

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

8641 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr M Barker

Mrs S Boyle

Mrs F Haxby

Mr M Richardson

Mr P Ward (Chairperson)

Others Present

Mr K Baker (Tree Warden)

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8642 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr A Cooke, Mr G Kirby, Mr A Cheeseman (District Councillor), Mr R Gough (County Councillor)

8643 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward noted that he and Mrs Haxby had attended an online meeting with Farningham Parish Council about CCTV in Farningham, in order to see how it might relate to Eynsford. A useful discussion was had.

Mr Ward confirmed that face to face chats would be held with candidates for the casual vacancy, with date and venue to be confirmed.

8644 CLERK'S COMMENTS

The Clerk noted that masks were required by anyone entering the parish office and that a poster to that effect had been put up.

8645 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 20th August 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 August 2020, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented. The Clerk agreed to circulate the accounts in a different format.

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

d) Outstanding Actions

February 2020 – Purchase new fridge and microwave for the office – This is being progressed by Ms Morgan.

May 2020 – Pursue listing of the Lucy Box on the High Street – Mr Kirby has reported that he has made some progress on this.

May 2020 – Group TPO Lullingstone Lane – The Clerk to chase SDC about this.

May 2020 – Tree Work at Common Meadow – The application has been approved by SDC.

Revised quotes to be brought to the next meeting.

June 2020 – Loading Ban Riverside. – The Clerk to chase SDC about a site meeting.

e) Clerks' Salaries

Councillors were informed that NALC had agreed new pay scales for 2020-21 to be backdated to 1 April. This would mean that, if agreed, the Clerks' salaries would increase as follows: Mrs Ivaldi – Pay scale 32 would increase from £18.08 to £18.58 per hr, and Ms Morgan – Pay scale 30 would increase from £17.09 to £17.56. The increase would be within the current budget.

RESOLVED: That the pay increases described above are approved.

f) Eleemosynary Charity of Henry Cox

Mrs Durrant informed the council that she would no longer be able to continue as Trustee to the charity. Councillors were therefore asked to appoint a replacement. Mrs Durrant had agreed to hand over relevant documents and information.

RESOLVED: That Mr Richardson takes over the role of Trustee for Eynsford to the Henry Cox Charity.

g) Annual Review

Mr Ward proposed an annual review with the aim of highlighting progress made throughout the year by the council and committees and, also identifying potential areas or new work or investment for the coming year.

RESOLVED: That Mr Ward puts forward a proposal for an annual review to be discussed at the November committee meetings.

8646 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 September 2020, and to accept the recommendations made.

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

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

SE/2002032/HOUSE – 40 Eynsford Rise, Eynsford – GRANTED

SE/20/01897/HOUSE – Little House, Crockenhill Lane, Eynsford – GRANTED

c) Planning Application SE/20/02500/AGRNOT – Bower Park Farm, Bower Lane, Eynsford

Councillors considered an application for the erection of a lean-to agricultural building at this address.

RESOLVED: That no comment is made.

d) Planning White Paper Consultation

Councillors were informed that the government is producing a White Paper to look at planning in the UK. The consultation will end on 29th October. Councillors were asked to decide how to respond. Mr Ward noted that this was an important consultation as it would change the planning system.

RESOLVED: That councillors read the proposal and consultation questions before the October committee meeting and send any initial thoughts or comments to the Clerk. That the consultation is discussed at the October Planning committee meeting, to be approved at the main meeting if necessary.

e) Tree for Eric Syddique

Councillors discussed a revised proposal from Mr Gee (Tree Warden) for a memorial tree. He suggested a Betula Lenta to be planted outside Mr Syddique's former home.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contacts Mr Syddique's estate to seek permission to plant a Betula Lenta tree outside it by the roadside. That if permission is granted, the planting should go ahead.

8647 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Highways Improvement Plan

Councillors were informed that, following contact with Kent Highways about the status of our Highways Improvement Plan, we have been informed that currently only emergency programmes and safety critical schemes are being pursued, so items on our plan are unlikely to be considered until at least March 2021.

RESOLVED: That, as the current officer at Kent Highways is retiring in October, that this item is reviewed in November 2020.

8648 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 September 2020, 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 July 2020:

Ten crimes were reported as follows:

Lullingstone Country Park – 1 x criminal damage/arson; 1 x other crime; 1 x public order

Lullingstone Lane – 1 x ASB

Ford House Car Park – 1 x violence/sexual offence

Saddlers Park – 1 x ASB; 1 x criminal damage/arson; 1 x violence/sexual offence

Knights Field – 1 x ASB

Sparepenny Lane – 1 x violence/sexual offence

In addition, the following information was received from our PCSO:

We received reports of a large group harming a duck and individuals at Riverside, Eynsford. The animal cruelty has been passed to our Rural Team and two crime reports for Common Assault have been created. Unfortunately the suspects left the area shortly after, but officers have been ensuring the area is patrolled regularly to prevent this type of behaviour. We have also been working alongside the Vulnerable Adult Officer in helping a vulnerable individual in the village. We have previously assisted them in getting the support they need, but they now feel further support is needed which is currently being put in place.

Furthermore, there is an increase in reports of obstruction where people have parked in an incosiderable way. Please be mindful of all other road users and park sensibly.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Electric Charging Points

Councillors were asked to consider match funding for the KCC electric charge-point scheme.

RESOLVED: That this is not pursued at present as we do not have suitable sites ready, or enough information.

d) Poppy Wreath

Councillors were asked to consider the purchase of a different wreath for this year's Remembrance Sunday. This was to look at a more sustainable alternative to the paper and plastic poppy wreath.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £125 is made to the Royal British Legion. That a bouquet of flowers is purchased for around £25 to lay on the war memorial.

That the Clerk writes to the British Legion to ask if they would consider making wreaths with sustainable/biodegradable materials in future.

8649 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 7th September 2020, and to accept the recommendations made.

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

b) Fireworks Display

Following a discussion at the committee meeting, councillors were asked to discuss the recommendation made by the committee. The proposal was that the fireworks organisers hold their display at Harrow Meadow but that it would not be open to the public. Councillors agreed that it would be difficult to control crowds and access to Harrow Meadow. However, the alternative site, at Eynsford Castle, would be more secure.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contacts the fireworks organisers to say that Harrow Meadow cannot be used because of the difficulty in controlling a crowd, but that the council supports an aerial display from the usual site. That the organisers are asked about how the event is being funded so that the council could consider a donation.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.24pm

Chairperson: 15th October 2020

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 6th July 2020 via Zoom (Video Conferencing) at 8:00 p.m.

Present: Mr M Barker
Mrs S Boyle
Mrs F Haxby

Non-members Present:
Mr J Gee (Tree Warden)
Mr K Baker (Tree Warden)

Clerk in Attendance:
Ms N Morgan

Apologies for Absence:
Mr M Richardson (Chair of Planning Committee)
Mr P Ward
Mr G Kirby
Mr A Cooke

In the absence of Mr Richardson, Mrs Boyle chaired the meeting

1) Declarations of Interest

None.

- 2) Tree Work Application SE/20/02325/WTCA – Elliot House, Station Road, Eynsford
Work to Leylandii in the rear garden were tabled for discussion. The Tree Warden has offered no objections.

Resolved: That the council offer no objection

3) Planning application SE/20/02295/FUL – Pollyhaugh Farm, Bower Lane, Eynsford

Plans relating to the conversion of 2 existing barns to three residential dwellings including associated alterations and ground works, provision of dwellings private amenity space and car park were tabled for discussion.

Resolved: That the council offer no objection.

4) Appeal Notification – SE/19/03427/FUL – Meadow View, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford

An Appeal has been lodged for the above planning application. Councillors agreed that they have no further comments and still stand by their original comments.

Resolved: That no further comments are made, and the council still stand by their original comments.

The meeting of the Planning Committee closed at 8:09pm

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities & Environment Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 7th September 2020 via Zoom (Video Conferencing) at 8:09 p.m.

Present: Mr K Baker
Mr M Barker
Mrs S Boyle
Mrs F Haxby (chair of Community & Environment)
Mr J Gee

Non-members Present:

Clerk in Attendance:

Ms N Morgan

Apologies for Absence:

Mr A Cooke
Mr G Kirby
Mr M Richardson
Mr P Ward

1) Declaration of Interest

None.

2) Electric Charging Points

Councillors were asked to discuss the possibility of having electric charging points within the village, and possible areas of where they could be placed. Mrs Haxby noted that KCC want to provide adequate electric vehicle charging points across the county by 2050, in line with their strategic plan to achieve carbon neutrality. Mrs Haxby noted that the project will start off as a pilot with a small number of targeted locations in Kent, these have been selected based on several criteria:

- i) Gaps in existing EV charge-point locations
- ii) Gaps in future EV charge-point plans in the local area
- iii) Population density
- iv) Air Quality Management areas
- v) Best locations to encourage EV uptake
- vi) Links to Solar arrays.

KCC have funding for the year 2020/21 to install Charge-points in Parish and Town Council locations, including Village halls. There are several charge-point types available and each can charge vehicles at different speeds. These range from a 3-pin plug or 7kW home-charge-point right up to what is called 'ultra-rapid' charging. KCC will provide funding up to £4,000 and would favour councils who can match fund. Fast charging-points cost between £2,000 and £4,000 per point. KCC would retain ownership of the charging points and deal with all maintenance. The monies raised from the charge-points would be split between KCC and the Parish Council at a split of 70% to KCC and 30% to the Parish Council. Councillors then discussed possible areas that charging points could be placed, the following were suggested;

- i) Station Car Park

- ii) Ford Car Park
- iii) the old reserved spaces at the railway station
- iv) New Village Hall car park

Mrs Haxby noted that KCC scheme is going to be on going, therefore if we decided to wait until the new village hall is built, we could apply to the scheme then. It was suggested that we ask KCC the timelines for the different waves of the scheme.

Recommended: That KCC is contacted as to the time frame for the scheme and other waves of the scheme. That the item is brought back to the main meeting to discuss match funding options.

3) Poppy Wreath

We had been informed that the Royal British Legion are unable to get the Civic Wreath this year. Councillors were asked to discuss other wreath options.

Recommended: That a different wreath is purchased through the Royal British Legion, and the time is brought back to the main meeting to agree which wreath to purchase.

The meeting of the Community & Environment Committee closed at 8:31pm

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 7th September 2020 via Zoom (Video Conferencing) at 8:31 p.m.

Present: Mr K Baker
Mr M Barker
Mrs S Boyle
Mrs F Haxby
Mr J Gee

Non-members Present:

Clerk in Attendance:
Ms N Morgan

Apologies for Absence:
Mr A Cooke (Chair of Recreation)
Mr G Kirby
Mr M Richardson
Mr P Ward

In the absence of Mr Cooke, Mrs Boyle Chaired the meeting

1) Declarations of Interest

None.

2) Fireworks at Harrow Meadow

Councillors were asked to consider a request from the fireworks organisers to stage the fireworks at Harrow Meadow for a different type of bonfire night. Tickets would not be on sale, there would be no bonfire, and people would watch from their own homes, the streets or local pubs. The organisers feel that Harrow Meadow is more central and a higher than the castle site, so may be easier to see for more people. Councillors were asked to consider this proposal and discuss possible issues, such as football clubs, neighbours and people still attending and not social distancing. Councillors agreed that it was a lovely idea in theory, however they were unsure how it would be managed. It was noted that people would still attend even if not open to the public and people would congregate in the streets with no social distancing. Councillors agreed that in the current climate with Covid-19 it would be inappropriate to prompt the fireworks and inappropriate for the council to allow the event to go on, on their land. Councillors agreed that it would not be an appropriate idea this year, many things have had to be postponed due to Covid-19 and the fireworks should be postponed until next year.

Recommended: that the council prefers not to host the fireworks at Harrow Meadow, that it would be inappropriate to hold the fireworks display at all in the current climate with Covid-19 social distance rules. That the councillors in attendance wished for the item to be brought back to the main meeting to allow the full council's vote.

The meeting of the Recreation Committee closed at 8:43pm