

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.**

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**7985 PRESENT**

Members Present

Mrs S Boyle (Chair)  
Mrs A Cornwell  
Mrs T Durrant  
Mrs F Haxby  
Mr G Kirby  
Mr M Richardson  
Mr P Ward

Other Officials Present

None

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

**7986 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr A Cooke  
PCSO Darling  
Mr R Gough (County Councillor)

**7987 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mrs Boyle congratulated Eynsford in Bloom for achieving a Gold Award in the South and South East in Bloom competition, and for achieving the highest marks in Kent.  
Mrs Boyle reminded members of the next Surgery to be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 9-11am. It was agreed that the budget meeting would be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8pm.

**7988 CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Mrs Ivaldi said that a report on the family fun days had received, saying that around 80 people attending each event. Mrs Ivaldi also said that she would have an update on the Code of Conduct and Disclosable Interests next month.

**7989 GOVERNANCE**

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the last full council meeting the 20<sup>th</sup> August 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 August 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.

- Mr Richardson reported that he had progressed work on the Access group and would need help from the clerks in typing up his notes.
- Mr Horwood agreed to progress the Speed Watch leaflet.
- It was agreed to get new quotes for repainting the allotment spaces only, but to include hatching as well as the wording.
- The clerk agreed to chase Mr R Baynes for a meeting with councillors about the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership project.

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

e) Next Newsletter

Councillors were asked to agree articles to include in the next quarterly newsletter, due out in October. Councillors were also asked whether to permit the inclusion of a flyer about Eynsford Village Society's Public Art Project.

**RESOLVED:** That Eynsford Village Society may include a flyer, provided that any additional costs are met by them. That Mrs Wise is asked whether there would be any extra delivery cost for this.

That the following articles are included:

Public Art Project – Mrs S Coston (Eynsford Village Society)

Neighbourhood Plans (Mr P Ward)

Family Fun Days (Mrs H Ivaldi)

Community Warden – Role etc (Mr S Armstrong)

Paramount Development (Mr G Kirby)

Tourism Working Group (Mrs T Durrant/Mrs A Cornwell)

Eynsford's Twinning (Mrs H Ivaldi/ Mrs S Boyle)

Parish Council Website (Mrs H Ivaldi)

The agreed deadline for articles was 4<sup>th</sup> October.

f) Postcode Change

Following the previous discussion about looking into changing Eynsford's postcode from DA to TN, Farningham Parish Council had agreed to form a small working party, and also requested that research is carried out into whether Button Street could also be included, as it has a BR postcode. Councillors were asked to agree members of a working group.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Kirby and Mrs Haxby represent Eynsford Parish Council on the working group. That an initial conversation is held with Farningham Parish Councillors on 7<sup>th</sup> October at the meeting in Farningham.

g) Mission Statement

Councillors were asked to consider creating a mission statement for the council. Mr Kirby explained that it would be useful for the council to have a statement about its role and aims.

**RESOLVED:** That this is discussed further at a committee meeting. That individual councillors are asked to put forward ideas of a statement, and that the clerk carries out research into whether other councillors have a mission statement.

**7990** PLANNING

a) Planning Committee 7th September 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

None

**7991** HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Street Furniture Application – Rafferty’s

Councillors were asked to consider an application for street furniture outside Rafferty’s Store, High Street, Eynsford. The application was for two tables and four chairs (as currently).

**RESOLVED:** That no objection is made.

b) Pedestrian Gate, Edwards Hall (Scout Hall)

The clerk had provided further information on costs of installing a pedestrian gate to the car park of Edwards Hall. This had been requested following discussions with the scout group about opening up the car park for school run parking, as a safety measure. Metal, full height, gates were available for around £100, however, labour, fixings, posts etc would bring up the cost to around £400. Mrs Cornwell also raised the issue of maintaining the road outside the gate and providing a safe passage, which would incur extra costs.

**RESOLVED:** That clerk looks into the costs of repairing and maintaining the access road, and checks whether or not it is owned by the parish council. That costs are brought to the budget meeting if possible.

That Kent Highways are asked about the timings of the possible safety improvements on the High Street.

That once timings are known, that councillors meet with the scout group to discuss use of the car park and the gate or alternative access.

That costs are confirmed once we are in a position to proceed.

c) Old Mill Close Street Lighting

Councillors were asked to reconsider their decision on the timing of street lighting at Old Mill Close following further information from the street lighting contractor and correspondence from a resident.

A resident had asked that street lights be kept on all night because of the amount of elderly residents in Old Mill Close. This had included a claim that there had been anti-social behaviour in the area. Neither the police nor Community Warden could find any reports of this, but an incident involving a suspicious person walking close to a house at night was reported just before the meeting.

The street lighting contractor had informed the council that the lights are controlled by photocells, and for this to be changed it would require each photocell to be replaced at a cost of £80.50 + VAT per lamp. Having two different types of photocells in the village would also increase the Meter Point Admin Numbers so the council would be billed about £18 per month extra on the energy bill. It is estimated that the electricity has reduced by some 46% since the changes to timings were made in the village as a whole. If the timings were changed in Old Mill Close, there would be a one off costs of £805 + VAT and an extra £216 per year on the energy bill, plus the extra costs of electricity (unquantified).

**RESOLVED:** That the lighting is not changed, but that crime in the area is monitored. That Mr Richardson drafts a letter with the Clerk explaining the decision. That PCSO Darling is advised of the situation and asked to make home visits as required to talk to residents about home security.

At this point, 9.04pm, the meeting was opened for questions from the public. Cllr Gough called in via conference phone at 9pm until 9.25pm. The meeting resumed at 9.39pm.

d) Salt Bin at Eynsford Rise

Councillors were asked to consider asking Kent Highways whether a new salt bin (or else the old one outside the parish office) could be placed on the junction of Eynsford Rise and Station Road.

**RESOLVED:** That Kent Highways are asked whether a new salt bin could be placed at the junction of Eynsford Rise and Station Road, as this is a dangerous junction used by residents, buses and commuters, and is not currently served by a salt bin.

**7992 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT**

a) Community & Environment Committee 7th September 2015

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

PCSO Darling had provided information on recent crimes and activity in Eynsford. This included three burglaries, one theft, a nuisance vehicle, a disturbance and a suspicious event. The next police engagement events would be outside Rafferty's on 26<sup>th</sup> September from 17.30 – 18.15 and on 13<sup>th</sup> October from 17.00 – 17.30.

A safer plates and property marking session will be held in the scout hall car park on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 4pm – 5pm.

**RESOLVED:** That the information is noted.

b) Poppy Wreath – Remembrance Day

Councillors were asked to agree on which wreath to order and on a donation to the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday.

**RESOLVED:** That £125 is donated to the Royal British Legion to include the cost of a Civic Wreath (£50) from Regular Donations (Section 137).

**7993** **RECREATION**

a) Annual Playground Inspection

Councillors were asked to look at the findings of the Annual Playground Inspection and to make any recommendations for action. Mrs Durrant reported that a few issues had been raised including repairs to the safe surfacing, looking at more signage and cutting back bushes around the entrance and the trim trail. Mrs Durrant had drawn up a list of actions for the clerks.

**RESOLVED:** That quotes are sought for the work required.

b) Allotment Holders' Handbook

Councillors were asked to approve a new handbook for allotment holders that Mrs Durrant had written. Councillors thanked Mrs Durrant for her work on this and asked that a few areas be clarified as follows: requirement to keep tidy/cultivated; insurance cover; how to dispose of chemicals safely; sub-letting; and passing on of sheds.

**RESOLVED:** That the handbook is approved subject to the clarification of the items above. That a separate account heading is created in the accounts for allotment deposits.

The meeting of the council closed at 10 pm

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Chairman: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015