

# **Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.**

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## **8906 PRESENT**

### Members Present

Mrs S Boyle

Mr A Cooke

Mrs F Haxby

Mr M Richardson

Mr P Ward

### Others Present

Mr R Gough attended from 7.35pm – 8.28pm

Ms L Vago attended from 7.30pm – 8pm

Mrs P Penney attended from 8.31pm – 9.08pm.

### Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

## **8907 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mrs W Gee, Mr M Barker, Mr N Rix, Mr J Gee

## **8908 CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Mr Ward thanked the Clerks for organising their holidays to allow for the office to be open every week.

## **8909 CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Mrs Ivaldi noted that the office would be open only two days a week for the next four weeks due to staff annual leave.

## **8910 GOVERNANCE**

### a) Declarations of Interest

None.

### b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 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 June 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

This was deferred until the next meeting.

#### f) Public Works Loan

Councillors had been provided with detailed figures of a public works loan including likely increases in council tax for residents in different tax bands. Councillors were asked to consider whether or not to take out a loan to cover some of the costs of the new village hall.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Cooke develops a proposal to present to the council on what would be required.

#### g) Village Hall Update

Mr Cooke gave an update on the village hall project. Tenders had been received for the ground works for the football pitch and meetings have been held with the contractor. Tenders have been received for the village hall and car park project. The contract for the football pitch will be accepted shortly with work due to start in Spring 2023. The archaeological survey is causing problems as further costly investigations will be required. This could cost up to £100,000. Mr Gough was asked what the normal process was regarding these kinds of investigations, and he agreed to look into it. Mr Cooke also said that a fundraising meeting had been held and some events are planned.

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

At this point, 8pm, the meeting was paused for questions from the public (Appendix Q). The meeting resumed at 8.28pm.

### **8911 PLANNING**

#### a) Report of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

#### b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

22/01483/HOUSE– Cleveland's Cottage, Eynsford Road, Eynsford – GRANTED

22/01137/HOUSE – 4 Priory Fields, Eynsford – GRANTED

22/01135/HOUSE – Tamalyn, Priory Lane, Eynsford – GRANTED

22/01001/FUL – 40 & 42 Riverside, Eynsford - REFUSED

c) Planning Application 22/01680/HOUSE – Chestnut Rise, Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the demolition of the side and rear extensions, and erection of two storey and single storey side and rear extensions, and conversions to the loft with alterations to fenestration at the above address.

**RESOLVED:** That councillors object due to the size and bulk of the proposed building being inappropriate in the Green Belt and AONB and with no special circumstances given to outweigh the harm.

d) Planning Application 22/01761/FUL – The Cottage, Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the demolition of the existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling with alterations to the landscape at the above address.

**RESOLVED:** That councillors have no objections.

At this point, 8.42pm, the meeting was paused again for questions from the public (Appendix Q). The meeting resumed at 9.08pm.

**8912 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 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

b) Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership

Councillors were asked to agree next steps following the presentation from Sarah Newman of DVCRP at the last committee meeting regarding use of the station building and access to and from the station.

**RESOLVED:** That a separate meeting is set up to look at the options in more detail.

c) School Bus Route Closures

Councillors were informed that there were lots of planned closures of school bus routes in the autumn due to a stop in government subsidy and a reduction in use due to Covid making them unviable. Services affecting children from Eynsford in particular are the S11 from Sevenoaks to Wilmington and the TW3 from Shoreham to Tunbridge Wells. Mr Gough spoke about this during 'Public Questions' and explained that operators had been under pressure due to higher prices, recruitment issues and the ending of government subsidies. KCC were working with bus operators to fill gaps in services and to adjust existing services. Although KCC had been successful in a funding bid from government towards bus services, it was mainly for capital projects rather than revenue purposes so might not help this situation. KCC have limited funds but are trying to work to improve the situation.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk writes to Mr Gough to raise the council's concerns and to thank him for his input so far. That information is posted on social media about the situation.

## 8913 **COMMUNITY**

### a) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics for May 2022:

Twenty crimes were reported, a large rise on the previous month, as follows:

Lower Austin Lodge	1 x Violence/Sexual Offence
Bower Lane	2 x Violence/Sexual Offence
Lullingstone Roman Villa	1 x Criminal Damage/Arson
	1 x Other Theft
Eynsford Station	1 x Criminal Damage/Arson
Eynsford Rise	1 x Violence/Sexual Offence
St Martin's Drive	1 x Other Theft
Station Road	1 x Bicycle Theft
Riverside	2 x Anti-Social Behaviour
Parsonage Bank	1 x Violence/Sexual Offence
High Street	2 x Criminal Damage/Arson
Old Mill Close	4 x Violence/Sexual Offence
	1 x Vehicle Crime
Sparepenny Lane	1 x Burglary

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

### b) Riverside Working Group

Mr Richardson reported on the recent meeting of this new group. They had brainstormed ideas to improve Riverside. Following research into some of the ideas raised, there will be another meeting to talk through some of the options in more detail. Notes from the meeting are attached.

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

### c) Riverside Watch Meeting

Mr Barker and Mr Ward had attended the meeting. The main subject of discussion was a traveller 'ride out' planned for 29<sup>th</sup> August which will coincide with the 'Eynstock' event. Riverside Club were looking at resecuring their side of the bridge arch to prevent access. Mr Ward said that he had agreed to look into reinstalling a chain/barrier across the river on behalf of the parish council. It was noted that all incidents should be emailed to [residents@riversidewatch.org](mailto:residents@riversidewatch.org).

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

### d) Anti-Social Behaviour

Mr Ward reported back on a recent site meeting held with the police, members of the council and members of Riverside Watch at Riverside and Common Meadow. PS Kevin Saville admitted that the police have limited resources to deal with incidents but will prioritise urgent situations. They reinforced the importance of reporting all crimes. Councillors were told that if particular individuals were suspected of crimes their details could be sent to the police who would deal with them appropriately. Mr Ward said that he had requested police presence at the planned traveller 'ride out' on 29<sup>th</sup> August. PS Saville confirmed that there was no Traveller Liaison Officer.

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

e) Family Fun Day Extras

Councillors were asked to agree to extra activities at the fun day on 15<sup>th</sup> August. The main provision is being funded by Sevenoaks District Council. Various options were provided including inflatable games and circus skills. Farningham Parish Council had agreed to pay up to £250 towards the cost.

**RESOLVED:** That Mrs Boyle works with Mrs Wintour to finalise which activities to book, within out budget.

**8914 OPEN SPACES**

a) Report of the Last Open Spaces Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

b) River Access

Councillors were asked to discuss way to prevent access to Common Meadow via the river such as putting barriers under the bridge arches. The Riverside Club had got a quote to secure their side of the bridge (the other being the responsibility of the Old Mill), for £500.

**RESOLVED:** That the council agrees to funding half of the cost (£250) subject to a meeting between Mr Ward and the Riverside Club to understand exactly what is being proposed.

c) Use of Harrow Meadow as Storage for Highways Vehicles

This item related to an issue about a road closure and storage was not required.

**8915 FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT**

a) Report of the Last Facilities & Environment Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Facilities & Environment Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

b) Management of Sycamore Stump

Councillors were told that the stump from the sycamore tree that had been removed behind Bank Cottages was vigorously producing shoots. Stump killer applied after removal had not worked. Councillors were given three options to consider: Recut the stump and reinject with stump killer; grind out the stump (potentially affecting the stability of the flint wall); cutting back growth every year as part of the grounds maintenance contract.

**RESOLVED:** That councillors agree a budget of £300 maximum to recut the stump and reinject stump killer.

The meeting ended at 21.58pm.

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Chairperson: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022