

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on
Thursday 16th April 2015, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.**

7923 PRESENT

Members Present

Mrs S Boyle (Chair)

Dr J Harris

Mr M Richardson

Mr N Rodway

Mr C Stanyon

Mr P Ward

Other Officials Present

Mr M Horwood (District Councillor)

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

7924 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs A Cornwell

Mrs T Durrant

Mr R Gough (County Councillor) (attended via conference 'phone from 9pm – 9.18pm).

PSCO Tim Darling

Mr S Armstrong (Community Warden)

7925 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mrs Boyle reminded councillors that the next surgery session would be on Saturday 25th April from 9am -11am. Mrs Boyle reminded those that are standing for the election (uncontested) that they need to submit expenses forms, even if the figures are nil.

7926 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi thanked the three councillors – Mr Stanyon, Dr Harris and Mr Rodway who were not standing for re-election – for their time and service to the council, 56 years in all!

Mrs Ivaldi noted that the fun day run in the village hall during the Easter holidays had gone well and was well attended.

7927 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 7928c as Chairman of the Village Hall trustees.

Mr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 7930c as Chairman of the Village Hall trustees.

Dr Harris declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 7928c as a Village Hall trustee.

Dr Harris declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 7930c as a Village Hall trustee.
Mrs Boyle declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 7930d as a member of the Public Art committee.

b) Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the last full council meeting, held on 19th March 2015, were presented for approval.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record, and that the recommendations are approved.

c) Finance Notes

The clerk submitted a list of accounts, and a budget report, for March 2015, as per Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the accounts are approved and payments made.

d) Outstanding Actions

Councillors discussed items listed that had been outstanding for three months or more.

- Pedestrian gate for the scout hall – Clerk to obtain some quotes for this.

RESOLVED: That all of the remaining outstanding actions are pursued.

e) May Committee Meeting

Councillors discussed whether or not to hold the May Committee meeting due to its proximity to the election. Mrs Boyle and Mr Ward said they would not be available for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the meeting goes ahead as planned.

f) Membership of Kent Association of Local Councils

Councillors were asked to decide whether to renew their subscription to Kent Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED: That the subscription is renewed at the cost of £603.76 + VAT.

g) Sevenoaks District/Parish Charter

Councillors were informed that Sevenoaks District Council had drawn up a draft charter describing the relationship between the District Council and Town & Parish Councils. The Clerk would be finding out more on this at the next Clerks' meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk reports back after the Clerks' meeting and finds out in particular whether it would be tailored to individual parishes, and the larger councils' opinions on it.

h) Membership of Action with Communities in Rural Kent

Councillors were asked to renew their membership of Action with Communities in Rural Kent.

RESOLVED: That membership is renewed at the cost of £35 from Regular Donations budget (section 137).

i) Clerks' Training

Councillors were asked whether to pay for the clerks to continue with their training by completing the CILCA portfolio at a cost of £250 each.

RESOLVED: That the council pay for the clerks to complete the CILCA portfolio at a cost of £250 each from the Clerks' Training budget.

7928 PLANNINGa) Planning Committee 7th April 2015

Minutes of the above meeting were circulated to all councillors for approval, as per Appendix B.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record, and that the recommendations are approved.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusals Received from Sevenoaks District Council

SE/15/00088/HOUSE – 9 Birch Close, Eynsford – GRANTED

SE/15/00253/HOUSE – Aston Lea, Station Road, Eynsford – GRANTED

c) Village Hall Update

Mr Richardson, in his role as Chairman of Eynsford Village Hall Trustees, gave an update on the current position regarding the rebuild or refurbishment of Eynsford Village Hall. He said that they were unlikely to be able to raise enough funds to rebuild on the current site, and to repair the existing hall would cost over £500K. The trustees were now looking at the option of Harrow Meadow as a site for a new hall. This would allow them to raise money from the sale of the old hall for development. The trustees would be setting up a meeting with Sevenoaks District Council to discuss this in theory as Harrow Meadow is in the Metropolitan Green Belt. If a new building was likely to be allowed, the parish council would be consulted formally on the proposal.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Protection of the Green Belt

Councillors were informed that a response had been received from Sevenoaks District Council following a question posed about the protection of the Green Belt from development due to new projects in the Thames Gateway such as the Paramount development. Mr Alan Dyer from Sevenoaks District Council had made clear that the council's current policies protected the Green Belt.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted. That a letter is also sent to Mr Fallon, as agreed at the committee meeting on 7th April.

e) Unauthorised Tree Work

Councillors were informed that there had been two recently reported incidents of unauthorised tree work in the village. One was the pruning of a Birch Tree at Church Walk (Conservation Area) and the other, the damage to a tree protected by a TPO at the entrance to Little Mote Road. Sevenoaks District Council had contacted the landowners in both instances.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

7929 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Highways & Transportation Committee 7th April 2015

Minutes of the above meeting were circulated to all councillors for approval, as per Appendix c.

RESOLVED: That, subject to adding the following to the recommendation on item 2 ‘That we ask Arriva whether the route of the 308 goes through Eynsford’, the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record, and that the recommendations are approved.

b) Footpath at Bower Lane

Following a previous discussion, a request had been put it to Kent County Council for a footpath/pavement between Harrow Meadow and Knights Field on Bower Lane. Kent County Council had responded to say that as there were no recorded incidents at this location, there was unlikely to be any action on this.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted. That parishioners are asked to record any incidents on any roads or paths in the village to the police and Kent County Council via our next newsletter.

c) Relining of Castlefield Car Park

Councillors were asked to consider quotes for the re-lining of Castlefield Car Park. However only one quote had been received so this item was deferred until another meeting when three quotes are available.

d) Warning Sign for Harrow Meadow Playground

Councillors were informed that Kent County Council had provided a quote of £150 for supplying a triangular warning sign with the word ‘Playground’ underneath to be installed on the redundant post alongside the wall of Fountain Court.

RESOLVED: That subject to Mr Richardson checking the positioning of the post, that sign is ordered at a cost of £150 from Contingency.

7930 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT**a) Community & Transportation Committee 2nd March 2015**

Minutes of the above meeting were circulated to all councillors for approval, as per Appendix D.

RESOLVED: That subject to the insertion of the word ‘currently’ in item 3 after the word ‘land’, the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record, and that the recommendations are approved.

b) Police Report

PCSO Darling had provided the following information about recent incidents in Eynsford:
Report of an abandoned vehicle at Fountain Court was investigated and was found not to be abandoned;

Theft of a 4x4 vehicle at Station Road, keys not taken;

Nuisance motorbikes seen on Crockenhill Lane.

PCSO Darling had set up public engagement meetings every month to be held outside Raffertys. The next one would be on 29th April.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Donation Request – Eynsford Garden Safari

Councillors were asked to consider a request for a donation towards the Eynsford Garden Safari to be held on 28th June. Proceeds would be going towards the village hall, the Gardeners Club and other charities. The request was for £300, with an expected income of around £5000.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £150 is made to the Garden Safari from Ad Hoc Donations (Section 137).

d) Donation Request – Eynsford Public Art Trail

Councillors were asked to consider a donation request for £500 from Eynsford Village Society for their Public Art Trail.

RESOLVED: That no donation is made until firmer plans are in place following a public consultation, at which point the council will reconsider the request.

Mr Gough joined by conference phone during the above item at 9pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.05pm for questions from members of the public.

The meeting resumed at 9.18pm at which point Mr Gough ended his call.

e) Dog Bin, Sparepenny Lane

Councillors were asked to consider a request for the installation for one or two dog bins on Sparepenny Lane.

RESOLVED: That this item is brought back to another meeting with full costings.

f) Darent Valley Landscape Partnership

Mrs Boyle reported back on a recent meeting of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership which she and Mrs Durrant had attended. The project manager has been allocated £125k to put together a full proposal with Samuel Palmer as the central figure. Mrs Boyle said that Eynsford Castle and Lullingstone Castle were included in the plans.

RESOLVED: That Chalkhurst and Hartnip Woods are put forward to be considered under the Woodland Management section. That the document is circulated to all councillors. That the project manager is asked to have a meeting with the council.

7931 RECREATION

a) Recreation Committee 7th April 2015

Minutes of the above meeting were circulated to all councillors for approval, as per Appendix E.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record, and that the recommendations are approved.

b) Water Testing at Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms

Councillors were asked to agree to a contract for water testing at Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms for the coming year, following the receipt of three quotations.

RESOLVED: That the quote from Bayly is accepted at a cost of £514 + VAT for the year.

c) Works at Castlefield Allotments

Councillors were informed that the Clerk had authorised the following works at the allotments: the removal of broken branches from a shed roof costing £65 and the repair of the fence at the entrance to the allotments costing £65.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

d) Request for a Fence at Castlefield Allotments

Councillors were informed that an allotment holder had requested permission to erect a fence around their plot.

RESOLVED: That permission is granted for a picket fence to be erected, no higher than 2ft, and that access to footpaths and walkways is maintained for other plot holders.

e) Request to use Common Meadow

Councillors were asked to consider a request from Darent Valley Youth Music to use Common Meadow for an outdoor concert on Sunday 5th July from 6pm-9pm. Parking would not be required on the field.

RESOLVED: That permission is granted, subject to all music ending by 9pm prompt, and the meadow being left in a good condition.

f) Membership of Kent County Playing Fields Association

Councillors were asked to approve renewal of our subscription to Kent County Playing Fields Association at a cost of £20.

RESOLVED: That the membership is renewed at a cost of £20 (Regular Donations, Section 137).

The meeting of the council closed at 9.40 pm

Chairman: 21st May 2015