

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 22nd July 2021, at Eynsford Village Hall, at 8pm.

8762 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 K Baker, Tree Warden, Mr A Cheeseman, District Councillor (until 9.10pm), Mrs P Penney

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8763 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

8764 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward wished Mrs Boyle a good and speedy recovery from her operation. Mrs Haxby agreed to organise flowers.

8765 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi noted that she would be on annual leave the following week but back for the family fun day on 30th July which councillors were welcome to attend.

8766 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 8766h and 8766i as Chair of the Village Hall trustees.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 17th June 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 June 2021, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented.

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

d) Outstanding Actions

Mr Kirby had no updates regarding the Lucy Box. It was agreed to start the listing process anyway.

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

Mr Baker said he would speak to the Millfield Trust about planting additional trees at their meeting on Saturday.

Mr Barker said quotes had been received for various work to trees, however he still needed to work on a tree maintenance/management strategy with the Tree Work Sub-committee.

e) GDPR Update

Ms Morgan had reported that there had not been any GDPR issues, but that councillors are reminded to remove personal details before forwarding on emails from members of the public.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

f) Future Meetings

Councillors discussed where to hold future meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Darent Room is booked for the August meetings and that the situation is reviewed at the August main meeting.

g) Meeting Times

Mr Ward suggested changing meetings to an earlier time in future.

RESOLVED: That parish council meetings are held at 7.30pm starting from September. That the changes are advertised.

h) Fees for Village Hall

Councillors were asked to approve payment for a structural engineer to prepare a site investigation tender pack for the village hall and football pitch costing approximately £400 + VAT. This would include ground investigation and could influence the design and meet some of the conditions.

RESOLVED: That a payment of up to £400 + VAT is approved to come from the Village Hall Project Support budget.

i) Village Hall Update

Mr Cooke told councillors that the revised plans for the housing at the existing hall site had come back to consultation and that a decision was expected in early August.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8767 PLANNING

a) Report of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning Committee meetings held on 5th July 2021. (See Appendix B)

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

Planning Application SE/21/01456/HOUSE – Primrose Cottage, 12 Riverside Granted

c) Planning Application SE/29/03346/FUL – Eynsford Village Hall, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the erection of three houses following the demolition of the existing village hall as enabling development to erect a new village hall on Harrow Meadow. As amplified by amended drawings received 7. 6. 21.

RESOLVED: That the council strongly support the application.

d) Planning Application SE/21/01845/FUL – Robsacks, Shoreham Road, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the demolition and removal of all kennel buildings and the erection of a detached dwelling with part basement, associated access, parking and landscaping.

RESOLVED: That the council has no objections. That the council would like to see mature trees on the site retained, particularly those screening the current buildings.

e) Planning Application SE/21/02002/HOUSE – The Bungalow, Bower Lane, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the erection of a garden shed and fencing.

RESOLVED: That the council makes no comment.

8768 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Report of the Last Highways & Transportation Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Highways & Transportation Committee meeting held on 5th July 2021. (See Appendix C)

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Kent Bus Service Improvement Plan

Councillors were told that in March 2021 the government published a new National Bus Strategy which sets out a framework for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and a vision for future bus service improvements across the UK. The strategy places a requirement on all Local Transport Authorities and Bus Operators to create a Bus Service Improvement Plan, which will act as the vision for how they are going to try to improve bus services in Kent in the next few years. This will then be used to help create Enhanced Partnership Schemes with bus operators, which will set the standards for all bus services running in the country. Councillors were asked to respond to the consultation.

RESOLVED: That councillors respond to the consultation individually.

c) Kent Highways Site Meeting

Mr Kirby updated the council on a recent site meeting with a representative from Kent Highways, councillors and members of the Riverside Watch. They looked at items in Eynsford's Highways Improvement Plan including requests for yellow lines at Lullingstone Lane, High Street and other areas. There was also a discussion about the extension of the 50mph zone from Otford to Eynsford. The proposed yellow lines are likely to be put in within the next year. It was also agreed that the 'keep left' sign at the Bower Lane junction would be removed as it causes confusion. There was also a discussion with Stuart Alexander who is now property manager for the Alexander Farming company. He is considering providing car parking on the plot opposite Home Farm on Riverside. He said that he would also consider sharing the access code to the track between the A225 Shoreham Road and the Roman Villa via New Barn Farm with the police and emergency services.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

At this point, 9.09pm, the meeting opened for questions from the public and Mr Cheeseman left. The meeting resumed at 9.17pm.

8769 COMMUNITY

a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Community Committee meeting held on 5th July 2021.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved. (See Appendix D)

b) Police/Crime Report

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

Nr Lullingstone Castle	2 violence/sexual offences
	1 Drugs
	1 Possession of weapons
Top of Bower Lane	1 Violence/sexual offence
St Martin's Drive	1 Criminal damage/arson
Saddlers Park	1 ASB

Station Road	1 Vehicle crime
Riverside	2 ASB
High Street	1 Criminal damage/arson
	1 Vehicle crime
	2 Violence/sexual offence

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Donation Request – Community Cupboard

Councillors were asked to consider a request for a donation from The Community Cupboard, West Kingsdown, a food bank and advice centre that is hoping to expand its premises.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £250 is made from the donations budget.

d) Riverside Watch Meeting

Mr Kirby provided an update on the first meeting of Riverside Watch which he had attended. The group elected a committee and would be meeting every two weeks. The discussed ANPR cameras and were looking at other cameras too. The group asked if a representative from the council to attend their meetings, Mr Kirby agreed to continue with this.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Police Meeting Update

Mr Ward gave an update on an online meeting with various representatives from the local police force and the Community Safety Unit at Sevenoaks District Council. There was a discussion about how to tackle anti-social behaviour around Riverside and Common Meadow and the police clarified what they could and could not do. The council was offered a loan of two CCTV cameras for the summer period. These would record any incidents onto a sim card which could be read via a phone. Any footage could then be reported and shared with the police if requested.

Councillors had a discussion about the cameras and where they should be put.

RESOLVED: That the council takes up the offer of a loan of the cameras. That Mr Kirby and Mr Richardson meet to locate a suitable location for them.

f) Local Housing Needs Meeting Update

Mrs Haxby gave an update on an online meeting held with Rosemary Selling of Rural Kent and Mr Barker and Mrs Ivaldi. Ms Selling had explained about Rural Exception Sites. These are areas that would not normally receive planning permission but could be purchase for above agricultural value to a housing association. The identified need for Eynsford was around 4-5 affordable houses. Three sites had been suggested – the land in front of Little Mote, land adjacent to Riverway and the Eynsford nursery site. Once suggestions had been made, Rural Kent would assess the suitability and write to landowners to see if they would be willing to sell.

RESOLVED: That Mrs Haxby, Mr Cooke, Mr Barker and Mrs Ivaldi meet to identify any suitable sites to send onto Rural Kent. That this is reported at the next meeting.

8770 OPEN SPACES

a) Report of the Last Open Spaces Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5th July 2021. (See Appendix E)

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Land Swap

Mr Cooke reported that he and Mr Richardson had met with James and Robert Alexander to discuss the proposed land swap at Harrow Meadow to allow for the turning of the football pitch. Mssrs Alexander were happy in principle for this to take place and agreed to site investigation and works outside of the growing season. The agreed area would need to be fenced off prior to work commencing. They would like to see detailed plans from the Agrostis showing the areas required.

RESOLVED: That Mr Cooke goes back to the Agrostis for final plans.

8771 FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT

a) Report of the Last Facilities & Environment Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Facilities & Environment Committee meeting held on 5th July 2021.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved. (See Appendix F)

b) Tree Work Quotations

Councillors were asked to consider the following tree work quotations:

Bartlett Tree Experts	Callum Smith, Tree Surgeon
Pruning of 5 mature weeping willows at Common Meadow:	
£3960 + VAT	£3600
Removal of Ash Tree at Harrow Meadow	
£1360 + VAT	£820
Pruning of Cherry Tree at War Memorial:	
£440 + VAT	£180
Pruning of 2 hazel trees at Common Meadow	
£440 + VAT	

RESOLVED: That Mr C Smith is asked to carry out work to the Cherry Tree at the war memorial for £180 as soon as possible. That both companies are asked if they would charge differently to carry out work to the willows over a couple of years.

c) Remarking of Lines at Castlefield Car Park

Councillors were informed that the lines on the car park had become very worn.

RESOLVED: That quote are sought for remarking the lines at Castlefield Car Park

d) New Litter Bin

Councillors were informed that a new litter bin had been installed at the top of Lullingstone Lane opposite the roman village. The dog bin would be removed as dog waste can now be placed in general litter bins.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

The meeting of the council closed at 10.32pm

Chairperson: 19th August 2021