

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 17th February 2022, at the Olive Seal Hall, Pollyhaugh, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.

8833 PRESENT

Members Present

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

Others Present

Five members of the public: Mr Gee, Mr Baker, Mrs Penney, Mr Glass and Mr Cheeseman (District Councillor).

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8834 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr R Gough (County Councillor)

8835 CHAIR'S REMARKS

None.

8836 CLERK'S COMMENTS

None.

8837 GOVERNANCE

a) Casual Vacancy

Councillors were informed that one application had been received just before the deadline. Councillors discussed how to proceed with filling the vacancy.

RESOLVED: That the deadline is extended until 14th March to allow more people to apply for the position with a view to making a co-option at the meeting on March 17th.

b) Declarations of Interest

Mr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 8837h, I & j relating to Eynsford Village Hall.

c) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 20th January 2022 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.

d) Finance Notes

The clerk submitted a list of accounts, and a budget report, for January 2022, as per Appendix A. A schedule of payments was also presented.

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

e) Outstanding Actions

Mr Baker gave an update on plans for Millfield. These included planting 3 oak trees in the bottom left hand corner and adding in more trees/hedging to the hedge alongside the river. Mrs Ivaldi had requested two further quotes for installing an air source heat pump.

f) Contain Outbreak Management Fund

The council were asked to approve the grant request for extra expenditure totalling £759.13 incurred in running remote and socially distanced meetings.

RESOLVED: That the grant request of £759.13 is approved.

g) Bank Accounts

Councillors were informed that the Clerk is not able set up an appointment to open an account with Barclays until at least April 2022. It was suggested that an account is set up with NatWest where there is not a waiting time.

RESOLVED: That a savings account is set up with Natwest instead of Barclays.

h) Village Hall Update

Mr Cooke gave an update on the village hall project. The Agrostis has contacted six contractors to tender for the football pitch work with a deadline of 11 March. He will provide a shortlist. The archaeological desk study will have to be completed before any work can start. There will also need to be a practical investigation that will take around 4 days, but the production of reports and approval by SDC will take longer. This will affect when work can start. Mr Cooke had had a Teams meeting with the architect and structural engineer and they are progressing with the stage 1 design/specification for the hall. A principal designer will be appointed who will also deal with Health and Safety aspects of the project. Mr Cooke had had two meetings with potential developers about the existing site and the new site. Building costs have increased so it is unclear how much can be achieved from the sale of the site. A work party is planned for 20th February to remove the hedge line at Harrow Meadow before the nesting season.

A response has now been received from Sevenoaks District Council about conditions on the planning application. Reports on drainage, archaeology and biodiversity are needed before work can start.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

i) New Village Hall – Archaeological Survey

Councillors were asked to approve an archaeological desk study to take place before the football pitch works start. The cost will be £900 + VAT.

RESOLVED: That the archaeological desk study is commissioned at £900 + VAT from the Village Hall fund.

j) New Village Hall – Legal Cost for Lane Swap

Councillors were asked to agree cost for the legal work on the land swap. A quote had been received from Bishop Akers of £1000 - £1200. However, it was noted that there may be additional costs for 'land registry compliant plans'.

RESOLVED: That up to £1200 for legal costs is approved to come from the Village Hall Associated Fees budget.

k) Annual Parish Meeting

Councillors were asked to decide on a date for the annual parish meeting and to discuss its format.

RESOLVED: That the annual parish meeting is held on 22nd April in the village hall. That short reports are given by committee chairs, but that others are not invited to set up stalls this year.

l) Future Parish Council Meetings

Councillors were asked to decide whether or not to remove meetings back to the parish office.

RESOLVED: That March meetings are held in halls and that this is reviewed in a month.

8838 PLANNING

a) Report of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7th February 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

21/04129/HOUSE– The Bungalow, Park House Farm, Eynsford – GRANTED

21/04027/MMA – Oakdene, Station Road, Eynsford – GRANTED

21/04063/HOUSE – 59 Pollyhaugh, Eynsford – GRANTED

21/04061/HOUSE – Chestnut Rise, Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford - GRANTED

c) Planning Application 22/00290/HOUSE -Applegarth, Priory Lane, Eynsford.

Councillors discussed an application for the erection of two storey extensions to both sides and rear of property with canopies to the North-East side and front. Erection of chimney to the South-West side and Juliet balconies to the rear. Alterations to the fenestration.

RESOLVED: That councillors object to this application as it does not respect the character of the existing building due to its size and bulk, and bearing in mind its location in the AONB and with the Green Belt within the curtilage of the property. This is in accordance with the SDC residential extensions supplementary planning document.

At this point, 8.35pm, the meeting opened up to questions from members of the public.
The meeting resumed at 8.49pm.

8839 **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 7th February 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

8840 **COMMUNITY**

a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community Committee meeting held on 7th February 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Police/Crime Report

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

Eynsford Rise	1 x Burglary
Pollyhaugh	1 x Criminal Damage/Arson
Riverside	1 x Anti Social Behaviour

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Family Fun Days

Councillors were informed that family fun days had been booked for 4th April at Eynsford Village Hall and 15th August at Anthony Roper Primary School. Any help from councillors would be welcome.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Bringing Back Old World Charm to Eynsford

Mrs Haxby outlined ideas she had had to make improvements to the centre of Eynsford and to celebrate its heritage. Suggestions included: restoring the Lucy box, restoring the memorial fountain, finger post signs (like the new ones in Otford) to direct people to sites of interest in the village, hanging signs for shops, more seating and maybe planters at Riverside, 'blue plaques' commemorating people/places of interest.

RESOLVED: That councillors send in any ideas to Mrs Haxby. That this is discussed again in the future once a clearer plan is in place.

8841 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 7th February 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Electricity Contract at Harrow Meadow

Councillors were asked to decide whether to agree to a fixed rate electricity contract for when the current contract ends in October. Further details were provided included prices and length of contracts.

RESOLVED: That the council agrees to take out a 3 year electricity contract for Harrow Meadow with EDF (standing charge 23.25p/day; rate 28.27p/kwh).

8842 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 7th February 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Tree Planting at Lullingstone

Councillors discussed the revised plan for planting an acrostic of trees at Lullingstone near to the 'chicken tree' spelling out SAVE THE PLANET. The Alexanders had indicated a smaller site for planting that would not obstruct their vehicles. Mr Gee reported that the trees would still fit within the smaller space. There was a discussion about the types of trees and spacing.

RESOLVED: That the revised plan is sent to the Alexanders for approval. That Mr Gee also suggests a position for planting a replacement sycamore near to the 'chicken tree'.

c) New Litter Bins

Councillors discussed the positioning of two potential new litter bins. These would cost £500 + VAT each including installation.

RESOLVED: That two new litter bins are ordered from Seveonaks District Council to be situated on the Priory Lane side of the grass triangle there and near to the bench by Lullingstone viaduct, subject to gaining permission from the Alexanders. That this is taken from the Recreation General budget.

The meeting ended at 9.32pm.

Chairperson: 7th March 2022

Appendix Q

Public Questions from the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council, held on Thursday 17th February 2022.

At 8.35pm, the meeting was opened to questions from the public.

Mr Cheeseman said that Riverside Watch were looking for ideas for funding. Mr Kirby had mentioned possible sources at a previous meeting. Mr Cheeseman was asked to send in more details so that the council can suggest possible funding sources.

Mr Cheeseman was also in discussion with Mr S Alexander about the application for change or use/rebuilding the savoy seed shed at Furlongs Farm. There were some differences of opinion with the Planning Officer.

Mr Cheeseman left at this point, 8.42pm

Mr Baker said that the scouts were looking to install a defibrillator outside the scout hall, and that maybe there could be a collaboration with the parish council. Those present thought this would be a good idea and awaited further information.

Mr Gee asked whether permission had been granted to remove the hedge at Harrow Meadow. It was confirmed that this was covered in the planning application and that confirmation had been sought from the Arboricultural Officer at Sevenoaks District Council.

The public questions ended at 8.49 pm.