

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 21st January 2021, via an online video-conferencing session, at 8pm.

8675 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 J Gee (Tree Warden), Mr A Cheeseman (Sevenoaks District Councillor), Mr R Gough (County Councillor) 9pm – 9.15pm.

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8676 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

8677 CHAIR'S REMARKS

None

8678 CLERK'S COMMENTS

None

8679 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 17th December 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 December 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. Mrs Ivaldi said that she had sent a reminder email this week.

July 2020 – Plant a memorial tree for Eric Syddique – Mr Gee reported that he has had to find an alternative tree due to problems obtaining the type originally specified. He is in touch with a local supplier.

October 2020 – A225 50mph Speed Limit Proposal – Mr Kirby will write an agenda item for the next agenda.

RESOLVED: That the above actions are pursued.

e) Office Energy Assessment

Councillors considered two quotes to carry out an energy assessment of the parish office to see where improvements can be made to ensure and carbon emissions are minimised.

RESOLVED: That Bennett's Building Certificates are asked to carry out the assessment for £100. (Parish Office Running Costs).

f) Changes to the Standing Orders

Councillors were asked to approve changes to the Standing Orders designed to enable the changes to the committee structure and powers. Five committees will be created: Planning; Highways & Transportation; Community; Open Spaces and Facilities & Environment.

RESOLVED: That the changes to the Standing Orders and accepted and the new Standing Orders are approved to be implemented at the February Committee Meeting.

g) Financial Schedules

Councillors were asked to agree to a suggestion that questions relating to the financial schedules are put to the Clerks in advance of the meeting where possible so that answers can be researched in time for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That, where possible, questions relating to the financial reports are emailed to the Clerks by the Monday before the meeting to ensure that answers are available.

h) Budget Format 2021-22

Councillors were talked through changes to how the council's budget was presented. Expenditure lines which contained rolling funds/reserves were separated into two lines. An additional column was created so that expenditure items could be allocated to specific committees.

RESOLVED: Councillors were largely supportive of the new format but requested that the expected annual expenditure be separated from the rolling/reserved funds into separate columns and brought back to another meeting.

At this point, 9.04pm, the meeting opened up to questions from the public (Appendix Q).
The meeting resumed at 9.26pm.

8680 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 4th January 2021, and to accept the recommendations made.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved and that the recommendations are accepted.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

None

c) Planning Application SE/20/03746/LDCPR – 35 Pollyhaugh, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for roof extensions on each side of the property.

RESOLVED: That no objections are made.

d) Planning Application SE/20/03740/LDCPR -White House, Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the erection of an outbuilding.

RESOLVED: That no objections are made.

e) Planning Application SE/20/03735/FUL- Bower House, Bower Lane, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the erection of two new dwellings with allocated parking in the rear premises of Bower House with demolition of the existing garage and shed.

RESOLVED: That councillors object to the application for the following reasons: The height of the new dwellings and their raised position relative to the properties on the High Street will have an unacceptable overbearing aspect; The height of the development will harm the visual aspect when viewed from the adjoining Green Belt land; The council considers the proposal as an overdevelopment of a sensitive area of the village and Conservation Area.

f) Village Hall Consultation

Mr Ward suggested that, as the parish council is proposing to dispose of land for the new hall and football pitch, it would be good practice for the council to consult with parishioners. Councillors were asked to consider how and when a consultation should take place.

There was a discussion about this, and it was thought that a leaflet drop in addition to an online consultation would be best.

RESOLVED: That a working group consisting of Mr Ward, Mr Richardson, Mr Cooke, Mrs Haxby and Mrs Ivaldi is set up to discuss this further and to bring back a proposal to another meeting.

8681 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 4th January 2021, and to accept the recommendations made.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved and that the recommendations are accepted.

b) Footpath along Sparepenny Lane

A member of the public had reported pinch points on the footpath parallel to Sparepenny Lane were in a bad state of repair. In particular the steps going down to the footpath at the Eynsford end and the gates either side of Nine Hole Wood.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk checks the condition of the path and reports any issues to the Kent Public Rights of Way team.

8682 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 4th January 2021, and to accept the recommendations made.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved and that the recommendations are accepted.

b) Police/Crime Report

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

Station Road	1 x Vehicle Crime
Saddlers Park	1 x Vehicle Crime
Pollyhaugh	1 x Other Theft
Knights Field	3 x Criminal Damage/Arson
	2 x Anti-Social Behaviour
Sparepenny Lane	1 x Violence/Sexual Offence.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) KALC Community Award

Councillors were asked to vote for someone to receive the Community Award for 2021 from those nominated by members of the public.

RESOLVED: That Christine Whitton receives the award for her work collecting litter throughout the parish.

d) Anthony Roper Primary School – Funding for Home Learning

Councillors were asked to consider offering to help Anthony Roper Primary School in providing suitable IT equipment for children learning from home.

RESOLVED: That the school is approached to find out what support, if any they need, whether financial, or in accessing refurbished devices.

e) CCTV/Crime Meeting

Mrs Haxby reported to the council on the recent meeting off the CCTV/Crime Working Group which had invited concerned members of the public to attend. Only Cllr Cheeseman had attended from outside the Working Group. He had been supportive and offered to help with issues around litter and recycling and also parking. Others who had not attended were also given a chance to comment on the report.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

f) Tree Planting at Common Meadow

Councillors were asked to discuss replacing the dead trees that were removed behind the archive centre, and any other possible tree planting at Common Meadow. There was a discussion about where trees could be planted in this area and what species would work best.

RESOLVED: That Mr Barker and Mr Gee (Tree Warden) have a look at Common Meadow and the last Tree Survey to identify potential planting sites suitable species. That details are brought to another meeting.

g) New Footpath

Mr Barker presented the idea of a new footpath put forward by the Green Team to run from the bottom of Nine Hole Wood across the river to Millfield. Mr Kirby said that Darent Valley Landscape Partnership were already looking at a footpath from Nine Hole Wood across to Eynsford Castle. There was a discussion about the different options.

RESOLVED: That Mr Barker takes this project back to the Green Team to progress in liaison with the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership.

h) Green Team Update

Mr Barker gave an update on the recent meeting of the Green Team. This included the results of the survey which had an 11% response rate. The results were generally positive with many offers of help. The group is continuing to look at electric vehicle charging points. After contact from the parish council, the farm manager of Wested Farm has agreed to plant additional hedging along the track between Crockenhill Lane and Hulberry. A letter was written to Sevenoaks District Council about recycling bins and the Refill scheme was being launched in the village. Mr Barker also said that the group was developing a 10 year plan and strategy and look at measuring pollution and carbon levels in the parish.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8683 RECREATION

a) Report and Recommendations of the Last Recreation Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Recreation Committee meeting held on 4th January 2021, and to accept the recommendations made.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved and that the recommendations are accepted.

The meeting of the council closed at 10.48pm

Chairperson: 18th February 2021