

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

8433 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr A Cooke
Mrs A Cornwell
Mrs T Durrant
Mrs F Haxby
Mr G Kirby
Mr M Richardson
Mr P Ward

Other Officials Present

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8434 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs S Boyle

In the absence of Mrs Boyle, Mr Ward chaired the meeting.

8435 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward reminded councillors about the local elections on 2nd May and that they needed to hand in their nomination forms to Sevenoaks District Council by 3rd April. Mr Ward said that the next surgery would be held on 30th March – Mrs Durrant and Mrs Haxby gave their apologies. Mr Ward thanked Mr Cooke for organising the allotment work party.

8436 CLERK'S COMMENTS

None.

8437 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item xx as a trustee of Eynsford Village Hall.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 21st February 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 February 2019, as per Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the accounts are approved and payments made.

d) Outstanding Actions

Mr Baker agreed to follow up on the group TPO on Crockenhill Lane.
Mrs Ivaldi agreed to chase Mr Gray again regarding the repairs at the Harrow Meadow playground.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Committee Meetings

Councillors were asked to agree to having all committees meeting every month, if required.

RESOLVED: That all committee meeting can be held every month, if required, starting after the next AGM of the council in May, subject to review.

f) Quarterly Newsletter

Councillors were asked to suggest articles for inclusion in the next parish newsletter due out in April.

RESOLVED: That the following articles are requested with a deadline of 8th April:

Village Sign and Leak update - Mrs Durrant

Village Hall update – Mr Cooke

100 years of Eynsford WI – already received

Annual Parish Meeting & Community Award – Mrs Ivaldi

English Heritage Dig at Lullingstone – Emma Freeman (EH)

Emergency Committee – Mr Baker (tbc)

Lullingstone 10K Run – Mr Ward

DVLP Litter Pick – Mr Kirby.

g) Local Elections

Councillors were reminded that parish council and other local elections would take place on 2nd May. Nominations opened on 21st March and would close on 3rd April at 4pm. Councillors were told that they would need to go through the nomination and election process to continue as parish councillors.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

h) Annual Parish Meeting

Councillors were told that plans were progressing for the Annual Parish Meeting on 28th March. A number of organisations are attending. The Chair of KALC will present the Community Award to Mrs Coston. Mrs Durrant will demonstrate the Speedwatch sign and sign up any more volunteers. Mrs Haxby will run a CPR session. Eynsford in Bloom will show photos of their activities. Councillors were asked to help with the set up if they are available.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

i) Direct Debits

Councillors were asked to agree to setting up direct debits to pay electricity bills to Eon and EDF. This would save time and EDF were offering a 6% discount to bills paid by direct debit.

RESOLVED: That direct debits are set up for Eon and EDF to start in the new financial year.

j) Council WhatsApp

Councillors were asked to consider setting up a council whatsapp group to include councillors and clerks. This would not replace email communications, but could help when dealing with urgent situations outside of office hours, setting up meetings, etc.

RESOLVED: That subject to the agreement of all councillors, that a group is set up on a trial basis with agreed guidelines.

k) CIL Payment

Councillors were informed that Eynsford Parish Council will receive its first CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payment on April 2019 from the new development at Institute Cottage. This will be £5051.88 and must be spent on one or more of the following areas: transport schemes, flood defence schemes, water quality schemes, education, health and social care facilities, police and emergency service facilities, community facilities, communications infrastructure, green infrastructure.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk seeks clarification on spending rules, time scales and reporting procedures.

8438 PLANNING

a) Planning Committee 4th March 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/18/03597/LBCALT – Ford House, High Street, Eynsford – GRANTED

c) Village Hall Update

Mr Cooke gave a verbal update on progress with the village hall project. He said that the architect had now reduced the footprint of the building and changed some of the materials to reduce the cost. The Quantity Surveyor had given a revised cost of £1,818,016.00 for the whole project based on it starting in 2021. The revised plans need to be agreed by the village hall trustees before a planning application is submitted. Then the next stage would be fundraising. Mr Hilling (Village Hall Trustee) was present and noted that the project included a contribution from the parish council in the form of a Public Works Loan. It was noted that a formal agreement from the council was needed to support the project.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Village Hall Consultants' Fees

The council considered a request to pay for the outstanding professional fees for the village hall project amounting to £45,900 + VAT, as the parish council would be able to reclaim the VAT.

RESOLVED: That this is brought back to the council once a formal agreement regarding ownership, responsibilities, financing etc of the village hall project is created.

At this point, 9.15pm, the meeting opened to questions from members of the public as per Appendix Q. The meeting resumed at 9.21pm.

e) Tree Preservation Order – St Martin's Church

Councillors were informed that the Sevenoaks District Council had served a TPO on the three sycamore trees situated on the southern boundary of St Martin's churchyard. The order took effect, provisionally, on the 11th March and will continue for 6 months or until the Order is confirmed. Councillors were invited to submit comments.

RESOLVED: That the council supports the TPO, but would be happy see remedial work carried out on the trees.

f) Planning Application SE/19/00547/FUL – Land North East of Park House Farm, Bower Lane, Eynsford

This application had been withdrawn so was not discussed.

8439 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Highways & Transportation Committee 4th March 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) Fernbank

Councillors discussed whether to re-seed Fernbank or whether to look into removing the verging and extending the pavement.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk obtains quotes for reseeding or re-turfing the verge at Fernbank.

c) Riverside Scheme

Councillors were informed that, since they had approved the scheme proposed by Kent Highways to remove the upper build-out at Riverside and to replace it with double yellow lines, various complaints had been received from residents. The Clerks had followed the issues up with Kent Highways who said that the scheme could not be changed at this stage. Sevenoaks District Council had been approached about enforcement of the lines and agreed to refresh the existing lines.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Leak at Village Sign

Mrs Durrant gave an update on the situation regarding the ongoing leak by the village sign on the High Street. Mrs Durrant said that Thames Water had asked West Kent Housing for permission to carry out repair works at Fountain Court to fix a valve that they believed was causing the leak. Mrs Durrant would follow up on this action.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8440 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Community & Environment Committee 4th March 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) Police Report

Councillors were informed of the latest crime statistics:
No crimes were reported in Eynsford in January 2019.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Donation Request – Eynsford Village Society

Councillors were asked to consider a request from Eynsford Village Society for a donation towards the Public Art Trail – towards the cost of installing a bench at Fernbank. The total cost of the installation is £1200 and a donation of £250 had been requested.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £250 is made to Eynsford Village Society from the Donations budget (Section 137)

d) Emergency Planning Group

Councillors were asked to consider setting up an Emergency Planning Group to plan for emergency situations that might affect the village, including utility cuts, extreme weather, natural disasters, major accidents etc. Mr Baker explained about the previous group and that there is an emergency water supply at the scout hall.

RESOLVED: That a committee is not set up at this point. That Mrs Durrant, Mrs Haxby and Mr Baker get together to work on an up to date emergency information sheet, and decide if any further action is needed.

8441 RECREATION

a) Summer Fun Days 2019

Councillors were informed that PlayPlace, the usual play provider for the council fun days, would no longer be providing their services. Sevenoaks District Council would still offer their free provision, however, the parish council usually combines the two. Councillors discussed possible options.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk looks into costs of bouncy castles and other play providers and brings these back to another meeting.

b) Design of New Football Pitch

Councillors were asked to approve expenditure of £2382 + VAT to pay for an Agrostis to carry out another survey of the football pitch and to provide a design and costings for the project to rotate the pitch.

RESOLVED: That the Agrostis is appointed to carry out the work above for £2382 + VAT, subject to the village hall trustees agreeing to proceed with the project.

The meeting of the council closed at 10.04 pm

Chairman: 18th April 2019