

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 19th December 2024, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.

9253 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr A Cooke
Mrs J Laird
Mr D Naylor
Mr O Young

Others Present

Mr J Gee (Tree Warden), Mrs Pauline Penny, Mr Roger Gough (arrived 9.05pm)

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi & Mrs J Tunbridge

In the absence of Mr Robson, Mr Cooke chaired the meeting.

9254 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr J Griffiths, Mr V Robson, Mrs H Sim, Mr M Barker

9255 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Cooke wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

9256 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Ivaldi reminded councillors of the opening hours over Christmas. The office would be open as normal on Monday 23rd December and then would reopen on Thursday 2nd January. Mrs Ivaldi would work on 31st December to send out the committee agenda.

9257 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on 21st November 2024 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 November 2024 and a schedule of payments.

RESOLVED: That the accounts are approved, and that the payment schedule is approved and signed.

d) Outstanding Actions

Councillors were asked to review any outstanding actions.

Mr Cooke noted that we still need to arrange to install a speed bump on the access road. It was also noted that the previously agreed action to fill the hole at Riverside had not been carried out. Mr Gee agreed to get a post and a danger sign to put in the hole at Riverside the following day.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Street Lighting Energy Contract update

Councillors were given an update regarding the new contract with N Power. A revised figure had still not been received, but the previously provided new contract amounts were 28.51078p and 27.23604p with a standing charge of 569.099p per day, Mrs Ivaldi had questions regarding the MPANs as we were only charged for one in a recent bill and not two, however, if this correct, the estimated cost for the year would be £4320. Mrs Ivaldi confirmed that she was awaiting the reply from the broker to clarify this and the amounts.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

f) Henry Cox Charity update

Councillors were given an update by Mr Naylor regarding this Charity as the bank account had been closed by Barclays, it has assets of about 30K and Mr Naylor is looking into opening a community account as this is an unregistered charity. Mr Naylor is looking at best ways to spend the money in the future and will provide another update shortly.

RESOLVED: That the information was noted.

g) Budget 2025/26

Councillors were asked to approve the Budget for 2025/26 and the precept request of £108,882.00.

RESOLVED: That the Budget for 2025/26 and the Precept request of £108.882.00 are approved.

9258 PLANNING

a) Report of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the last Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2024.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved

b) Notifications of Planning consent / refusal

24/02348/LBCALT - Bower Farmhouse Eynsford – Granted

24/02565/LBCALT – Toll Bar Cottage 5 Riverside Eynsford - Granted

RESOLVED: That the information is noted

c) Planning Application

24/03026/HOUSE – 42 St Martins Drive, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application for the demolition of a garage, a new front extension including a basement store, to demolish a chimney and for changes to the fenestration.

RESOLVED: That the council has no objections. That the council requests that the memorial tree at the front of the property is protected whilst the work is carried out.

d) Planning Application 24/03223/WTCA – Home Farm, 3 Riverside, Eynsford

Councillors discussed an application to remove a tree. It was noted that Mr Gee (Tree Warden) had submitted his response of ‘no objections’ to the application and had spoken to Sevenoaks District Council to suggest planting two new trees on the farm.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Planning Application 24/03049/HOUSE – Greenkeepers Upper Austin Lodge Road, Eynsford

Councillors were asked to discuss an application to add additional solar panels on the rear of the roof.

RESOLVED: That the council has no objections.

f) Planning Appeal Notification – Ref 24/01193/HOUSE – Baldwin’s Cottages, Lullingstone Lane

Councillors were informed that the appeal against the refusal of planning permission has been dismissed as inappropriate development in green belt.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

g) Tree Work Application 24/03304/W5DAY – St Martin’s Church, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors were informed that the Tree Warden had supported the application to reduce all limbs to approximately 2-2.5 metres above the top of the trunk.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

h) Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mrs Ivaldi gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. She had contacted Sevenoaks District Council to inform them we would like to go ahead with a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Farningham Parish Council. A formal letter of request is required together with a map of the proposed area before Sevenoaks District Council can begin the consultation.

RESOLVED: That the wording of the letter is agreed with Farningham Parish Council with some small amendments and submitted to Sevenoaks District Council along with a map. That Mr Naylor produces a boundary map using GIS software. That more information about the proposed plan is included in the January newsletter. That the draft Terms of Reference for a Steering Group are discussed in more detail in January.

i) Pedham Place update

Mr Naylor gave an update on the recent meeting with the planning consultants Tibbards. They had asked the parish councils to give their views on the timing of the submission of their report to Sevenoaks District Council.

RESOLVED: That we support the submission of the report from Tibbards during the next stage of the consultation.

At this point, 8.34pm, the meeting was paused for questions from the public. (Appendix Q)
The meeting resumed at 8.43pm.

9259 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Report of the Last Highways & Transportation Committee Meeting.

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Highways & Transportation committee, held on 2nd December 2024.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) On Street Electric Charging

Councillors were asked to re-discuss the option of having electric charging points in the village, Kent County Council have some government funding to help increase the amount of charging points around Kent. Mr Naylor mentioned there is a KCC web app which gives potential street charging points.

RESOLVED: That the Clerks contact other parishes to see what they have done, and chase Sevenoaks District Council about installing a point in the village carpark. That Network Rail and DVCRP are asked about charging points at the station carpark. That the council re-investigates the scout hall car park and other locations.

c) Updated Highways Improvement Plan

The council's Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) had been updated with comments from Kent Highways. Councillors were asked to review this and to suggest any actions or changes.

RESOLVED: Councillors reviewed the comments from Kent Highways and agreed to prioritise items in the next agenda.

Mr Gough arrived during the above item at 9.05pm.

The meeting paused for questions from the public at 9.22pm. (See Appendix Q)
The meeting resumed at 9.33pm.

9260 COMMUNITY

a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting.

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community committee, held on 2nd December 2024.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Police & Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics. In October 6 crimes were reported as follows:

Station Road	1 x Vehicle Crime
Riverside Plough car park	1 x ASB
Gibsons Place	2 x Theft
Tower Croft	1 x Theft
Saddlers Park	1 x ASB

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) The Space

Mrs Sim was due to report on her recent visit to The Space.

RESOLVED: In the absence of Mrs Sim this was deferred.

d) Stationmaster's House, Eynsford Station

Councillors were asked for any suggestions/help as The Railway Heritage Trust (via DVCRP) has a possible opportunity to restore the Stationmaster's House, which is in a poor state of repair, to its Victorian glory. The building, formally rented to a legal firm, is owned by Arch Co, a private company. There may also be an opportunity for some or all or some of the building to be given for community use. Councillors discussed possible uses including: a meeting place for young people, a café or pop-up businesses space, the repair café or a library.

RESOLVED: that an article is written for the next newsletter to ask the people of Eynsford for their feedback on this matter and ideas for community use.

e) Usage Contract with Southeastern

Councillors were asked to agree to set up a meeting with Southeastern to agree on out of hours use of the waiting room as a small meeting space. It is also available to use now for gatherings during opening hours (usually 8am to 1pm each weekday, when the booking Clerk is working). A meeting is required to discuss this and to iron out how the council can gain access.

RESOLVED: That a meeting is set up with Southeastern and Mrs Laird, Mr Naylor to discuss this.

f) Flagpole at War Memorial

Councillors have had a request to install a flagpole at the war memorial (there was one there many years ago) to be used for national and civic events. Flag poles can cost between £200 and £600 plus installation and maintenance. Flags would cost from £50 upwards

RESOLVED: This will be deferred until clearer costs are available.

9261 **OPEN SPACES**

a) Report of the Last Open Spaces Committee Meeting.

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Open Spaces committee, held on 2nd December 2024.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms Refurbishment

Councillors were asked to approve the appointment of a project manager for the refurbishment.

RESOLVED: Mr Cooke advised he had only received one quote, so this will be deferred until the second quote is available.

9262 **FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT**

a) Report of the Last Facilities & Environment Committee Meeting.

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Facilities & Environment Committee Meeting, held on 2nd December 2024.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Tree Survey

A tree survey has been carried out of trees on parish council land and the report has been circulated to councillors for review. Councillors were asked to agree to get quotes for urgent works listed.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed for the Clerks to get itemised quotes for all the priority works listed for 3 months. Also, to ask the surveyor if he looked at the cherry tree at the war memorial as it wasn't listed in the survey.

The meeting ended at 10.10pm.

Chairperson: 16th January 2025

Appendix Q

Public Questions from the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council, held on Thursday 19^h December 2024

At 8.34 pm, the meeting was opened for a public session.

Mrs Pauline Penny thanked the Clerk for the email of the farmers' contact details.

She noted that the dog that attacked the sheep is still being walked and off the lead, so she will put up signs on the hedge.

There was an incident at St Martin's Church where a lady was knocked over and growled at by a dog. Mr Cooke said the residents of Eynsford Rise Neighbourhood group are worried about the containers by the railway station in the yard. It was noted that this issue has been referred to Sevenoaks District Council.

The public questions ended at 8.43pm.

There was an additional public session at 9.22pm.

Mr Gough was present during the discussion of the Highways Improvement Plan and noted that he would be happy to have an online meeting in January with Nigel Rowe from Kent Highways and councillors to discuss the various issues in Eynsford. He mentioned items on the Highways Improvement Plan including the A225 footpath and issues with large vehicles on Bower Lane.

Mr Gough noted that issues around the cycle/foot path at Lullingstone were now being resolved.

He noted that Eynsford Road would be closed on 9th January 2025

Mr Gough updated councillors on a possible devolution in power in local governments due to happen, he is working with district and borough colleagues on how this might work.

The session ended at 9.33pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 2nd December 2024 held at Eynsford Parish Office at 7.39 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr M Barker
Mr A Cooke
Mrs J Laird (Chair of the Community Committee)
Mr J Griffiths
Mrs H Sim

Clerk in Attendance:

Mrs J Tunbridge

Others Present

Mrs Pauline Penney

Apologies for Absence:

Mr O Young
Mr V Robson
Mr D Naylor

1) Declarations of Interest None

- 2) English Heritage Sign
Councillors were asked by English Heritage if they would contribute towards a new brown sign at the top of the village hall drive for Eynsford Castle, the total cost of the sign is £712 quoted by Kent County Council.
Resolved: Councillors agreed a sign at the entrance of the drive to the Castle would be beneficial, it was agreed that a donation of £200 is made.

- 3) 2025 KALC Community Awards Scheme
Councillors were asked whether to participate in the scheme for 2025, deadline for nominations is 7th February 2025.
Resolved: Councillors agreed to take part in the scheme for 2025, and to advertise this in the next newsletter for people to return their nominations in time.

- 4) Quarterly Newsletter
Councillors were asked to agree articles to be included in the January Newsletter.
Resolved: Councillors agreed to the following:
- Contingency plan- Resilience for Eynsford – Councillor Barker to write an article
 - KALC Community awards scheme – Councillor Laird to write an article
 - Village hall update – Councillor Cooke to write an article
 - Eynsford in Bloom – we will email Mrs Langridge to ask if she wishes to add an article to the newsletter
 - Pedham Place – Councillor Robson to write an article
 - Chalk Hill – Councillor Laird to write an article
 - Hire of Thermal Camera – Councillor Griffiths to write an article
 - Repair Café – Mrs Tunbridge to ask Mrs Ivaldi if she wishes to add an article

The meeting of the Community Committee closed at 7.58 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 2nd December 2024 held at Eynsford Parish Office at 7.58 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr M Barker
Mr A Cooke (Chair of the Open Spaces Committee)
Mrs J Laird
Mrs J Griffiths
Mrs H Sim

Clerk in Attendance:

Mrs J Tunbridge

Others Present

Mrs Pauline Penney

Apologies for Absence:

Mr O Young
Mr V Robson
Mr D Naylor

1) Declarations of Interest
None

2) Holes on Riverside
Councillors were advised that a resident emailed in and sent pictures regarding a hole on riverside bank, and that there is also another hole at the tip of the green. How can we successfully fill these as repairs have been untaken before.
Resolved: Councillor Griffiths has agreed to put down a cone, and he advised that will talk to his builders and have them fill the hole with concrete. Councillors also agreed that we should contact the Environment Agency to see if they can help in any way or give suggestions. That we contact DRIPS (Darenth River Preservation Society) as they may be able to give us some ideas.

The meeting of the Open Spaces Committee closed at 8.05 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the Facilities and Environment Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 2nd December 2024 held at Eynsford Parish Office at 8.05 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr M Barker
Mr A Cooke
Mrs J Laird
Mrs J Griffiths
Mrs H Sim

Clerk in Attendance:

Mrs J Tunbridge

Others Present

Mrs Pauline Penney

Apologies for Absence:

Mr O Young
Mr V Robson
Mr D Naylor

In the absence of Mr Naylor, Mr Cooke chaired the meeting

1) Declarations of Interest
None

2) Recycling Bin Bags
Councillors were asked for their thoughts or any action to be taken regarding the new green bin bags, various residents have raised issues with them i.e., too heavy once filled and problems with storage and keeping clean. Councillor Sim has been speaking with Sevenoaks District Council regarding the issues raised for people with disabilities and the elderly, she was advised they can ring the council for assistance or alternatively they can still use the clear bags until December. Councillor Sim has an email she will share with us, and we can add to the January newsletter and Facebook, she will keep in contact with the council, and they have also advised of a questionnaire they are sending out to residents regarding the bags and recycling.

Resolved: That information for those struggling to use the new bin bags is share online and in the next newsletter.

The meeting of the Facilities and Environment Committee closed at 8.17 p.m.

Appendix Q

Public Questions from the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council, held on Monday 2nd December 2024

At 8.17 p.m. the meeting was opened to questions from the public.

Mrs Pauline Penney informed the councillors that a dog was being walked on the path near her fields and jumped the field gate and attacked a sheep (thankfully the sheep was treated and is going to be ok), the farmer came to collect the sheep from the field earlier than usual due to this incident, and they are not due back till April time, Mrs Penney is now not cutting the hedge on her field hoping that if it is more rough and prickly it will not be so desirable to the dogs.

Mrs Penney was wondering if we could have signs made asking for dogs to be walked on leads, Councillor Cooke advised Mrs Penny to contact the Alexanders (who's land it is) to explain the situation. The Clerks would give Mrs Penney the Alexanders' email information.

The public questions ended at 8.28pm.