

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 17th December 2020, via an online video-conferencing session, at 8pm.

8666 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr M Barker
Mrs S Boyle
Mr A Cooke
Mrs W Gee
Mrs F Haxby
Mr G Kirby
Mr M Richardson
Mr P Ward (Chairperson)

Others Present

Mr K Baker (Tree Warden), Mr J Gee (Tree Warden), Mr R Gough (County Councillor) ()

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8667 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr A Cheeseman (District Councillor)

8668 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward mentioned a data breach with CPRE and reminded councillors to be careful with their digital security. He noted that the person who delivers the newsletter is unable to continue so a new person will need to be recruited. Mr Ward thanked everyone for their efforts during 2020 and the pandemic and hoped that things would go back to some form of normality in 2021.

8669 CLERK'S COMMENTS

The Clerk noted that the office would be closed for most of the Christmas period.

8670 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 19th November 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 November 2020, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented. There were a couple of queries which will be looked into.

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

d) Outstanding Actions

May 2020 – Pursue listing of the Lucy Box on the High Street – Mr Kirby has reported that he has made some progress on this and is waiting for a response from UKPN for the ownership to be handed over to the parish council. Meanwhile, there is a provisional listing.

May 2020 – Group TPO Lullingstone Lane – The application has been resubmitted to Sevenoaks District Council but a response is still awaited.

RESOLVED: That the above actions are pursued.

e) Budget and Precept for 2021/2022

Councillors were asked to approve the proposed budget for 2021/22 and the precept request of £83,392.00 to put forward to Sevenoaks District Council.

RESOLVED: That the budget is approved and the precept of £83,392.00 is made to Sevenoaks District Council.

f) Henry Cox Charity Update

Mr Richardson had taken over as Trustee to the charity for Eynsford and gave an update. £1340 was withdrawn from the account to be distributed in sums of £20 to widows in Eynsford and Crockenhill along with a covering letter.

RESOLVED: That Mr Richardson finds out how the beneficiaries are identified.

8671 **PLANNING**

a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Planning Committee meeting held on 7th December 2020, and to accept the recommendations made.

RESOLVED: That, subject to adding Mrs Gee as being present, the report is approved and that the recommendations are accepted.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

SE/20/02949/HOUSE – 23 Old Mill Close, Eynsford - GRANTED

c) Tree Work Application SE/20/03517/WTCA– October Cottage, Station Road, Eynsford

Councillors were informed of an application to reduce the crown of a beech tree by 2 – 2.5m.

The Tree Wardens were present and said that they had no objections and that they would feed back their comments to Sevenoaks District Council.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8672 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Highways & Transportation Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Highways & Transportation Committee meeting held on 7th December 2020, and to accept the recommendations made.

RESOLVED: That, subject to adding Mrs Gee and Mr Baker as being present, the report is approved and that the recommendations are accepted.

8673 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Community & Environment Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 7th December 2020, and to accept the recommendations made.

RESOLVED: That, subject to adding Mrs Gee as being present, the report is approved and that the recommendations are accepted.

b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics for October 2020:
13 crimes were reported, as follows

Lullingstone Park – 1 x other theft
Castle Road – 1 x ASB
Lullingstone Castle – 1 x violence/sexual offence
Eynsford Station – 1 x public order
Birch Close – 1 x criminal damage/arson
Saddlers Park – 1 x ASB, 1 x violence/sexual offence
Station Road – 1 x criminal damage/arson
Knights Field – 1 x violence/sexual offence
Mill Lane – 1 x public order
Bower Lane – 1 x public order
Upper Austin Lodge Road – 2 x criminal damage/arson

In addition a newsletter from the police noted that there had been some burglaries to outbuildings in the village and that people should ensure that they are secure.

Councillors suggested a meeting with the police, possibly inviting a representative to the next consortium meeting.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Donation to Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

Following a request for further information, councillors consider a request for funding towards a mobile scanner to be used to scan documents and photos in the archive centre and people's homes. The total cost was £300 and Farningham Parish Council had promised £150.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £150 is made from the Donations budget (Section 137).

d) Donation to National Search and Rescue Dog Association (NSARDA)

Councillors were asked to consider a request for a donation from NSARDA for their search and rescue work in Kent.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £50 is made from the Donations budget (Section 137).

e) 2020 Annual Policing Survey

Councillors were asked to complete the annual survey sent out by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner about policing priorities. The survey was completed online and submitted during the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

At this point, 9.04pm, the meeting opened up to questions from members of the public (see Appendix Q). Mr Gough had joined the meeting during the previous item. And left at the end of the public questions. The meeting resumed at 9.15pm.

f) CCTV Working Group

Councillors were asked to discuss a report setting out the findings and recommendations of the CCTV Working Group that had been put together by Mrs Haxby. The group had discussed the various issues that had occurred on Riverside during lockdown as well as crime figures more widely. They had looked into different CCTV options and costs. They had been in contact with Farningham Parish Council, but they had decided not to pursue CCTV for now. The group concluded that installing CCTV at Riverside would not be appropriate. Also that a crime awareness programme is set up involving the local PCSO with regular updates. (The full report is attached). Mr Ward thanked Mrs Haxby and the group for their work on this project.

RESOLVED: That a meeting is set up with several members of the public and Cllr Cheeseman to discuss the contents of the report and possible ways forward to help residents feel safe and secure.

8674 **RECREATION**

a) New Memorial Bench

Councillors were asked to consider a request for a memorial bench in the village, ideally close to the river. There was a discussion about possible sites for a bench.

RESOLVED: That a position on the roadway to the waterworks off Lullingstone Lane is suggested, subject to permission from the landowner. That the person making the request is informed of relevant costs etc so that they can make a decision.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.50pm

Chairperson: 21st January 2021