

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020, via an online conferencing session, at 8pm.

---

## 8570 PRESENT

### Members Present

Mr M Barker  
Mrs S Boyle  
Mr A Cooke  
Mrs T Durrant  
Mrs F Haxby  
Mr G Kirby  
Mr M Richardson  
Mr P Ward

### Other Officials Present

Mr A Cheeseman (District Councillor) (attended from 8pm – 9pm)  
Mr R Gough (County Councillor) (attended from 9pm - 9.17pm)

### Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

## 8571 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

## 8572 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mrs Durrant announced that she would be stepping down from the council after the meeting due to work commitments. Councillors thanked her for her contribution to the council.

## 8573 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi said that the coronavirus support group/volunteer scheme was going well and that those in need were receiving help.

## 8574 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> March 2020 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 March 2020, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented. There was a query about a negative amount in Contingency which will be looked into.

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

#### d) Outstanding Actions

None

#### e) Cancellation of the Annual Parish Meeting

Councillors were told that new government legislation allows for the Annual Parish Meeting to be cancelled, as it is not practical to hold it within the required timescale during the current coronavirus crisis.

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Parish Council meeting is officially cancelled.

#### f) Membership of Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)

Councillors were asked to agree to renewing the council's membership of KALC for 2020/21 at the cost of £721.70 + VAT.

**RESOLVED:** That membership of KALC is renewed for 2020/21 at £721.70 + VAT.

### **8575 PLANNING**

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

SE/20/00110/CAN – BT Telephone Box East of Ford House, High Street, Eynsford – NO OBJECTION LODGED

SE/20/00554/HOUSE – 12 Alton Cottages, High Street, Eynsford – GRANTED

SE/20/00363/FUL – Littlecroft, Eynsford Road, Eynsford - GRANTED

#### b) Comments of Planning Applications made using Delegated Powers

Councillors were informed of comments submitted to Sevenoaks District Council whilst it was not possible to hold a meeting.

**SE/20/00351/FUL - Castle Hotel, High Street, Eynsford.**

Proposed car park with retaining wall and ramp.

Response: The Council supports the application because of the limited intrusion and additional parking capacity it makes available. However, if the development removes or obstructs the pedestrian access to Harrow Meadow then the Council objects due to the removal of an important village thoroughfare. We also request that at least one electric charging point be provided.

30th March 2020

**SE/20/00646/FUL - Bower House, Bower Lane, Eynsford**

Demolition of existing garage, conservatory and shed and erection 3 new dwellings with allocated parking, new double garage for Bower House and landscaping.

Response: The Council objects to the application on the following points:

- a. The Council considers the proposal as an over-development of a sensitive area of the village and Conservation Area.
- b. Due to the height of the new dwellings and the raised position in relation to properties on the High Street, the development will have an unacceptable overbearing aspect.
- c. The development will provide an unacceptable intrusion for the outlook of Grade 2 listed properties of Elizabeth Cottages.
- d. The height of the development will harm the visual aspect when viewed from the adjoining Green Belt land.
- e. Parking provision for Bower House and the new dwellings is inadequate and contrary to Residential Parking Standards.

30th March 2020

**SE/20/00351/FUL - Castle Hotel, High Street, Eynsford**

Proposed car park with retaining wall and ramp.

Response: The Council supports the application because of the limited intrusion and additional parking capacity it makes available. However, if the development removes or obstructs the pedestrian access to Harrow Meadow then the Council objects due to the removal of an important village thoroughfare. We also request that at least one electric charging point be provided.

30th March 2020

**SE/20/073/HOUSE - Ashprington House, High Street, Eynsford**

Demolition of existing detached domestic garage. Erection of new detached domestic garage with roof lights.

Response: That the council offer no objection

30th March 2020

**SE/20/00726/LBCALT - 2 & 3 Bank Cottages, High Street, Eynsford**

Erection of a dividing wall in loft space to separate loft spaces of number 2 and 3, providing a fire-break between the two spaces.

Response: The Council offer no objection

30th March 2020

**SE/20/00719/HOUSE - 57 Eynsford Rise**

First Floor side extension, single storey rear extension. Roof and fenestration alterations

Response: The Council offer no objection

1st April 2020

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

c) Planning Application SE/20/00892/FUL – Oakdene, Uplands, Chanros & Springpark, Station Road, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the creation of off-street parking for two vehicles, widening of existing pedestrian access to facilitate vehicle access and the demolition and rebuilding of the existing retaining walls.

**RESOLVED:** That, provided Kent Highways are happy with the access onto the A225, the council have no objections.

## **8576 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

### **a) Highways Improvement Plan**

Councillors were informed that, following our contact with Kent Highways about an additional sign at the ford, it was suggested that this was added to our Highways Improvement Plan. Councillors discussed the plan which had been circulated. It was suggested that the plan is kept updated with the council's comments alongside any comments from Kent Highways. Mr Cheeseman mentioned that Otford Parish Council had recently submitted a detailed plan for Otford centre that he would circulate as it could provide ideas.

**RESOLVED:** That the Highways Improvement Plan is updated and that the request for signs at the ford is put in at number 10.

## **8577 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT**

### **a) Police/Crime Report**

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics from February 2020:

Less detail was available due to the nature of the data available.

Ten crimes were reported:

- 1 x burglary – Saddlers Park
- 3 x burglary – Parking Area (unspecified)
- 1 x burglary - Birch Close
- 1 x burglary – Station Road
- 1 x criminal damage/arson – Gibson Place
- 1 x public order – Saddlers Park
- 1 x vehicle crime – Park/open space (unspecified)
- 1 x vehicle crime – Mill Lane

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

### **b) Churchyard Closure, St Martin's Church**

Councillors were informed that official notification had been received that the churchyard at St Martin's Church, Eynsford had been closed for burials. The Clerk had contacted the church administrator to see if there was any update regarding the PCC's intentions for maintenance of the churchyard.

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

### **c) Membership of Kent Wildlife Trust**

Councillors were asked to renew their membership of Kent Wildlife Trust at the cost of £50.

**RESOLVED:** That membership is renewed at a cost of £50.

d) Green Waste

Councillors discussed issues of residents being unable to get green waste bags, being advised to not have bonfires, and the fact that the tip had closed. Mr Richardson had emailed Cllr Cheeseman about this problem and Mr Cheeseman had contacted Sevenoaks District Council to see if there was any solution to the problem.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Cheeseman asks Sevenoaks District Council if sacks could be delivered to the parish office for distribution.

At this point, 8.50pm, the meeting was opened to questions from members of the public (see Appendix Q). The meeting resumed at 9.17pm.

e) Donation to the British Red Cross

Councillors were asked to consider a donation to the Red Cross to support its work during the current crisis including A&E Discharges, Emergency Response, Wheelchair Hire, Refugee Support and First Aid Training.

**RESOLVED:** That £100 is donated to the British Red Cross.

**8578** **RECREATION**

a) Removal of Tree

Councillors considered a quote to remove a potentially dangerous tree behind Bank Cottages and adjacent to the parish council's access road. The tree was leaning and covered in ivy.

**RESOLVED:** That the quote of £340 from Aspen Tree Care is accepted.

b) Water Testing Contract, Harrow Meadow Changing Room

Councillors were asked to consider a quote for Legionella Testing and Water Treatment at Harrow Meadow changing rooms for 2020/21. This would cost £760 + VAT for quarterly visits.

**RESOLVED:** That the contract is accepted costing £760 + VAT to be paid from the Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms Running Costs budget.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.23pm

-----  
Chairperson: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

## **Appendix Q**

### **Public Questions from the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

At 8.59pm, the meeting was opened to questions from the public.

Mr Cheeseman, District Councillor, said that he had been involved as a volunteer helping local residents during the coronavirus crisis. He said he would try to attend more council meetings and was also told about surgery sessions which were also open to the public.

Mr Gough, County Councillor, said that he was involved in lots of things during this unusual time. The new GO 2 initiative had been launched, making changes to the bus service so that it now worked as an 'on demand' rather than timetabled service.

Mr Gough said he would be happy to support our request for additional signage at the ford once it is in the Highways Improvement Plan.

Resurfacing of the High Street between Bower Lane and Parsonage Bank was planned, but the drainage work was a different department, and Mr Gough agreed to chase the engineer.

KCC was working to provide PPE for Kent including social services.

KCC was working with SDC and other district councils to help people get help during the coronavirus crisis. Lots of voluntary sector groups were working together to meet demand too.

Mrs Boyle asked Mr Gough about green waste and tips which are currently closed. Mr Gough said that it was not easy to re-open tips because of staff shortages and social distancing, however, opening might be phased in gradually throughout the county when it is safe to do so.

The public questions ended at 9.17pm.