

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of Eynsford, held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 8 pm.**

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**7967 PRESENT**

Members Present

Mrs S Boyle (Chair)

Mr A Cooke

Mrs A Cornwell

Mrs T Durrant

Mrs F Haxby

Mr G Kirby

Mr M Richardson

Mr P Ward

Other Officials Present

Mr R Gough (County Councillor) 9pm – 9.10pm. (Via conference call)

PCSO T Darling 8.10pm – 8.25pm

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

**7968 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr M Horwood, District Councillor

**7969 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mrs Boyle reminded members of the next Surgery to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July from 9-11 am.

**7970 CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Mrs Ivaldi mentioned that both clerks would be taking annual leave during August.

**7971 GOVERNANCE**

a) Declarations of Interest

Mrs Boyle declared a personal interest in minute 7974d as a parishioner of St Martin's Church.  
Mr Richardson declared a personal interest in minute 7972c as Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees.

b) Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the last full council meeting the 18<sup>th</sup> June 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 June 2015, as per Appendix A. The clerk was asked to check any outstanding invoices.

**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. It was noted that Neighbourhood Planning would be included on the August committee agenda and that village signs would be looked at during the annual walkabout on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

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

At this point, 8.10pm, PCSO Darling arrived and his report was taken (see minute 7974b). Mr Darling left at 8.25pm.

e) Councillor Training

Councillors were informed that Mr Kirby and Mr Cooke would be attending the Councillors Conference in July at a total cost of £144 to come from the Councillor and Clerk Training budget.

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

f) Lullingstone Liaison Group

Mr Cooke provided an update on the recent Lullingstone Liaison Group meeting. It was noted that the group would like to include Eynsford & Crockenhill Rights of Way Group in their meetings. There had been reports of Barn Owls in site and recent counts of insects including butterflies. The restaurant at the visitor centre had been struggling, but things were now improving. The new children's playground near the visitor centre would open at the end of July and the Parkrun was doing well.

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

g) Postal District

Councillors were asked to consider asking whether Eynsford could be moved from the Dartford postal district to the Sevenoaks postal district. Mr Kirby said that this would improve home and car insurance and house prices. As the sorting office is now in Maidstone for both areas, it would not affect that. There was a question about whether a change in the postcode would have any effect on school catchment areas.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillors support looking into this further. That Farningham Parish Council is asked if they would support this change, as the two parishes share a postal code. If Farningham Parish Council is supportive, that a working party is set up to pursue this further including contacting key bodies such as the school and the surgery.

h) Review of Risk Assessment

Councillors review the council's risk assessment. Mr Richardson had suggested some changes.

**RESOLVED:** That the following changes are made:

Loss of financial data – (existing safeguards) – adds “and store off site” after “regularly”.

Poor safety in the workplace – (existing safeguards) – add “and five yearly inspections of electrical installations” after “testing”.

Unsafe play equipment – (existing safeguards) – adds “named” after “undertaken by”.

Lack of effective maintenance of trees on parish owned land – (existing safeguards) – replace “trees on our land” with “trees identified to be at risk on parish council land”. Remove “survey of all trees on parish council land commissioned from the Tree Warden”.

Lack of maintenance/security of parish office building – (existing safeguards) –adds “Panic alarm button installed, with direct contact to two named councillors” at the end of the paragraph.

i) Internet Payments for Purchases

Councillors were asked to consider changing the ways that goods are purchased by the clerks who currently often use their own money to pay for internet purchases with these expenses being refunded by the council. The clerk had found out about the possibility of having a debit card. Councillors also suggested that PayPal could be an option.

**RESOLVED:** That Mrs Durrant looks into the options in more detail and reports back to a future meeting with a recommendation.

j) Binding of Minutes

The clerks had been asked to look into the costs of binding previous years' minutes, rather than storing them in ring binders. A quote received from Shaw & Sons was from £93 + VAT for a single volume full case-bound with a leather finish cloth. There are twenty years' of minutes that would need to be bound.

**RESOLVED:** That, due to the cost, - this is not pursued any further for the time being.

**7972** PLANNINGa) Planning Committee 6<sup>th</sup> July 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/15/01065/HOUSE – Chestnut Rise, Sparepenny Lane – Refused.

SE/15/1706 – Anthony Roper Primary School, High Street – Granted.

APP/G2245/D/15/3009039 – 26 Riverside – Appeal dismissed.

SE/15/01747/HOUSE – Ashely, Station Road – Invalid.

SE/15/01520/HOUSE – 61 Pollyhaugh – Refused.

At this point, 9pm, the meeting was paused for questions from members of the public. The meeting resumed at 9.17pm.

c) Village Hall Planning Update

Mr Richardson reported that he and other village hall trustees had met with Sevenoaks District Council planning officer to discuss whether it might be possible to build a new village hall at Harrow Meadow. Although difficult, due to it being part of the Green Belt, the officers gave some pointers about how to approach an application. The trustees have agreed to look at putting forward a planning application, but would need permission from the parish council to have it on parish council land.

**RESOLVED:** That a request from the Village Hall Trustees is considered at the next committee meeting, and if necessary at the following council meeting.

**7973 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

a) Revised Street Lighting Plan

This item was deferred until further information was available.

b) Relining at Castlefield Car Park

Councillors were asked to consider whether to have the lines, numbers and letters at Castlefield car park repainted. Two quotes had been received, although more had been sought. The two quotes were W Sheaf £680 + VAT, Orchman £370 + VAT. The layout of the allotment parking spaces was queried by Mrs Cornwell.

**RESOLVED:** That Mrs Cornwell and Mrs Durrant bring back a recommendation regarding the layout of the allotment spaces to another meeting, together with any revised quotes.

c) SD194, Lullingstone Lane

Councillors had met with a representative from Network Rail to discuss the proposed diversion of SD194 at Lullingstone Lane to avoid the railway crossing. Network Rail's reasons for applying for a diversion were due to the safety of the crossing. There is a poor view of the line towards Swanley when crossing from Lullingstone towards Eynsford. Train drivers are asked to sound their horns, but this is only 8 seconds before they arrive at the crossing. Mr Rick Bains (Darent Valley Landscape Partnership) had suggested some additional safety measures that could be considered by Network Rail at the crossing. Mr Kirby said that he would support a diversion of the path.

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

d) Playground Warning Sign

Councillors discussed possible alternative locations for a warning sign for motorists approaching Harrow Meadow playground. However, no suitable alternative positions could be found.

**RESOLVED:** That Kent Highways are asked to put a sign on the existing post alongside the wall of Fountain Court at a cost of £150.

**7974 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT****a) Community & Environment Committee 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

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

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

**b) Police Report**

PCSO Darling attended the meeting and provided the following information:

He had advertised various police engagement events in the village. These would mainly take place outside Rafferty's and were a good opportunity for people passing to raise any concerns.

Mr Darling had carried out speed checks in the village and the results were passed onto the police for enforcement.

Mr Darling advised that during the school sports day, several advisory notes had been put on cars that were deemed to be blocking the pavement. Many of these cars were then moved by their owners, easing the traffic flow.

Crimes reported included a van broken into behind Alton Cottages; a vehicle interfered with on Station Road and a theft of milk from Riverside.

PCSO Darling was also keeping track of incidents reported at an address at Sparepenny Lane.

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

**c) New Dog Bin, Sparepenny Lane**

Councillors considered a request to install a new dog bin at the Eynsford end of Sparepenny Lane. Cost would be £175 + Vat for the bin, £25 for installation and £1.60 per week for emptying. A suggested location was the Crockenhill Lane triangle where there is an existing post.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Kirby provides a recommendation as to a suitable location for the bin before a decision is made. That this information is brought back to another meeting.

**d) Donation for Toilet Twinning**

Councillors were asked to consider a request from St Martin's Church for twinning the parish office toilet with one in a developing country at a cost of £60. Councillors agreed that this would not be a suitable use of parish council funds, but that individuals may wish to make a personal donation.

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

**e) Donation to Victim Support**

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation to Victim Support.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £50 is made from Ad Hoc Donations, Section 137.

f) Membership of Kent Men of the Trees

Councillors were asked to continue their membership of Kent Men of the Trees at a cost of £25.

**RESOLVED:** That membership is renewed at £25 from Regular Donations, Section 137.

g) Footpath Update

Mrs Cornwell provided an update on a recent meeting held with Mr James Alexander about various footpath issues in the village. There had been discussions about access across the Alexanders' land, the extension of the footpath through the nature area and a possible route to include a footbridge from Riverside or Sparepenny Lane. It had been agreed that a map marked with the possible routes be sent to Mr Alexander to consider.

**RESOLVED:** That the marked map is brought to the next Community & Environment committee meeting before being forwarded to Mr Alexander.

**7975** **RECREATION**a) Rental of Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms

Councillors were asked to propose the rent to be charged to the football clubs for the 2015/16 season. The 2014/15 rates were £750 for Eynsford Football Club and for Riverside Wanderers, and £125 for Eynsford Youth Team. The council had also suggested providing a cleaner for the changing rooms as the current system was not working, and charging this on to the clubs.

**RESOLVED:** That Eynsford Football Club and Riverside Wanderers are each charged £780 and that Eynsford Youth Team is charged £125. That any cleaning costs are charged on to the clubs.

b) Trees on the Allotments

Councillors were informed that many trees on the allotments were in need of cutting back. Some were blocking light to the plots and others were taking over space.

**RESOLVED:** That quotes are sought to cut back the trees, and that this item is brought to a future meeting.

The meeting of the council closed at 10.28 pm

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Chairman: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015