

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 19th May 2022, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.

8887 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr M Barker

Mrs S Boyle

Mr A Cooke

Mrs W Gee

Mrs F Haxby (left at 9.12pm)

Mr M Richardson

Mr P Ward

Others Present

Mr Gough (8.50 – 9.15pm).

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8888 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr J Gee, Mr N Rix, Mr K Baker

8889 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward noted that it was the last council meeting before the village event on 4th June and thanked Mrs Haxby and Mrs Wintour for all their hard work.

8890 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi reminded councillors of the zoom meeting with English Heritage on Friday about vandalism at the castle. Mrs Ivaldi also reminded councillors about the Repair Café being run by the Green Team on Saturday afternoon in the village hall.

8891 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 21st April 2022 were presented for approval.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record and that the recommendations are approved.

d) Finance Notes

The clerk submitted a list of accounts, and a budget report, for April 2022, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented.

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

e) Outstanding Actions

Mrs Ivaldi had made no further progress on getting prices for an air source heat pump.

f) Approval of Internal Audit Report

Councillors were asked to approve section 1 (Internal Audit Report) of the AGAR for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: That this item is deferred until the next meeting.

g) Approval of Accounting Statements

Councillors were asked to approve the Accounting Statements of the AGAR for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: That this item is deferred until the next meeting.

h) Insurance Renewal

Councillors were asked to agree on terms and prices for the council's insurance renewal. Quotes had been received from Zurich for 1, 3 and 5 year terms with or without insurance for the streetlights.

RESOLVED: That a 3 year insurance policy is taken out, not including the street lights costing £881.04.

i) Village Hall Project Update

Mr Cooke updated councillors on the current situation at Harrow Meadow. The archaeological dig is now over and a written report will be prepared. This will determine how future works at Harrow Meadow have to be completed. There were some bronze age and iron age finds.

Tenders are out for the village hall building work and are due in by 6th June.

There are still problems contacting the lowest tendering contractor for the football pitch works. Sevenoaks District Council require further information regarding the planning condition covering drainage.

The solicitors have recommended registering the land at Castlefield with the Land Registry before the swap takes place. Mr Richardson agreed work out the land value.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

j) Village Hall Project – Memorandum of Understanding

Councillors were asked to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the parish council and the village hall trustees relating to the village hall project.

RESOLVED: That the Memorandum of Understanding is approved.

k) Village Hall Project – Football Pitch Financing

Councillors were asked to agree how much money to put towards the first part of the village hall project, the ground works for the new football pitch.

RESOLVED: That the parish council pays £100,000 towards the grounds works. That the parish council invoices the village hall for the difference.

l) Councillor Co-option Process

Councillors discussed the process currently used for co-option and whether it could be improved.

RESOLVED: That Mr Barker and Mr Richardson put together a standard process to agree at the next meeting.

m) Changes to the 2022/23 Budget

Councillors were told that a surplus had been brought forward from 2021/22 of £6644.59. They were asked to agree how to distribute the funds.

RESOLVED: That the surplus funds are distributed as follows:

£50 – Website

£500 – Tree Planting (Lullingstone Acrostic)

£5000 – Eynsford Village Hall Project

£500 – Eynsford Village Hall Associated Fees

£594.59 – Contingency

8892 **PLANNING**

a) Report of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd May 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

22/005522/HOUSE– Willow Cottage, Station Road, Eynsford – REFUSED

22/00541/HOUSE – 4 Birch Close, Eynsford – GRANTED

22/00594/HOUSE – October Cottage, Station Road, Eynsford - GRANTED

c) Planning Application 22/01001/FUL – 40 & 42 Riverside, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for a proposed two-storey rear extension, first floor front/side extension and alterations to the pair of cottages.

RESOLVED: That no objection is made.

8893 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 3rd May 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Streetlight Column Replacement

Councillors were informed that the insurers had accepted liability for the damage of the streetlight and that the Clerk had sent through the relevant documents to reclaim costs. The replacement works will take place on 22nd May.

RESOLVED: That the Clerks are thanked for their work on this.

8894 COMMUNITY

a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community Committee meeting held on 3rd May 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics for February 2022:
9 crimes were reported, as follows:

Bower Lane	1 x Other Theft
Lullingstone Country Park	1 x Criminal Damage/Arson
Lullingstone Castle	1 x Burglary
Lullingstone Roman Villa	1 x Violence/Sexual Offences
Eynsford Station	2 x Criminal Damage/Arson
	1 x Other Theft
High Street	1 x Anti-social Behaviour
Old Mill Close	1 x Burglary

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Membership of Rural Kent

Councillors were asked to approve membership of Rural Kent for the coming year.

RESOLVED: That 2022/23 membership of Rural Kent is approved at £90.

8895 OPEN SPACES

a) Skip for Castlefield Allotments

Mr Cooke had suggested hiring a skip for rubbish from the allotments, following a request from allotment holders. Prices were given for different sized skips.

RESOLVED: That up to £200 is spent to hire a 6cu yd skip. That the Clerk finds out what progress there has been with setting up an Allotment Association.

Mr Gough arrived during the item above at 8.51pm.

The meeting paused for questions from the public at 8.55pm. (see Appendix Q)

The meeting resumed at 21.14pm.

b) Use of Common Meadow

Councillors were asked to consider a request to use Common Meadow for yoga on Mondays in May/June between 12 and 1pm to raise money for the village hall.

RESOLVED: That permission is granted.

c) Use of Riverside

Councillors were asked to consider a request from the Grace Center Church to use Riverside green for a community picnic with live steel band to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June between 11am and 3pm.

RESOLVED: That permission is granted. That the organisers are warned that it is likely to be busy.

d) Kissing Gate at Common Meadow

Councillors were advised that Eynsford Cricket Club has requested permission to lock the kissing gate during cricket matches because of anti-social behaviour during matches from members of the public.

RESOLVED: That councillors meet with the cricket club to discuss further before making a decision.

The meeting ended at 9.28pm.

Chairperson: 16th June 2022