

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on Thursday 21st February 2019, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.

8423 PRESENT

Members Present

Mrs S Boyle
Mr A Cooke
Mrs F Haxby
Mr G Kirby
Mr P Ward

Other Officials Present

Mr R Gough, County Councillor attended between 9.04pm and 9.26pm.

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8424 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs A Cornwell
Mrs T Durrant
Mr M Richardson

8425 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mrs Boyle congratulated Ms Morgan and Mrs Haxby for awards they had received for work in the village at the recent Sevenoaks 'Making it Happen' awards ceremony.
Mrs Boyle reminded councillors that there could be a surgery session on 23rd February, but that she would not be available.

8426 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi said that the order for the first batch of trees had been sent to Mr Penney.

8427 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 17th January 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 January 2019, as per Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the accounts are approved and payments made.

d) Outstanding Actions

Mrs Ivaldi agreed to check with Mr Baker regarding the group TPO on Crockenhill Lane.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Darent Valley Youth Music Spring Concert

A volunteer was sought to attend the Darent Valley Youth Music Spring Concert at St Martin's Church on 24th March at 3pm.

RESOLVED: That Mrs Haxby attends the concert on behalf of Eynsford Parish Council.

f) Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Civic Service

An invitation had been received for a member of the council and a guest to attend this service at All Saints Church, Maidstone on 12th March at 11am.

RESOLVED: That no councillors are available to attend.

g) New Accounts Package

Councillors were asked to consider changing accounts package from Quickbooks to Xero. Xero would be £3 per month cheaper than the current package and had additional features that would reduce paperwork.

RESOLVED: That the Xero accounts package is purchased to start in the new financial year.

h) Office Kitchen Replacement

Councillors had suggested that the office kitchen area needed to be replaced or improved. Mr Kirby had obtained some quotes from Wickes and Wren, and details of Elfin kitchens and Tiny kitchens had also been obtained.

RESOLVED: That a decision is deferred until the new financial year when there is a clearer idea of what funding would be available.

i) Office Lighting

It had been noted that lighting is needed in the filing cabinet area. The Clerks had suggested purchasing a wall mounted lamp as a low cost option. However, councillors suggested finding out about new strip lighting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerks get quotes for installing LED strip lighting for the filing area and also to replace all of the current ceiling lights, and brings them back to another meeting.

8428 PLANNING

a) Planning Committee 4th February 2019

Minutes of the above meeting were circulated to all councillors for approval, as per Appendix B.

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

b) Planning Notifications

SE/18/03575/HOUSE – Quince Cottage, Riverside, Eynsford – GRANTED
SE/18/03624/HOUSE – The Lodge, Station Road, Eynsford – GRANTED
SE/18/03187/HOUSE – Heather Croft, Station Road, Eynsford – GRANTED
SE/18/03488/HOUSE – Riverway, Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford – GRANTED
SE/18/03779/HOUSE – 59 Eynsford Rise, Eynsford – GRANTED
SE/18/03138/FUL – Land to the Rear of Lydith, High Street, Eynsford – GRANTED
SE/18/03652/HOUSE – 20 Eynsford Rise, Eynsford - GRANTED

c) Planning Application SE/18/03596/FUL & SE/18/03597/LBCALT – Ford House, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors considered an amendment to the above application showing altered rear extension with a reduction in depth and alteration to the roof design and form.

RESOLVED: That the council supports this application subject to the listed building and access issues being resolved.

d) Tree Work Application SE/19/00243/WTPO – Willow Cottage, Station Road, Eynsford

Councillors were informed of an application for works to a Yew Tree. The Tree Wardens had given their comments to Sevenoaks District Council and permission was granted.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Tree Work Application SE/19/00301/WTCA – St Martin’s Church, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors were informed of an application to remove 4 sycamore trees from the churchyard. The Tree Wardens had submitted objections to the proposed removals.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8429 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Highways & Transportation Committee 4th February 2019

Minutes of the above meeting were circulated to all councillors for approval, as per Appendix C.

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

b) Village Sign and Leak

Mr Blakemore updated the meeting on the situation, including details of emails sent by Cllr Durrant. Correspondence was ongoing with the Kent Highways Drainage Engineer about the leak, and they were waiting to hear back from Thames Water about the source of the leak. Mr Blakemore had been in touch with contractors about moving the sign and reinforcing the post. Kent Highways had agreed that moving the post should happen at the same time as installation of filter drains (subject to Thames Water's response). It was unclear whether Kent Highways would carry out any of the removal works. Mr Blakemore thanked Cllr Durrant for her help. Mr Blakemore asked about liability for the safety of the sign, but confirmed that he was regularly checking its stability and that it was currently sound.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8430 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Police Report

Councillors were informed of the latest crime statistics:
December 2018 – 1 x other theft and 1 x vehicle crime, Eynsford Station.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

b) St Martin's Churchyard, Eynsford

Councillors were asked to respond to a letter received from St Martin's Church formally proposing to close the churchyard for burials due to lack of space. The St Martin's PCC proposes to retain responsibility for maintenance.

RESOLVED: That the parish council has no objections to the proposed closure of the burial ground at St Martin's Church, Eynsford.

c) Membership Woodland Trust

Councillors were asked to consider renewing their membership of the Woodland Trust costing £33.00.

RESOLVED: That membership of the Woodland Trust at £33.00 for the year is renewed.

d) Membership – Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)

Councillors were asked to consider renewing their membership of CPRE Kent costing £36.00.

RESOLVED: That membership of CPRE at £36.00 for the year is renewed.

e) Donation – Victim Support

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation to Victim Support.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £50 is made to Victim Support.

f) South & South East in Bloom Entry

Councillors were asked to consider paying for Eynsford in Bloom's entry to the South & South East in Bloom competition at a cost of £55.00

RESOLVED: That £55.00 is paid for entry to the South & South East in Bloom competition.

g) Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Contribution

Councillors were asked to approve our second annual contribution to the scheme of £1000. However, only £500 had been budgeted so there was some lack of clarity about how much had been promised. It was understood that a payment of £1000 was made in 2018 to cover two years.

RESOLVED: That the Clerks check back through correspondence to find out what annual contribution had been agreed.

8431 **RECREATION**

a) Recreation Committee 4th February 2019

Minutes of the above meeting were circulated to all councillors for approval, as per Appendix D.

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

b) Grounds Maintenance Contracts 2019

Councillors considered the tenders received for grounds maintenance in Eynsford in 2019.

RESOLVED: That the contracts are offered as follows: Contracts A1 and A2 – Abel Landscapes; Contract B - Eynsford Cricket Club; Contract C – Darent Valley Gardening Services. That grounds maintenance work is undertaken for Kent County Council (Urban grass & shrubs and Visibility Cuts).

c) Allotment Work Party

Councillors were informed that Mr Cooke was organising a Community Work Party at Castlefield Allotments on 10th March starting at 10am. All councillors were invited to attend.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Use of Riverside

Councillors considered a request from the Orpington Volunteer Youth Project to use Riverside as a refreshment/check point during their sponsored walk on 11th May 2019 between 10am and 1.30pm.

RESOLVED: That permission is granted subject to litter being cleared away and no dogs on the green.

e) Cutting of Nature Area at Castlefield Allotments

Councillors were asked to agree to work to cut the nature area at Castlefield Allotment by North West Kent Country Partnership at a cost of £240. Their next free date was 8th May.

RESOLVED: That this work is carried out at £240 from the Allotment Maintenance budget.

At this point, 8.50pm, the meeting opened to questions from members of the public as per Appendix Q. The meeting resumed at 8.54pm.

Mr Gough attended at 9.04pm and the in-committee meeting was paused for his comments which are also recorded under Appendix Q.

The meeting of the council closed at 8.55 pm

Chairman: 21st March 2019