

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on
Thursday 16th March 2017, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.**

8167 PRESENT

Members Present

Mrs S Boyle (Chair)
Mr A Cooke
Mrs F Haxby
Mr G Kirby
Mr M Richardson

Other Officials Present

Mr R Gough, County Councillor, (via conference phone 9.02 – 9.15pm)

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

8168 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs A Cornwell
Mrs T Durrant
Mr P Ward

8169 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mrs Boyle said that she had attended the Sevenoaks District Council meeting where the housing of Syrian refugees in Eynsford was discussed and agreed. Sevenoaks District Council would provide a support package for the refugees. The house allocated would be retained for social housing in the future. At the meeting there was lots of support, but some concerns were also raised and were dealt with and there were no strong objections.

Mrs Boyle thanked Mr Kirby for attending the Commonwealth Day ceremony on 13th March.

Mrs Boyle noted that the council surgery would be held on Saturday 25th March between 9 and 11am.

Mrs Boyle had attended the Lord Lieutenant's service at Rochester Cathedral on 14th March on behalf of the council.

Mrs Boyle had received an invitation to the Darent Valley Youth Music concert on 25th March but could not attend. Mrs Haxby agreed to attend on behalf of the council.

8170 CLERK'S COMMENTS

None.

8171 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on the 16th February 2017 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 February 2017, 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.

- Retrieval of balls at Harrow Meadow – remove from list as new goals have minimised problem.
- New notice board for Mill Lane & the allotments – Mrs Ivaldi is awaiting quotes to replace these.
- Riverside improvements – Mr Richardson agreed to speak to Mr Waring from the Environment Agency.
- Allotment Management Plan – Mr Cooke confirmed that this was in progress and would be finished soon.
- Community Plan - Mr Kirby said he had spoken to Farningham parish council and was continuing other research.
- Circulate sample Darent Valley website to councillors – The Clerk to ask Mr Shelton about this.
- Research funding into moving and levelling the football pitch – Mr Cooke had started work on this and was arranging a site meeting with the Kent Football Association.

RESOLVED: That all of the outstanding actions are pursued.

e) Debit/Credit Card

Councillors were asked to consider whether to set up a debit or credit card for the council for use by the Clerks. Ms Morgan had researched the options and reported that another bank account would need to be opened to have a debit card, but that only one signature would be required which would reduce the safeguarding of the council's finances. There were not many instances when the Clerks were required to make large purchases.

RESOLVED: That a debit or credit card account is not set up at this time.

f) Quarterly Newsletter

Councillors were asked to suggest articles for the next quarterly newsletter. Some of the articles had been previously agreed.

RESOLVED: That the following articles are included:

- Anthony Roper School PTA new play equipment (Julie Clarke)
- Ellenor Hospice article
- Swanley Volunteer Centre article
- Eynsford Village Society's Public Art Trail (Sally Coston)
- Annual Parish Meeting article
- Meet your new PCSO (PCSO Fry)
- Dementia Friendly Village (Ferne Haxby)
- Access Survey (Malcolm Richardson)
- Village Hall Project (Malcolm Richardson)
- Eynsford in Bloom (Pauline Penney)
- Flyers: Annual Parish Meeting, Art Exhibition.

g) Parish Office Door Intercom

Councillors discussed the replacement of the door opener/intercom that was now only working sporadically and was over 10 years old. Some prices and options were discussed.

RESOLVED: That Mr Richardson looks into the options further and brings back a recommendation to the next meeting.

8172 PLANNING

a) Planning Committee 6th March 2017

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/16/03730/LDCEX – Park House Farm, Bower Lane, Eynsford – REFUSED

SE/16/03913/HOUSE – 25 Saddlers Park, Eynsford – GRANTED

c) Planning Application SE/17/00454/LDCEX – Park House Farm, Bower Lane, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the use of land as a residential garden.

RESOLVED: That councillors object to this application: Councillors request that the principles preventing inappropriate development within the Green Belt are maintained when deciding this application.

d) Tree Work Application SE/17/00652/W5DAY – Foxcoombe, Station Road, Eynsford

Councillors were informed of the pollarding of this tree to approx. 5m. Although this tree was covered by a TPO and part of the acrostic, it was thought to have been damaged during the recent storm Doris, triggering this work. Former Tree Warden Mr Callahan had raised concern about the pollarding of this tree and councillors also voiced their concerns.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Village Hall Development Update

Mr Richardson gave an update on the recent meeting of the sub-committee. They had met to discuss the possible layout of the new hall at Harrow Meadow and had agreed that it would be best to incorporate new changing rooms into the hall and to demolish the old ones. The architects had looked at the plan and discussed how to locate the football pitch with two options given. The options would be priced by a quantity surveyor.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

8173 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Street Light Update

Mr Richardson gave an update on the programme to replace street light with LED bulbs. The contractor had suffered a bereavement so the process had been delayed, but the programme was expected to start in April.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

b) Street Sign at Riverside

Mr Richardson requested that this item be deferred until the next meeting when he will have had time to review.

RESOLVED: That the item is deferred until the next suitable meeting.

At this point, 8.58pm, the meeting was paused for questions from the public (see Appendix Q). Cllr Gough called in during this session between 9.02pm and 9.15pm. The meeting resumed at 9.15pm.

c) Speeding

Councillors were told of the concerns of a resident regarding speeding and the narrowness of the pavement between Oliver Crescent and Millfield. Councillors discussed various options including railings at this section.

RESOLVED: That a meeting is requested with Kent Highways to look at this area, and that Farningham Parish Council are included in discussions.

8174 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

a) Community & Environment Committee 6th March 2017

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

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

b) Police Report

None available.

c) Disabled Access Survey

Mr Richardson explained that his survey was ready to be sent out to local businesses. However, councillors discussed the proposed outcome of the survey and suggested including information about grants and training.

RESOLVED: That Mr Richardson looks into grant and training around disability access and brings back a revised version to the next meeting.

d) Donation – St Botolph’s Churchyard Maintenance

Councillors discussed a request for a donation towards the costs of churchyard maintenance at St Botolph’s Church, Lullingstone. £150 had been budgeted for this.

RESOLVED: That £150 is donation from the Churchyard Maintenance budget.

e) Donation – Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance

Councillors discussed a request for a donation towards the ongoing costs of running the Air Ambulance service.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £250 is made from the Ad Hoc Donations budget (Section 137).

f) Quotes for Noticeboards

Councillors were asked to consider quotes for work on noticeboards as follows: to clean all four glass-fronted noticeboards - £10 each; to rub down and varnish the two boards at Ford House car park £40.

RESOLVED: That the quotes to clean up the noticeboards are accepted at a total of £80 from the Recreation General budget.

8175 RECREATION

a) Grass Cutting Contracts 2017

Councillors were informed that following the last meeting the Clerk had met with Clerks from Farningham and Horton Kirby to discuss the possibility of combining forces regarding grass

cutting contracts that are currently under the KCC contract. Due to this information councillors were asked to revoke their decision to offer contract A1 as part of this would come under the KCC contract. Councillors were asked to extend the 2016 contract until decisions are made on the KCC contracts. Quotes are being sought on cuts currently falling under the KCC contract.

RESOLVED: That the decision to offer contract A1 is revoked. That contract A from 2016 is extended until a decision can be made.

b) Use of Riverside - RCCG Grace Centre Parish Church

Councillors considered a request from the RCCG Grace Centre Parish Church (which normally meets in the village hall) to use Riverside green on 27th May 2017 between 11am and 3pm for gospel music and a picnic to be open to all.

RESOLVED: That permission is granted subject to any litter being cleared away and dogs not being allowed on the grass. That the church representative is reminded that Riverside should remain accessible to other members of the public, and that they are asked about planned use of sound systems and expected number of participants.

c) Quotes for Tree Work at Castlefield Allotments

Mr Cooke had requested quotes to cut back trees on three plots on Castlefield Allotments and the following had been received: Aspen Tree Care £440 no VAT, SL Tree Care £512 + VAT, Sam Rogers Tree Care £300 + VAT.

RESOLVED: That the quote from Sam Rogers Tree Care is accepted and that upto £350 + VAT is allowed for any extra work identified.

The meeting of the council closed at 9.45 pm

Chairman: 20th April 2017