a) Darenth Valley Landscape Partnership Update

Mr Kirby reported that Queens Ann Bath house has received approval for the works to renovate and make safe. Also, the DVLP remit has extended to the whole of the Darenth Valley river. Mr Kirby also reported that the Darenth Valley Path work is currently on hold.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted

b) Dog Bin at St Martins Drive.

A resident has complained about the dog bin at 51 St Martins Drive and the number of bluebottles that have been coming into his house and has caused parasitic worms with him and his children

and has asked this to be removed ASAP. Councillors discussed this at length and Mr Barker reported that he had been and looked at the bin and could not see that many bluebottles there.

RESOLVED: That the bin is not removed.

The meeting of the council closed at 9:41p.m

Chairperson: 23rd September 2021