

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on
Thursday 17th November 2016, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.**

8129 PRESENT

Members Present

Mrs S Boyle (Chair)

Mr A Cooke

Mrs F Haxby

Mr G Kirby

Mr M Richardson

Mr P Ward

Other Officials Present

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8130 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs T Durrant

Cllr Roger Gough

8131 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mrs Boyle noted that the next councillor surgery would be held on 26th November from 9-11am.

Mrs Boyle asked for a volunteer represent the parish council at the Darent Valley Youth Music concert on 4th December as she would not be present. Mrs Haxby agreed to attend.

Mrs Boyle reminded councillors that the budget meeting would be held on 23rd November.

8132 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi reminded those involved of the meeting about the village hall with Action for Communities in Rural Kent on Monday 21st November.

8133 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mrs Boyle, Mr Ward and Mrs Haxby declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8136d as members of the Riverside Players.

Mr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8133h as a trustee of Eynsford Village Hall.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 20th October 2016, 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 October 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.

- Pedestrian Gate at Edwards Hall – The Highways consultation had now begun. Mrs Ivaldi had requested a revised quote for a pedestrian gate.
- New Debit Card Account – Ms Morgan is researching the costs involved and information would be available at the December meeting.
- Testing of the panic alarm – this had been tested but did not work. The Clerk has called the engineer to look at it.
- New notice board for Mill Lane – 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 agreed to research buying or making a new board.

RESOLVED: That all of the outstanding actions are pursued.

e) Lullingstone Liaison Group Update

Mr Ward provided an update on the Lullingstone Liaison Group meeting which he had attended on 7th November.

Kent Country Parks were awaiting the handover of the Preston Hill site shortly. Lullingstone Visitor Centre were investigating the installation of internet/wifi for customers. Lullingstone Country Park had received a Green Flag award following a ‘secret shopper’ visit. The park was getting involved in the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership - looking at veteran trees, training staff etc. The centre were looking into the possibility of parking restrictions outside the centre’s car park as cars parked on the road caused congestion.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

f) Consortium Meeting Update

Mrs Boyle and Mr Kirby provided an update on the recent Darent Valley Consortium meeting. There was a discussion about soft landscaping (i.e. grass cutting) which KCC is looking at devolving to parish councils for a small fee. Mrs Ivaldi agreed to ask KCC for local grass cutting maps. Darent Valley Landscape Partnership were looking to firm up proposals for the project. The consortium was looking into setting up a website to cover the Darent Valley covering businesses and tourism which would cost around £1000 to set up with parishes being asked to contribute. There was a discussion about travellers and their drives through the villages. It was indicated that these would probably continue. Farningham PC were meeting with Kent Highways to discuss a possible roundabout at the junction with the A20 and Eynsford councillors would be invited to participate.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

g) Budget Meeting

Councillors were reminded that the budget meeting would take place on Wednesday 23rd November at 7.30pm.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

h) Village Hall Development Update

Mr Ward briefed the council on recent progress. Mr Ward, Mrs Boyle and Mr Cooke had had an initial meeting from which it was agreed that - the relationship with Eynsford Village Hall needs to be equal; the council needs to consult the wider community before plans are made. The council and the trustees need to make the hall the best it can be for the future. Mr Richardson was awaiting confirmation from the architects about what Sevenoaks District Council required in terms of planning. A meeting had been planned with a representative from Actions for Communities in Rural Kent to discuss the implications of building a hall on parish council land.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

i) Annual Review of Clerks' Salaries

Councillors were informed that they are required to review the Clerks' salaries annually. They were informed that Mrs Ivaldi's annual review date is August and Ms Morgan's annual review date is November. They had been combined for ease. Both Clerks last received an uplift in April 2016 due to NALC's National Salary Award for 2016 – 18. Mrs Ivaldi is currently on point 33 (£29,033 pro rata) and Ms Morgan is on point 30 (£26,556 pro rata).

RESOLVED: That the payment arrangements for the Clerks remain unchanged at present.

8134 PLANNING

a) Planning Committee 7th November 2016

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

SE/16/02532/FUL – Land North West of 1 Parsonage House, High Street, Eynsford – REFUSED.

c) Tree Work Application SE/16/03392/WTCA – Mulberry Cottage, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors were informed about this application for various work to trees. They were told that the tree wardens had responded to Sevenoaks District Council saying that further information and a detailed plan of works was required.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8135 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) LED Street Light Installation

Councillors were asked to reconsider the installation of LED street lights now that the prices for dimmers had been received. At the meeting on 20th October councillors had been told that the cost of installation of LEDs with dusk to dawn sensors would be £14, 296 (minute 8126b). To install dimmer switches would cost £70 per gear tray – around £5,000 extra. This would take the cost over budget.

RESOLVED: That LED lights are installed as described in minute 8126b. That dimmer switches are not installed.

8136 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Community & Environment Committee 7th November 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) Police Report

No report was available.

c) Donation Request – Anthony Roper Primary School

Councillors were asked to consider a request for funding from Anthony Roper Primary School towards new playground equipment. Details had been provided of the budget, the need and the costs of the project. The PTA were awaiting the results of a grant application.

RESOLVED: That the request is reconsidered once the result of the grant application is known.

At this point, 9.03pm, the meeting was opened up for public questions. (See Appendix Q). The meeting resumed at 9.10pm.

d) Donation Request – Riverside Players

Councillors were asked to consider a request for funding from Riverside Players towards the cost of a new costume pod. £800 (10% of the cost) had been requested.

RESOLVED: That Riverside Players are asked for more information about the project including details of budgets, funding and what other grants had been sought. That once this information has been received, the request is reconsidered.

e) Donation Request – School Run Safety Campaign

Councillors were asked to consider a request for funding from the School Run Safety Campaign towards new high visibility jackets for reception children. Fifty new jackets would cost around £100.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £50 is made from the School Run Safety Campaign budget.

8137 RECREATION

a) Allotment Management

Mr Cooke gave an update on recent work regarding allotment management. He had organised five work parties to cut back trees and shrubs around boundaries and where allotments had become overgrown. Following inspections in June and then September, one allotment holder was given notice to quit as no work had been carried out on his plot. Mr Cooke had arranged for the use of a skip in collaboration with a local builder for a ‘junk amnesty’ which helped allotment holders to clear up their plots and dispose of unwanted items. Mrs Ivaldi said that she would send a letter of thanks to Mr Bulford. One plot is particularly overgrown with substantial saplings and Mr Cooke said that he intended to give notice to cut these down, but he did not know if it would be possible to remove the roots.

RESOLVED: That a thank you letter is sent to Mr Bulford for use of the skip. That a letter is sent to the allotment holder before the trees on their plot are removed. That Mr Cooke is thanked for all of his hard work.

b) Open Spaces Meeting

Mr Cooke reported that he had attended a meeting at Sevenoaks District Council about open spaces within Sevenoaks parishes including leisure and recreation facilities. Mr Cooke had written up a report about the open spaces following this meeting. An outside company had been commissioned to undertake a survey of playing fields to feed into Sevenoaks District Council’s 15 year plan. They would be visiting Harrow Meadow on 24th November.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Beekeeping at Castlefield Allotments

Councillors had been informed that an allotment holder had requested permission to keep bees on his allotment. Mrs Ivaldi had requested advice from the Beekeepers Association, but was still waiting to hear back from them. Councillors had a short discussion about possible siting of a hive and any risks.

RESOLVED: That more research is carried out and advice sought before a decision is made.

d) Water Leak at Common Meadow

Councillors were told that the Clerk had contacted Thames Water after a concern was raised over low water pressure at Common Meadow. It was thought this might have been connected to the filling of a hole outside the history archive some months ago. The Thames Water engineer believes there is a leak along the pipe which supplies Riverside Club, the archive building and the

cricket pavilion, and as this is a private road, it may be the parish council's responsibility to repair it. Thames Water will investigate where a leak may be.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted

The meeting of the council closed at 9.45 pm

Chairman: 15th December 2016