

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on Thursday 21st November 2019, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.

8525 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr M Barker
Mrs S Boyle
Mr A Cooke
Mrs T Durrant
Mrs f Haxby
Mr G Kirby
Mr M Richardson

Other Officials Present

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8526 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr P Ward

8527 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mrs Durrant reminded councillors that the next surgery would be held on Saturday 30th November. Mrs Durrant thanked Mr Ward for representing the council on Remembrance Sunday and also thanked Mrs Boyle for chairing the previous meeting of the council.

8528 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi reminded members of the budget meeting to be held on 28th November at 7.30pm.

8529 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Co-option of a Parish Councillor

Councillors were invited to co-opt a councillor to fill the casual vacancy. Two candidates Mr M Barker and Mrs D Mahon stood for election and a paper ballot was held.

Mr Barker was welcomed and asked to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED: That Mr Barker is elected as a member of the council. That Mrs Mahon was thanked for her interest.

c) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 17th October 2019 were presented for approval.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record and that the recommendations are approved.

d) Finance Notes

The clerk submitted a list of accounts, and a budget report, for October 2019, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented.

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

e) Outstanding Actions

Mr Kirby to bring costs of improving the current office kitchen to a meeting:
Mr Kirby and Mr Cooke agreed to work together on options for this.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

f) Repair to the Office Door

Councillors were told that a quote had been received to repair the office door which kept on sticking. The quote from Locum Locks to remove and plane the door, rehang, adjust the locks and replace the electric door release was £165 + VAT.

RESOLVED: That the quote from Locum Locks for £165 + VAT is accepted, and paid from the Office Running Costs budget.

g) Noticeboard Policy

Councillors were asked to agree a policy regarding the use of parish council noticeboards in the village.

RESOLVED: That a policy is written including the following conditions: Permission is given for notices to be pinned to these boards in the following priority:

1. Parish Council
2. Eynsford & Farningham Village Organisations
3. Charity/Community Events taking place in the surrounding area

Strictly no business adverts

Posters must be attached with drawing pins, and not staples; Posters must be removed when the event is over; A4 or A5 notices can be used for one off events or notices; people are asked to use A5 for ongoing notices; people are asked not to advertise events more than 2 months in advance, due to space restrictions; that the parish council may remove any notices without warning.

Mr Barker left during this item at 8.20pm due to a previous commitment.

8530 PLANNING

a) Planning Committee 4th November 2019

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 4th November 2019 and to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are approved, and the recommendations accepted.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

None

c) Tree Work Application SE/19/03025/WTCA- Furlongs Farm, Riverside, Eynsford

Councillors were informed that an application had been submitted for pollarding willow trees. The Tree Wardens had been consulted, and no objection has been lodged.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Tree Work Application SE/19/03081/WTPO – The Rectory, Pollyhaugh, Eynsford

Councillors were informed that an application had been submitted to reduce 4 sycamore trees. The Tree Wardens had been consulted, and the application had been granted.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Tree Work Application SE/19/03050/WTCA – 5 Parsonage Bank

Councillors were informed that an application had been submitted for felling a sycamore tree. The Tree Wardens had been consulted, and the application is pending decision.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

f) Tree Work Application SE/19/03117/WTCA – Boyne House, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors were informed that an application had been submitted for various works to trees. The Tree Wardens had been consulted, and the application is pending decision.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8531 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Highways & Transportation Committee 4th November 2019

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Highways & Transportation Committee meeting held on 4th November 2019 and to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are approved, and the recommendations accepted.

b) Castlefield Car Park Access Road

Councillors were told that quotes had been sought for work to resurface the access road to Castlefield car park and the section in front of the gate. However, only one quote had been received.

RESOLVED: That Mr Richardson works with Ms Morgan to get one or more quotes for the work.

c) National Transport and Highways Surveys 2019/20

Councillors were informed about six National Highways and Transport Network online surveys about: accessibility; roads maintenance; public transport; road safety; tackling congestion and walking and cycling. The surveys are available online via KCC consultations.

RESOLVED: That the link is re-sent to councillors and that councillors complete the surveys independently.

8532 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Community & Environment Committee 4th November 2019

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th November 2019 and to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are approved, and the recommendations accepted.

b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk had found the following crime figures for September 2019

- 1 x Anti-social Behaviour – Lullingstone Country Park
- 1 x Violence/Sexual Offence – Lullingstone Roman Villa
- 1 x Burglary – Lullingstone Roman Villa
- 2 x Other Theft – Lullingstone Roman Villa
- 2 x Violence/Sexual Offence – Saddlers Park
- 1 x Public Order Offence – Ford House Car Park
- 1 x Burglary – Crockenhill Lane

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Tree to the rear of 4 Bank Cottages

Councillors were informed that two quotes had been received to remove the fire-damaged sycamore tree to the rear of 4 Bank Cottages. The tree is on land owned by the parish council and removal of the tree had been recommended by the Tree Warden and Tree Surgeon. The quotes for removal, leaving a stump were: Bartlett Tree Experts £2495 + VAT and Aspen Tree Care £975 (no VAT).

RESOLVED: That the owners of 1 Fernbank are asked for their insurance details. That the council's insurers are contacted to make a claim if possible. That the quote from Aspen Tree Care is accepted in principle, and the work is carried out if insurance is not available or conditions do not stipulate otherwise.

d) National Community Energy Campaign

The council had been approached by a group called Power for People to support the Local Electricity Bill to make it easier for community groups to sell the energy that they generate to local people. This is currently difficult due to prohibitive costs. The Bill would establish a Right to Local Supply making the cost of selling locally generated energy proportionate. The council is asked to pass a motion and/or sign up to the campaign.

RESOLVED: That the parish council agrees in principle with the proposal. That Mr Richardson writes a simpler resolution which will be shared with Power for People.

e) Lights of Love Donation

Councillors were asked to consider giving a donation towards a Christmas tree to be put in St Martin's church for the Lights of Love festival. The cost would be £30.

RESOLVED: That a tree is sponsored at £30 from the Ad Hoc donations budget. That Mrs Ivaldi provides some decorations.

8533 RECREATION

a) Recreation Committee 4th November 2019

Councillors were asked to approve the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on 4th November 2019 and to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are approved, and the recommendations accepted.

b) Electrical Works at Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms

Councillors were told that quotes from ATI Systems had been received for the following works at the changing rooms which had been identified in a recent electrical inspection:

Replacement of fluorescent light with LED strips in the home changing room

Replacement of fluorescent light with LED strips in home showers

Replacement of fluorescent light with LED strips in the away changing room

Replacement of fluorescent light with LED strips in away showers

Replacement of faulty timer switch unit for under bench heaters.

£562.00

RESOLVED: That the quote for the works is accepted. That Mr Regan is also asked to quote for the remaining works identified in the report as it may cost less for both sets of work to be done concurrently.

At this point, 8.58pm, the meeting was paused for questions from members of the public (see Appendix Q). The meeting resumed at 9.04pm.

c) Consultation on Police Powers in relation to Unauthorised Encampments

Councillors were told that the government is consulting on measures to criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales.

They would also like to consult on what an alternative approach to this could be:

- amending section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to permit the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas
- amending sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to increase the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from 3 months to 12 months
- amending section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to lower the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised from six to two or more vehicles
- amending section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to enable the police to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway.

The council was asked to answer the questions in the consultation document which they did during the meeting. The council was largely supported of the proposed changes to the bill.

RESOLVED: That the responses are submitted to the survey.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.51pm

Chairperson: 19th December 2019