

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 16th December 2021, at the Olive Seal Hall, Pollyhaugh, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.

8813 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr M Barker
Mrs S Boyle
Mr A Cooke
Mrs F Haxby
Mr M Richardson
Mr P Ward

Others Present

Mr R Gough (County Councillor) 9pm – 9.20pm.

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8814 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs W Gee, Mr J Gee (Tree Warden)

8815 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Ward said that, as it was the last meeting of the year, he wanted to thank all the councillors, clerks and other committee members for their work in this difficult year, and for everything that had been achieved despite the challenges. He noted that Mr Kirby had now resigned from the council, so there was a vacancy.

8816 CLERK'S COMMENTS

The Clerk noted that it was likely that there would be few, if any, items for the January committee meeting, and due to staff annual leave, an early decision on whether to hold one would be needed. It was agreed to decide by 21st December whether or not to hold the committee meeting.

8817 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 18th November 2021 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 and November 2021, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented.

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

d) Outstanding Actions

Mrs Haxby said she would be working on listing the Lucy Box in the new year.

Mr Richardson reported on the Henry Cox Eleemosynary Charity. He said that Rev Dorothy removes people from the list that have died and adds on those that she knows have been widowed. Each recipient receives £20 a year.

There was no update from Mr Baker about planting trees at Millfield.

Mrs Ivaldi said that costs of installing an air source heat pump would range from £8000 - £17000 and that she was seeking quotes.

e) Budget for 2022-2023

Councillors were asked to agree the draft budget for 2022/23 which had been discussed at a budgeting meeting.

RESOLVED: That the budget for 2022/23 is approved (Appendix B) and that a precept of £85,893.70 is requested from Sevenoaks District Council.

f) Quarterly Newsletter

Councillors were asked to suggest articles for inclusion in the next Parish News due out in January 2022.

RESOLVED: That the following articles are included:

Highways Improvement Plan – Mr Richardson

Casual Vacancy – Mrs Ivaldi

Tree Planting at Common Meadow and Lullingstone – Mr Barker

Village Hall Project – Mr Cooke

Improvements at Riverside and Common Meadow – Mr Ward

That articles are submitted to the Clerk by 10th January.

g) Casual Vacancy

Councillors were informed that Mr Kirby had resigned due to his move away from Eynsford.

Sevenoaks District Council had been duly informed and notices had been put up giving residents the option to call an election for the post. If an election has not been called by 30th December the council must fill the vacancy by co-option. Councillors were asked to agree how to proceed if this is the case.

RESOLVED: That if no election is called, that the vacancy is advertised in the parish newsletter and through other suitable channels with a deadline of mid February (exact date tbc). The applicants would then be interviewed by members of the council before a co-option is made.

h) Mr Kirby's Projects

Councillors were asked to decide who would take on the various projects and committees in which Mr Kirby was representing the council.

RESOLVED: That Mr Barker takes over on the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership; that Mr Richardson takes over on the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership; that Mrs Haxby attends the Sevenoaks Kent Association of Local Council meetings. A new chair of the Highways & Transportation committee would be elected at the next meeting of that committee. That the Clerk requests any updates on the above projects from Mr Kirby.

8818 **PLANNING**

a) Report of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th December 2021.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

21/02913HOUSE & 21/02914/LBCALT – Park House, Bower Lane, Eynsford – GRANTED
21/02002/FUL – The Bungalow, Park House Farm. Bower Lane, Eynsford – REFUSED
21/02845/HOUSE – 53 Eynsford Rise, Eynsford – GRANTED

c) Planning Application SE/21/03783/HOUSE -Old Manse, High Street, Eynsford.

Councillors discussed an application for alterations to elevations with cladding additions, and revisions and internal alteration to the existing layout.

RESOLVED: That councillors object to this application, specifically the velux windows on the schoolroom facing the street, as these are out of keeping with the character of the building. Councillors feel that dormer windows would be more in keeping with the age and character of the building and the streetscene.

8819 **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

a) Report of the Last Highways & Transportation Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Highways & Transportation Committee meeting held on 6th December 2021.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Damaged Streetlight

Councillors were given costs of replacing the streetlight that had been damaged by a car on the High Street as follows: UKPN connection cost £1,076 + Vat (estimated) plus £1,000 + Vat (estimated) for traffic lights.

Streetlights – cost of replacing column and lamp £1,175 + Vat.

Total estimated cost £3251 + VAT

RESOLVED: That the council approve up to £4000 + VAT expenditure to replace the street light once formal quotations have been received. That the funding is taken from the Street light and Contingency budgets. That DVLA is chased for details of the driver of the car involved in the accident so that costs can be claimed from them.

8820 COMMUNITY

a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community Committee meeting held on 6th December 2021.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics for October 2021:
8 crimes were reported, as follows:

Bower Lane	3 x Other Crimes
Pollyhaugh	1 x Violence/Sexual Offence
Riverside	1 x Vehicle Crime
Riverside (Furlongs Rd)	1 x Burglary
Walnut Close	1 Criminal Damage/Arson
	1 x Violence/Sexual Offence

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Donation to the Trident Magazine

Councillors were asked to consider a donation towards the costs of producing the Trident magazine.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £50 is made.

d) Churchyard Maintenance Donation – Eynsford Baptist Church

Councillors were asked to consider donating towards the costs of ground maintenance at Eynsford Baptist Church.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £250 is made.

e) Churchyard Maintenance Donation – St Martin's Church

Councillors were asked to consider donating towards the costs of ground maintenance at St Martin's Church.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £700 is made.

8821 OPEN SPACES

a) Report of the Last Open Spaces Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 6th December 2021.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Village Hall/Football Pitch Project

Councillors had previously agreed in principle to commence works in September 2022, however, the Agrostis recommends starting the work in May/June. Councillors were asked to approve a new start date of mid June.

RESOLVED: That councillors agree to the new start date of mid June, in principle, subjects to costs of the groundworks and legal agreements with the landowners.

At this point, 9.05pm, the meeting was paused for questions from the public (see Appendix Q). The meeting resumed at 9.20pm.

c) Hedge Line at Harrow Meadow

Councillors were asked to discuss whether a work party could be formed to remove the hedge row at the junction of Harrow Meadow and the farmer's field before the 1st March to avoid disturbing nesting birds. They were also asked to discuss the removal of an ash tree in this location.

RESOLVED: That the hedgerow is removed before 1st March subject to the agreement with the Alexanders being in place. That Mr Cooke checks to see if the Ash tree needs to be removed for work to commence or whether it might be included in the ground works contract. That Mr Cooke also checks with the farmer regarding access for the tree surgeon from the field side. That is this work is necessary, the quote of £820 from Callum Smith is accepted to remove the ash tree to be taken from the Village Hall Project budget.

d) Tenders for Ground Works at Harrow Meadow

Councillors were asked to agree to commissioning the Agrostis to seek tenders for the football pitch project at Harrow Meadow at the cost of £275 + VAT.

RESOLVED: That Tim Lodge, Agrostis is commissioned to seek tenders for the football pitch project at Harrow Meadow for the fee of £275 + VAT from the Village Hall Project budget.

e) Kissing Gate at Common Meadow

Quotes for the work were not available, so this item was deferred until the next suitable meeting.

8822 **FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT**

a) Report of the Last Facilities & Environment Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Facilities & Environment Committee meeting held on 6th December 2021.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Village Noticeboard

Councillors were asked to consider quotes to replace the noticeboard at Ford House car park. One quote was £1150 for a handmade replacement. Noticeboards available to order start at around £600.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk finds out if CIL money could be used to pay for the noticeboard. That more details of other options are brought back to another meeting.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.49 p.m

Chairperson: 20th January 2022

Appendix Q

Public Questions from the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council, held on Thursday 16th December 2021.

At 9.05pm, the meeting was opened to questions from the public.

Mr Gough reported on various items. He apologised for the delay in setting up a meeting with Shoreham PC about the change to the speed limit on the A225.

Mr Gough agreed to check with Whitney Gwillam (KCC) about any updates on Eynsford's HIP, in particular with relation to yellow line requests and the sign at the ford.

Mr Ward asked Mr Gough about the recent bus service consultation and any benefits to Eynsford. Mr Gough explained that KCC had put in a bid to government for various improvements to services, but that it was unlikely that they would get everything they had asked for. However, as Eynsford is not on a main route, there are unlikely to be any particular changes. There were also lots of pressures on the council regarding adult and children's social services. Mr Gough said that the Go2 (on demand service) was not currently free for bus pass holders except where it replaces the only bus service to a particular place.

The public questions ended at 9.20pm.