

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 19th November 2020, via an online video-conferencing session, at 8pm.

8659 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 R Gough (County Councillor) (8.55pm – 9.02pm).

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8660 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr A Cheeseman (District Councillor)

8661 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward thanked Mrs Boyle for laying the flowers on Remembrance Sunday. Mr Ward thanked Ms Morgan and Mr Cooke for organising and installing the new fridge and microwave for the parish office. He also thanked Mrs Haxby for organising a leaf clearing session for three young people who wished to volunteer. Mr Ward asked councillors to ensure that details of candidates for the casual vacancy were removed from their devices in line with GDPR legislation.

8662 CLERK'S COMMENTS

The Clerk reported that the internet and phone line were now work and that the printer had been reset to work with the new internet connection. Also, that the newsletters had been printed and were out for delivery.

8663 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8663h as Chair of the Village Hall Trustees.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 15th October 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 October 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 – Sevenoaks District Council have requested that the request is re-submitted and the Clerk will do this.

RESOLVED: That the above actions are pursued.

e) Christmas Bonus

Councillors were asked to consider a proposal to give the Clerks a £200 bonus each in recognition of the extra work undertaken during the Covid-19 crisis.

RESOLVED: That a bonus of £200 each is paid to Mrs Ivaldi and Ms Morgan in the December payroll.

f) Changes to Committee Functions & Structures

Mr Ward told councillors that he had discussed the proposals further with Mrs Gee and Mrs Ivaldi and had updated the proposal. Councillors discussed this further.

RESOLVED: That the following is broadly agreed:

That five committees will be formed as follows – Planning; Highways & Transportation; Community; Open Spaces; and Amenities & Environment.

That each committee will have the power to make non-financial decisions in line with the remit of that committee. That each line of the council's budget will be allocated to a particular committee (or full council). That each committee will have the power to make financial decisions within the set budget for any given line item within its remit. That any proposed spend over £1500 must be referred to the full council for approval. That any proposed spend above the allocated budget must be referred to the full council for approval. That only councillors may vote on matters involving spend. That any item may be referred to the full council at the discretion of the committee chair. That the Clerk makes amendments to the Standing Orders and (if necessary) the Financial Regulations to reflect these changes, and that these amendments are brought back to the council for approval.

g) Budget Meeting

Councillors were informed that the budget meeting to discuss the budget for 2021/22 would be held on 3rd December at 7.30pm via Zoom. Councillors were asked to bring any project/spending ideas to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

h) Village Hall Update

Mr Cooke and Mr Richardson gave an update on progress with the village hall project. There was still no decision on the planning application for the existing hall site despite requests from the architect and resubmission of the designs. Also, there had been no clarification from the Planning Officer about what was required or not in terms of a legal agreement linking the two projects. There was concern that fundraising time was being limited by this, as it was eight months since permission had been given on the new site.

Mr Ward said that he had been in contact with Jane Laird, an ex property solicitor, who was willing to help with work on the lease and the disposal of land in relation to the project. This proposal was supported by those present.

Mr Ward suggested starting work on the land swap and the disposal of land. Mr Cooke wished to meet with the Agrostis to clarify the details of the land swap.

Mr Richardson asked about whether a public meeting was required. Mrs Ivaldi confirmed that it was not required, but that public consultation was considered to be good practice.

RESOLEVD: That Mrs Ivaldi contacts Jim Carrington-West (the council's lead contact at Sevenoaks District Council) about the delay to see if anything can be done. That Mr Richardson speaks to the chief architect about lack of progress.

At this point, 8.55pm, Mr Gough joined the meeting and the meeting paused for questions from the public. See Appendix Q.

The meeting resumed at 9.02pm.

8664 PLANNING

a) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

None

b) Planning Application SE/20/03086/AGRNOT– Wested Farm, Eynsford Road, Crockenhill

Councillors were informed about an application erect a reservoir to house water to irrigate the poly tunnels. The reservoir would be situated within Eynsford parish, close to the M25.

It was noted that permission was not required for this application, and that the deadline had passed, but that councillors may wish to know about it.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8665 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics for September 2020: 10 crimes were reported as follows.

Lullingstone Country Park	2 x violence/sexual offence
Nr Lullingstone Castle	1 x drugs offence
Lullingstone Roman Villa	1 x ASB
Saddlers Park	1 x criminal damage/arson
	1 x public order offence
	1 x vehicle crime
Gibsons Place	1 x ASB
Crockenhill Lane	1 x other crime

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

b) Donation to Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

Councillors were asked to consider a request for a donation from this group.

RESOLVED: That further information is sought on what support is required.

c) Donation to West Kent Mediation

Councillors were asked to consider a request for a donation from West Kent Mediation services.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £100 is made from the Donations budget (Section 137).

d) Refill Scheme

Councillors were asked to approve the setting up of a refill scheme where businesses are asked to sign up to providing free drinking water refills to members of the public. The scheme would be administered by a member of the Green Team.

RESOLVED: That the setting up of the scheme is approved. That the parish office is offered as a refill site for the programme.

e) Tree of the Year

Councillors were asked to consider setting up a Tree of the Year competition for the village. It was suggested that members of the public could nominate trees. There was a discussion about timing and promotion.

RESOLVED: That the Green Team are asked to discuss this possible scheme further.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.30pm

Chairperson: 17th December 2020

Appendix Q

Public Questions from the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council, held on Thursday 19th November 2020

At 8.55pm, the meeting was opened to questions from the public.

Mr Gough (County Councillor) said that the new leak on the High Street near the village sign had been referred to the drainage engineer Emily Kinsella.

He also said that the Loading Ban order was being pursued by Jeremy Clark at Sevenoaks District Council.

Mr Gough also asked about the possible CCTV suggested by Cllr Cheeseman. Mrs Haxby responded that there was now a working group looking at options.

Mr Gough left the meeting at this point, 9.02pm.

The public questions ended at 9.02pm.