

# Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, at Eynsford Village Hall, at 7.30pm.

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## 8782 PRESENT

### Members Present

Mr M Barker

Mr A Cooke

Mrs F Haxby

Mr G Kirby

Mr M Richardson

Mr P Ward (Chairperson)

### Others Present

Mr R Gough, County Councillor (from 8.40 – 8.55pm). Mr Jackman, Ms Catchpole.

### Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

## 8783 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs S Boyle, Mrs W Gee, Mr J Gee, Mr M Richardson (for lateness).

## 8784 CHAIR'S REMARKS

None

## 8785 CLERK'S COMMENTS

None

## 8786 GOVERNANCE

### a) Declarations of Interest

None.

### b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 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 August 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.

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

There was no update from Mr Baker on planting trees at Millfield.

Mrs Holly Ivaldi said she was dealing with air source and ground source heat pumps and looking for quotes.

It was agreed to remove the chain link fence item from outstanding actions.

#### e) Quarterly Newsletter

Councillors were asked to suggest articles to include in the next quarterly newsletter due out in October.

**RESOLVED:** That the following articles are sought with a deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> October:

Eynsford Tree of the Year – Mrs Ivaldi

KALC Community Award – Mrs Ivaldi

Communication with residents – tbc

Football Clubs' News – tbc

New Recycling Bin at Riverside – Mrs Ivaldi

Electric Charging Points update – Green Team

Community Rail Partnership/Eynsford Station – Mr Kirby

Post-Covid Event – Mrs Haxby

Village Hall Update – Mr Cooke or Mr Richardson

Plans for trees at Common Meadow – Mr Barker.

#### f) Village Hall Update

Mr Cooke said there was a need to get a consultant to obtain more project costs and it is estimated that these would be around £40K.

Mr Cooke said that the site investigation at Harrow Meadow would start on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>

September, taking samples from the meadow and the field above. If all goes to plan, works on the football pitch could start around September 2022.

It was hoped that news of the planning application would be available shortly.

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

#### g) Annual Audit

PKF Littlejohn has now completed their review of our Annual Governance & Accountability Return. *“Except for the matters reported on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The smaller authority has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2020/21 for the exercise of public rights, by answering ‘Yes’ to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as was reported last year, we are aware that it failed to do this and therefore should have answered ‘No’ to this assertion. It has also disclosed that it took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit, by answering ‘Yes’ to Section 1, Assertion 7, which, based on the above, is not correct.”*

Notices of conclusion of the audit is now displayed on noticeboards throughout the village and our website, in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

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

#### h) Change of Roles

Councillors were told that Mr Kirby plans to leave the council at the end of November as he is leaving the area. Mr Kirby sits on various committees as well as chairing the Highways & Transportation committee and volunteers would be needed to take these on. Mr Kirby said that Mrs Gee has agreed to take on Speedwatch.

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

### **8789** PLANNING

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

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

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

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

21/01616/LBCALT – Lullingstone Castle, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford - GRANTED.

#### c) Planning Application SE/21/02880/HOUSE -71 Pollyhaugh, Eynsford.

Councillors discussed an application for loft extensions to include side dormers and the removal of chimneys.

**RESOLVED:** That no objection is made subject to the condition that the side windows have obscured glass.

#### d) Planning Application SE/21/02892/HOUSE – Lydith, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for a small single storey rear extension.

**RESOLVED:** That no objections are made.

#### e) Draft Statement of Licensing Policy for the Gambling Act 2005.

Councillors were asked to consider responding to a consultation on this document.

**RESOLVED:** That the council makes no comments.

#### f) Update on Planning Application SE/21/02683/HOUSE – White House, Sparepenny Lane

Mr Richardson explained that he had recommended that the council object to this application due to the height of the roof, but that the response was not agreed or submitted in time.

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

**8790 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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

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

b) Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership

Mr Kirby gave an update on this project including the following for Eynsford:

- £20,000 towards the Station Access Project Feasibility Study.
- Up to £4000 is allocated to pay Kent Highways for the costs associated with transferring the land. Ownership in the future to be decided after the investigation is done.
- £40,000 towards the new toilets. Completed this month and now open.
- £1500 for a new planter and contents.
- £300 per annum for Eynsford in bloom.
- £1,000 for new wayfaring signs as footpaths are developed, co-funded by DVLP.
- Funding for posters and signage at each station.
- We have also applied for funding to the Rail Heritage Fund for a complete internal and external upgrade to bring the station to its former Victorian glory. The Fund have inspected the station and are drawing up a feasibility study.
- Network Rail report that the reconstruction of the shelter on the northbound platform will now commence this September.
- GTR report a new timetable launched this month, details on their website, but are suffering 10% cancellations due to staff sickness due to covid.
- The rail companies and Go Coach both have returned to 70% of pre pandemic passenger levels.
- DVLP reported that a new off-road footpath has been agreed between Shoreham Station and the village, to link up to the Darent Valley Path.
- Work on the replacement waiting shelter has now started.

**RESOLVED:** That the information is noted, and Mr Kirby is thanked for this work on this.

c) Update on the Joint Transportation Board

Mr Kirby reported that the group had met last week. Resurfacing of the section of the road between Eynsford railway bridge and Castle Road would take place in October. Kent Highways had been monitoring the situation with the water leak near to the village sign, and there had been no further signs of leaks recently.

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

**8791 COMMUNITY**

a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

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

b) Police/Crime Report

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

Bower Lane	1 x Burglary
Eynsford Rise	1 x Drugs Offence
Old Mill Close	1 x Public Order Offence
Sparepenny Lane	1 x Burglary
Station Road	1 x Vehicle Crime
Village Car Park	1 x Criminal Damage; 1 x Public Order Offence
Riverside	1 x Anti Social Behaviour
Lullingstone Roman Villa	1 x Public Order Offence; 1 x Violence/Sexual Offence
Lullingstone Castle	1 x Violence/Sexual Offence.

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

c) Donation to the British Legion.

Councillors were asked to agree on a donation to the British Legion for Remembrance Day.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £100 is made.

**8792** **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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

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

b) Annual Play Area Inspection

Mr Cooke reported on the annual play area inspection. There were a couple of areas of concern, namely rot in some of the trim trail pieces which need addressing.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Cooke removes, or puts out of action, the Trapeze, and the Log Link. That any low stepping logs showing signs of rot are removed.

c) War Memorial.

Councillors were told that it had been suggested that a membrane is put under the gravel at the war memorial to help to stop weeds.

**RESOLVED:** That we obtain a quote to remove the shingle and weeds, lay a 'Mypex' type membrane and re-lay the shingle.

## 8793 **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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved

### b) Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Update.

Mr Kirby provided an update on the project including the following:

The Samuel Palmer Audio Trail launched on website.

The route and scope of the upgrade to the DV Path between Otford and Shoreham has been agreed with landowners. Discussions are underway with landowners on the next section between Shoreham and Castle Farm, going through Preston Farm. Also the sections from Westerham to Dunton Green through Squerries Estate and Chevening Estate, and the section through Dartford. Roger Gough will provide some funding towards these projects and application has been made to the Government's new Active Travel Fund.

Objections from landowners and local residents has stalled the investigation into a path and bridge over the river in Eynsford.

DVLP have still failed to appoint an access officer to oversee the implementation of these projects. The next meeting will be on 14th October at 3pm.

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

### c) Re-Marking of Castlefield Car Park

Councillors were told that two quotes had been received for re-lining Castlefield Car Park. Orchman Road Markings - £700 + VAT; Diamond Roadmarkings - £750 + VAT.

**RESOLVED:** That Orchman Road Markings are asked to carry out the work, subject to councillors checking the tarmac in the car park first.

### d) Tree Work Quotations – Common Meadow

Councillors were asked to consider quotations for various works to trees on Common Meadow.

Callum Smith, Tree Surgeon:

5x mature weeping willows over riverside cricket ground-

Reduce in height and radial spread by approximately 50% to a pollard, leaving a resulting height of approx 11-14m. All foliage will be removed as a result of this and the trees will then regenerate from pruning points.

Remove all arisings leaving site tidy upon completion. £3600

There will be an additional cost of £80 per tree if we were to carry out works to the willows in stages, as in effect we will have to clear up 5 times instead of once.

Hazels adjacent to history society building

Coppice 3X trees to allow them to regenerate. £260

Whitebeam showing early signs of dieback - reduce by 1.5-2m. £140

Bartlett Tree Experts:

T18 Willow prune – reduce by 4-5m to begin the annual pollarding process £880 + VAT

T16 Willow prune – reduce by 4-5m to begin the annual pollarding process £880 + VAT

T13 Willow prune – reduce by 4-5m to begin the annual pollarding process £880 + VAT

T12 & T11 Willows prune – reduce by 4-5m to begin the annual pollarding process £1320 + VAT

T6 Prune Hazel x 2 - Coppice £440 + VAT

Remove all debris (from all)

**RESOLVED:** That Callum Smith, Tree Surgeon is asked to carry out works on two willows, the hazels and the whitebeam at Common Meadow once permission has been granted by Sevenoaks District Council.

At this point, 8.41pm, Mr Gough arrived and the meeting opened for public questions.  
The meeting resumed at 8.55pm.

The meeting of the council closed at 8.55p.m

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Chairperson: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021