

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019



6pm - 9pm, Thursday 28th March 2019
St Martin's Church, Eynsford

MEET YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

- Find out what we do
- Ask Questions
- Give us your Views
- Share your Concerns

MEET OTHER AGENCIES

- Find out how they can help
- Ask about their services
- Get advice

www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk



Winter News 2019

from
EYNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Winter newsletter from Eynsford Parish Council.

Happy New Year!

This newsletter contains a range of articles from, the Elections, which will be held on May 2019, our recent Budget meeting, in which the council set the budget for 2019/2020 and the precept for the next financial year, information about free trees to plant, the village hall, and more.

Do consider standing for election to the parish council, it's a great way to help to shape and influence changes and improvements in our village.

You will also find articles from some of the clubs/ groups in the village, giving you a little more information on what is happening in your village. If you run a group or club and would like to write an article for our newsletter, please get in touch via e-mail info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

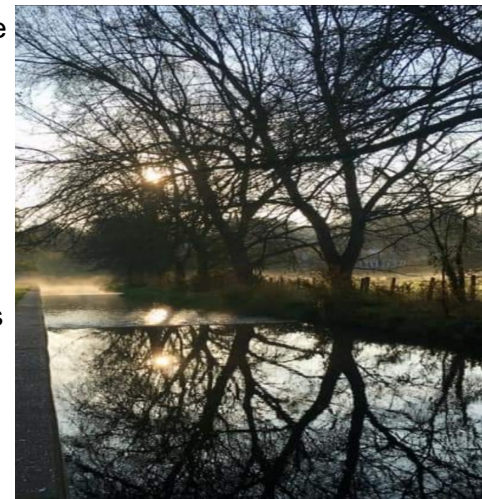


Photo by Naomi Morgan

Naomi Morgan - Deputy Clerk

Eynsford Parish Council, Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY; 01322 865320; info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Find 'Eynsford Parish Council' on Facebook and Twitter.
www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Elections: Will You Stand?

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk

On 2nd May 2019 the local elections will take place in England. Parish council elections take place every four years where members of the community are elected to represent their locality.

There are eight councillors on Eynsford Parish Council. If more than eight candidates are nominated and go forward for election, there will be a vote at the polling station. If eight or fewer stand, then they will be automatically elected.

Would you like to make a difference in Eynsford, improve the quality of life and well-being of the community, and give residents a voice?

Do you feel that you are represented by the parish council? If not, then why not stand and make your views heard?



The work of the parish council includes:

- Commenting on planning and tree work applications in Eynsford
- Commenting on local and national planning policy
- Commenting on local and county highways initiatives
- Looking after Eynsford's streetlights
- Looking after Eynsford's recreation areas
- Managing Castlefield Allotments
- Working with Kent Highways on highways issues
- Working with Sevenoaks District Council on parking, amenity services and more
- Working with the police to tackle local crime
- Supporting the community, local groups and charities
- Providing information and advice to residents

Eynsford Parish Council usually meets on the first Monday and third

Annual Parish Meeting – 2019

Naomi Morgan, Deputy Clerk

This year, the council have decided to hold its Annual Parish Meeting, at **St Martin's Church on Thursday 28th March 2019 between 6 and 9pm.**

The council hope that a change in venue and day may bring in those that have been unable to attend the event on Friday evenings.

This is your chance to find out what YOUR Parish Council has been doing over the past year, what we do to support our community and how we could help you.

As well as Councillors, we will be inviting representatives from different agencies that serve Eynsford and you can find out how they can help you and others. Other organisations that have attended in the past have included, Kent Wildlife Trust, Kent Fire & Rescue, Kent Air Ambulance, Age Concern, Kent Police, Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council, Community Wardens, to name but a few.

Also during the evening, we will be presenting our Community Award. This is an award for a person or group who has made a significant contribution to our community and this year the person nominated is Sally Coston, Chair of Eynsford Village Society, but also involved in a number of other organisations in the village. We hope to write more about Sally's contribution in a future issue.



The Annual Parish Meeting, is a free pop in event, come for the whole evening or stay for 10 minutes, it is a great way to see what is happening in YOUR community.

There will also be free light refreshments available and a glass of wine or a cup of tea, which ever you prefer.

We are now looking to put them put to good use, ideally accessible to the public although not necessarily. The only pre-requisite is that they should be installed permanently in the village. Current suggestions are as a feature in a new village hall or an art installation.

If you have a view or an idea how we can best use them we would be very happy to hear from you. In the meantime we look forward to the completion of the new development on the Institute Cottage site and a new period in its history.

140 Years Young and Still Going Strong – it's party time!

Jason Bleasdale, Chairman, EGC.

In 1879 the good people of Eynsford banded together to form the Eynsford Horticultural Society, a name that was thankfully changed later to the friendlier, Eynsford Gardeners' Club. The aim was to bring together gardeners and allotment holders from in and around the village, young and old alike, to enjoy four shows a year where they could pit their skills as growers against each other.



While I can't say just how serious they took the competition then, I can say that now we take a pretty relaxed attitude to the shows, with inclusion and fun being our main priority. This year, the 15th of June to be precise, we will be celebrating our 140th birthday with the grand undertaking of taking our Summer Show on tour, all the way from the village hall to the cricket ground (Common Meadow) where we will have roses galore, flowers abundant, fun and frolics (although we might have to limit the latter), games, food and even a bar! We are planning to include other clubs and groups from around the village to come and join us for the fun and possibly even manage to raise a little money!

So, if you, or your organisation, fancy joining us or having a stall, please contact us at eynsford_gc@yahoo.co.uk or through our website www.egclub.org.

Thursday of each month for an evening meeting and councillors are expected to attend where possible.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, then contact the parish office or speak to one of our parish councillors to find out what is involved.

If you wish to stand you must be 18 years old or above, a local government elector, live or work in the parish or live within three miles of the parish. You must complete and submit your nomination forms to Sevenoaks District Council by the closing date.



The role is voluntary, but you may claim reasonable expense. All councillors are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct and to complete a Register of Interests.

Important Dates:

Publication of the Notice of Election (by Sevenoaks District Council) by 26th March

Delivery of nomination papers (by Candidates to Sevenoaks District Council) by 4pm, 3rd April

Publication of Statement of persons nominated by 4pm, 4th April (by Sevenoaks District Council)
If there are any alterations, these will be published subsequently.

Polling Day 2nd May

For any further help or advice contact the Clerk on info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk or 01322 865320 or the Electoral team at Sevenoaks District Council.

We hope you will consider joining the parish council, we are friendly and keen to make our village a better place for everyone!

Tree Planting in Eynsford

Holly Ivaldi, Clerk & Ken Baker, Tree Warden

Trees play an important part of our street scene and surrounding countryside in Eynsford and the Darent Valley, and as a parish council we are keen to preserve and continue this tradition. Did you know that there are a few Tree Acrostics around the village?

In 1897 Elliott Downs Till introduced 'Arbor Day' to Eynsford to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Trees were planted acrostically around the school (now Fountain Court), the common name initial letters spelt out "My son be wise". There have been many plantings since then, but we have also lost many trees in the village.



We are very grateful to have received a donation of a number of three years old 3ft saplings ready for planting. These cannot all be placed on parish council land so we are eager to hear from both landowners and members of the public who might be able to put them to good use.

The trees are 7 Oak, 8 Beech (can be used for hedging), 6 Silver Birch, 6 Service trees, about 40 Hawthorn (good for hedging), 20 Rowan/Mountain Ash. 3 Wych Elms and 3 Twisted Willows. They all come with rabbit protectors and stakes. These are all native trees and grow well in our area.

If you think you could plant one or more on your land, please get in touch. Maybe you have had to remove a damaged or diseased tree and would like to replace it?

The saplings are free, but you would be responsible for the watering through the first couple of years and any costs of planting.

If you would like advice on the best tree for your space, get in touch with one of our Tree Wardens – Ken Baker 07788 667016 kenbb43@hotmail.com or John Gee eynsfordtreewarden@gmail.com.

Institute Cottage –Historic Cast Iron Support Columns Saved!

Cllr Phil Ward

You will probably be aware that Institute Cottage, to the front of Eynsford Village Hall is no more... The cottage, empty for many years, was in a dilapidated condition and could not have been economically refurbished, so sadly it has been demolished. In its place will be a new cottage, sympathetic in design to Institute Cottage and the location, but built to modern standards; it will be a welcome addition to the village housing stock.

Institute Cottage had many uses in its past, including as a doctors surgery, drill hall, boxing club, basket making, and lastly as accommodation for the village hall caretaker. Previously owned by the EVH trustees it was sold to provide funding for a new or refurbished village hall. That money is now secure and part of the funding for the ongoing village hall project.

One of the interesting features of the old Institute Cottage was six cast iron support columns. These columns are about 7 feet long, not particularly decorative and best described as utilitarian, but they do have a local link being cast at Gibson's Foundry on a neighbouring site (Gibson's Court). Those who have engaged in a little alcohol induced pole dancing in the Five Bells (you know who you are) will be familiar with the type of column...



The Parish Council considered, given the historical link, that it would be beneficial to try and save them for the village, so approached the developer to see if they could be salvaged. To their credit, the developer kindly offered them to the Council and they have now been secured for the community.

Community Speed Watch

Cllr Theresa Durrant

We are pleased to advise that following the Speed Watch training in November, and a slight hiccup with equipment, the Community Speed Watch Campaign is now full steam ahead.

Whilst there was a fantastic turnout of volunteers who took part in the training we are still looking for volunteers from Eynsford, as there are currently only three, to help support the program and ensure that our efforts to reduce speed through the two villages is successful.

It's probably fair to assume that there are many people in the community who have the misconception that Speed Watch is a few vigilantes in high-viz trying to dictate to other.



Let me assure you this is not the case. The Community Speed Watch team from Kent Police are very emphatic that Speed Watch campaigns are about education. Many of us jump into our cars, our thoughts on the day ahead, and because we are familiar with the roads our speed creeps up. Statistics from RoSPA showed that last year, 59.8% of fatal accidents occurred on rural roads, compared to urban roads, which is why our small group of volunteers want to do their bit, and hopefully save a family from receiving a dreaded knock on the door...

If the thought of long boring training sessions is putting you off, we can assure you that whilst the online training is fairly involved, it is incredibly informative and should only take between 30-40 minutes to complete. You will then be given further training by one of the group operators to make sure you are comfortable with using the equipment and recording vehicle details. Sessions are organised by the team, so we can do as much or as little as we want, but the only way the campaign won't work is if we choose to do nothing!

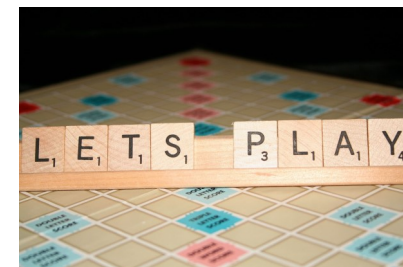
Please contact either Eynsford or Farningham Parish Council to register your interest.

Tuesday Club

Ken Baker

Like Socialising?

Like minded senior citizens come and join us on most Tuesdays 2pm till 4pm in Eynsford Village Hall's Darenth Room.



Play scrabble, cards, help complete a jigsaw, or simply chat. The choice is yours, then enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with cake.

We have occasional outings, including an annual boat trip on the Medway, and Christmas lunch and party. There is a small donation of £2 towards the running costs. By the time you read this we will have lunched at Munroe's at Longfield, and after we will have shopped at Waitrose.



The Tuesday Club was founded some ten years ago, we can arrange a lift if you have difficulty getting to the hall.

If you want to volunteer to help you'd be very welcome as well.

Ken Baker 01322 863069 or Molly Copus 01322 863701

**For a large print newsletter call
01322 865320**

You, Me and Dementia

Cllr Ferne Haxby & Deputy Clerk Naomi Morgan

Following the success of the event held in November at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks, **You, Me and Dementia** is coming to Eynsford on the 27th April 2019 to raise money for the Eynsford & Farningham Dementia Café and Alzheimer's Society.



The Dementia Café plays an important part in the village giving an opportunity for those living with Dementia, their carers and friends and relatives to come together to chat, have entertainment and gain advice and help from experts who attend the Café in living with the condition.

The Café runs on kind donations from the Parish Council and fundraising to provide refreshments, hall hire and activities and You, Me and Dementia is a wonderful opportunity to provide more money to continue this valuable work.

We are proud to perform, two plays depicting life with Dementia at the event:

Chocolate Muffins, written and directed by Naomi Morgan and performed by the Riverside Youth Group. A child's perspective coping with a grandfather's decline into Dementia.

Bothered & Bewildered by Gail Young and directed by Ferne Haxby and performed by local actors. A family's journey as they lose their mum in spirit but not in body.

There are two performances of each play at a matinee and evening performance and prices include a ploughman's (matinee) and fish and chip supper (evening) with a Bar, run by the friends of the Dementia Café.

Tickets are available at £11 via ticketsource at www.ticketsource.co.uk/dementiacafe or by telephone on 07980820216.

maintenance, Riverside Fencing, Harrow Meadow changing rooms and playground equipment replacement, amongst others. A rolling fund is used to save money for a projected foreseeable high capital expenditure.

Remaining funds enable us to continue producing this newsletter, replace benches, bins, noticeboards etc. and install/empty dog bins, as well as to do tree work and planting. We employ a handyman to do running repairs and a litter warden to help keep the place tidy.

Of course much of the work done by the parish council is free, because councillors' time is free. This includes liaising with other village organisations, our parishioners, the district and county councils, other parish councils and the police; examining and commenting on all planning applications, and participating in the Darenth Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme, amongst a plethora of other things.

If you would like more information about the budget, please contact the clerk. A copy of the budget will also be put on our website www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Surgery & Meetings

The Parish Council surgery is held on the last Saturday of each month between 9am and 11am. Come along to the Parish Office to speak to a councillor about your concerns.

Our main meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month and we have committee meetings on the first Monday of the month. All meetings are open to the public and start at 8pm. Full details can be found on noticeboards and our website. We break for public questions at around 9pm.

Do pop in when the office is open to pick up bin bags, look at leaflets and magazines in the office and to ask any questions or raise any concerns! We also offer a photocopying service for a small charge.

Normal opening hours are 8.30 - 2.30 Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 - 3.00 Tuesday and Thursday.

What is in your Council Tax? Parish Council Budget 2019/20

Cllr Sarah Boyle, Chair of the Council

The parish council precept, i.e. the amount of your council tax attributable to the parish council, for 2019/2020 will be £79,763.20, an increase of £232.32, which is an increase of 3%. Of course this represents a very small proportion of your overall council tax bill, the lion's share being taken by Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire Service and Sevenoaks District Council.

Our budget for 2019/2020 includes an estimated carried forward figure from 2018/2019 of £122,979.64 (mostly made up of rolling funds), as well as an amount of projected income, at £5,524, the latter being mainly from allotment holders, Castlefield Car Park users the football clubs, that use Harrow Meadow, plus photocopying income etc. Thus, £79,763.20 (precept), plus £122,979.64 (income carried forward), plus £5,524 (other projected income), gives the parish council a total 2019/2020 budget of £208,266.84.



The main expenditure items for 2019/2020 are:

- Village Hall project £84,000.00;
- Parish Clerks' Salaries £37,000.00;
- Street Lighting (maintenance & electricity) £ 5,800.00;
- Building Maintenance (Parish office, £13,175.00;
- F&ELHS; & Harrow Meadow changing rooms)
- Parish Office running Costs £ 4,000.00; and
- Grounds Maintenance £ 3,900.00.

Our Streetlighting budget has reduced from over £12,000 to just under £6,000 in the last three years. This is due to the completion of the column replacement programme and changing the old power hungry lights for LED lighting.

Other rolling funds include those for the Castlefield Car Park

The cost of the ticket includes a Ploughman's for the Matinee performance and a Fish & Chip Supper for the evening performance.

Book early to avoid disappointment and support the local community. We look forward to seeing you there.

You, Me & Dementia

Sat 27th April 2019 1pm & Eynsford Village Hall 6:30pm

Sponsored by Vitality Home Health

**Eynsford & Farningham Dementia Cafe
and Riverside Youth Group perform:**

Chocolate Muffins

By Naomi Morgan

Bothered & Bewildered

By Gail Young

A Ploughman's Dinner is included

**A fundraiser for Eynsford & Farningham
Dementia Cafe and Alzheimer's Society**

Book Now:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dementiacafe

07980820216

ferne.haxby@yahoo.com

£11 Adult

£9 Concession



NEW VILLAGE HALL and HARROW MEADOW

Update to Eynsford Community December 2018

Cllr Alan Cooke

As you will be aware the Hall Trustees and Parish Councillors have been working on plans to provide a new hall and enhanced sporting facilities at Harrow Meadow. Aided by the requirements of various user groups, the architect has produced a set of floor plans together with elevation drawings and these were costed by the consultant quantity surveyor.

The current village hall site will be sold to help fund the new hall and indicative plans were produced for three houses. Due to this site being on the flood plain, the Environment Agency has been consulted and the ground floor accommodation will be classified as 'non inhabitable' ie used for car parking and utility rooms.

Guidance has been obtained for both sites in a pre application meeting with Sevenoaks Planning department at which the Planning Officer acknowledged the extensive amount of work already achieved in preparing the two applications. SDC made recommendations concerning both the Harrow Meadow Green Belt site and the current hall site which are being taken forward. The intention of the Trustees and Councillors was to submit a planning application in December 2018.

However, in October the committee met again to discuss funding given that the cost of the hall, car park and professional fees was estimated to be £1.77m. Realigning the football pitch is additional and a costing is being obtained. With the sale of the current hall site and the Trustees' current funds, a figure in excess of one million pounds is required. The committee concluded that this level of funding is not achievable considering community donations and grants from foundations.

It was decided therefore to put the planning application on hold, and to reduce the area of the new hall along with adjustments to the specification in order to reduce the project cost. Revised draft plans have now been received and a meeting in January will

assess these drawings and review the specification so that a third cost plan can be prepared. A decision will then be made as to whether the scheme is achievable and whether to submit formal planning applications.

This is an important project for Eynsford and assuming planning consent is obtained community financial support will be vital. The lifespan of our valuable current hall is limited due to structural issues. If new hall funding through donations and grants from foundations cannot be achieved the village eventually will be left without a hall. The fund raising programme will provide opportunities for all in the community to be associated with the new hall, from buy-a-brick to naming parts of the hall for major contributors.

The committee is seeking a volunteer from the community to help with formal fund raising activities and another person to assist in community communication as the project progresses.

Anyone interested please contact Malcolm Richardson tel: 01322 861695 or email richardsonmm@talktalk.net

Eynsford Village Hall Trustees and Eynsford Parish Councillors working for the community.

Follow us Online

Eynsford Parish Council's website is the best place for you to find useful information about the council and it's services. There are also areas dedicated to the village and community groups with the option for you to add your own events for listing. Have a look at www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter** (search for Eynsford Parish Council) where we post up to date news, share useful information . We love to hear your views and to see your pictures too. Do follow us to keep up to date! Let us know what you think and what other kind of information you would like us to share.

