

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on
Thursday 15th December 2016, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.**

8141 PRESENT

Members Present

Mrs S Boyle (Chair)
Mrs A Cornwell (arrived 8.15pm)
Mrs T Durrant
Mrs F Haxby
Mr G Kirby
Mr P Ward

Other Officials Present

Mr R Gough, County Councillor called in via conference 'phone at 9pm.

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8142 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr A Cooke
Mr M Richardson

8143 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mrs Boyle thanked all councillors and staff for their hard work during 2016 which had been a busy year. It was agreed that there would be no parish council surgery on Saturday 31st December.

8144 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi said that the parish office would be closed between 22nd December and 2nd January for the Christmas holidays. However, she would be in on 29th December to ensure that the committee agenda went out on time. Mrs Ivaldi informed councillors that the new photocopier had been ordered and that it would be delivered in the second week on January. Councillors were reminded of the Christmas meal which would be held on 19th December at 7.30pm at the Pied Bull, Farningham.

8145 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mrs Cornwell retrospectively declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8148d as a member of the Anthony Roper Primary School's PTA committee and in item 8149b as an allotment holder.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 17th November 2016 and the extraordinary meeting held on 23rd November, 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 November 2016, as per Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the accounts are approved and payments made.

d) Outstanding Actions

Councillors discussed items listed that had been outstanding for three months or more.

- New Debit Card Account – Ms Morgan is researching the costs involved and information would be available soon
- Mrs Haxby has lots of information about a Dementia Friendly initiative and would bring it to the January committee meeting.
- Testing of the panic alarm – this had been tested but did not work. The Clerk has called the engineer to look at it – the Clerk agreed to chase.
- New notice board for Mill Lane & the allotments – Mr Baker said that there were no spare notice boards that could be used. Mrs Ivaldi agreed to contact the property owner to see if they objected to the parish council replacing the board. Mrs Ivaldi had a contact to ask about making boards.
- Mr Kirby had looked at the road between the Five Bells and Bower Lane and agreed that yellow lines would be a good idea, and agreed to put this on a suitable agenda.
- Riverside improvements – approval was needed from the Environment Agency about erecting a post to support the chain across the river. Mrs Durrant had spoken to resident about having a gate across Furlongs Road, but was awaiting a response.

RESOLVED: That all of the outstanding actions are pursued.

e) Budget for 2017/18 and Precept

Councillors were asked to approve the draft budget for 2017/18 and to agree to the precept request from Sevenoaks District Council.

RESOLVED: That the budget for 2017/18 is approved, as per Appendix B. That a precept of £73,753.00 is requested from Sevenoaks District Council.

Mrs Cornwell arrived at this point, 8.15pm.

f) Darent Valley Website

Mrs Boyle informed councillors that some members of the Darent Valley Consortium Group were considering setting up a website for visitors to the area and local residents giving details of places to visit e.g. pubs, shops etc. The current estimated cost of the website was £1000 to build and £250pa to maintain. Consortium councils had been asked to contribute £200 each and then £50pa.

RESOLVED: That the decision is deferred until more information is available about the type of website that is being proposed, and what resources other websites already provide.

g) Christmas Bonuses

Councillors were asked to consider whether to offer Christmas bonuses to the Clerks, the Litter Picker and the Cleaner.

RESOLVED: That no Christmas bonuses are offered. That this item is removed as an annual review.

h) Quarterly Newsletter

Councillors were asked to consider items to be included in the next quarterly newsletter due out in January.

RESOLVED: That the following articles are requested:

Update on Sevenoaks District Council's 'Call for Sites' – Mr Horwood

Installation of LED Street Lighting- Ms Morgan

The PTA Playground project – Chair of the PTA

Braeside Surgery report – Mr Kirby

Southeastern Railway Forum – Mr Docherty/Mrs Ivaldi

Plans for Eynsford's Phone Box – Mr Ward

New Highways Scheme – Mr Ward

Annual Parish Meeting – Mrs Cornwell

New Photocopier – Mrs Ivaldi

That a leaflet from FELHS is included for an additional delivery charge.

i) Office Reorganisation

Mr Kirby updated councillors on plans to partly re-organise the parish office. The delivery of the new photocopier required some furniture to be repositioned. Mr Scott had agreed to move a wall heater. Mr Kirby was on the lookout for matching shelving units to improve storage. There were plans to rearrange the filing cabinets to allow better access.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8146 PLANNING

a) Planning Committee 5th December 2016

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) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusals Received from Sevenoaks District Council

None

c) Listing of War Memorial

Councillors were asked to agree whether to submit an application to 'list' the war memorial with Historic England as an important historical asset. The listing would help to protect the memorial and surrounding area for future generations.

RESOLVED: That the original war memorial is submitted for listing.

d) Planning Application SE/16/03499/FUL & SE/16/03500/LBCALT – The Barn, Park House, Bower Lane, Eynsford DA4 0HN

Councillors discussed plans to subdivide the dwelling to provide an additional dwelling.

RESOLVED: That councillors object to this application. Whilst councillors do not object to the subdivision of the property, they do object to the application on the grounds of the additional parking area shown on the drawing, due to its detrimental effect on the Green Belt and the AONB.

At this point, 8.55pm, the meeting opened up to questions from members of the public, as per Appendix Q.

8147 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Highways & Transportation Committee 5th December 2016

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) Pedestrian Gate to Edwards Hall Car Park

Councillors were asked to approve costs for putting a new pedestrian gate in adjacent to the vehicular gate at Edwards Hall. The cost of installing a gate and moving the notice board would be up to £435. Councillors also discussed whether the surrounding areas would need clearing of undergrowth. The scouts agreed for this work to go ahead.

RESOLVED: That the work is approved, including the clearance of the 'path' to a maximum cost of £550 to come from the School Run Safety Campaign budget.

8148 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Police Report

None available.

b) Membership of the Woodland Trust

Councillors were asked to agree to continuing their membership of the Woodland Trust at a cost of £36.00.

RESOLVED: That membership is renewed at £36.00 from Regular Donations (Section 137).

c) Volunteer Community Support Warden Scheme

Councillors discussed whether to participate in the Kent County Council's Volunteer Community Support Warden scheme. A volunteer warden would work a minimum of 5 hours per week and would be supervised by the Kent Warden service. The cost to the council would be £1075 for year one and £585 for subsequent years. A warden could be shared between two or more parishes. Mrs Ivaldi informed councillors that Mr Gough had said that Kent County Council were still actively recruiting a new Community Warden for Eynsford.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk asks Farningham Parish Council whether they are planning to take part in the Volunteer Warden scheme. That the information is brought back to the next meeting.

d) Donation Request – Anthony Roper Primary School

Councillors were asked to consider a request for funding from Anthony Roper Primary School's PTA towards new playground equipment. The PTA had a shortfall of £5000 and a lottery grant application had been unsuccessful.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £400 is made from Ad Hoc Donations (Section 137).

e) Donation Request – Trident Trust

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation towards the Trident Trust in recognition of the valuable service the Trident magazine provides.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £120 is made to the Trident Trust from Regular Donations (Section 137).

e) Donation Request – Austin Lodge Publication

Councillors were asked to consider a request for funding from a group of residents who had produced a report entitled 'An Appreciation of the Austin Lodge Valley' setting out what makes this area special and why it should be protected. Funding had been requested towards the printing costs. The cost to produce 50 copies would be £280 inc. VAT.

RESOLVED: That no donation is made. That the council offers to put a link to the report on its website and that the group are encouraged to make the report available online elsewhere.

8149 **RECREATION**

a) Kent County Council Grass Cutting Contracts

Kent County Council (KCC) had offered parish councils the opportunity to take on some of its grass cutting contracts in return for a fee to the parish. Councillors discussed the various contracts including areas inside and outside of the village.

RESOLVED: That the council's 2017 grass cutting contracting includes tenders for KCC's Urban and Visibility cuts. That, depending on the tenders, councillors then consider whether to take on these areas. That KCC is asked whether the process would be annual, or whether parish councils would be expected to continue once started.

b) Allotment Rents for 2017/18

Councillors discussed whether to raise the allotment rents for a half plot from £10 to £15 for a year. The current rents do not cover the cost of maintaining and managing the allotment site.

RESOLVED: That rents are raised to £15 per half plot from 1st April 2017.

c) Beekeeping at Castlefield Allotments

Councillors were told that informal research had indicated that one allotment holder had a phobia to bees and that keeping bees on the allotments would therefore not be possible. However, Mr Cooke suggested that a hive could be placed in the nature area, away from the allotment plots.

RESOLVED: That, if the allotment holder is a member of the Beekeeping Association, that permission is given to site a hive on the nature area at Castlefield Allotments, subject to agreement with Mr Cooke as to the location.

The meeting of the council closed at 10.07 pm

Chairman: 19th January 2017