

# **Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 16 April 2026, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.**

## **9435 Present**

### Members Present

Mr A Cooke, Mrs F Haxby, Mr V Robson and Mr O Young.

### Others Present

Two members of the public.

### Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi.

## **9436 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr Barker's reasons for absence were accepted.

Mr Naylor and Mrs Sim's apologies were noted.

## **9437 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

None

## **9438 CLERK'S COMMENTS**

None

## **9439 GOVERNANCE**

### a) Declarations of Interest.

None

### b) Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were presented for approval.

Mr Robson asked that wording be added to minute 2429p.

**RESOLVED:** That the following wording is added to minute 2429p'A question was raised by Cllr Robson to Cllr Naylor regarding potential legal action. Cllr Naylor did not directly respond to the

question but stated concerns about alleged misinformation circulating locally and affecting his reputation. Mr Naylor stated that he may consider legal action against some councillors'. That, subject to this addition and adjustments to number of the minutes, the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record and that the recommendations are approved.

#### c) Finance Notes

Councillors were asked to approve the finance notes & schedule of payments for the March month-end.

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts and payment schedule are approved.

#### d) Outstanding Actions

Councillors were asked to provide updates on the outstanding actions spreadsheet.

There was nothing to report.

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

#### e) Data Retention Policy

Councillors were asked to approve the updated Data Retention Policy.

**RESOLVED:** That the data retention policy is approved. That the policy is reviewed again in 3 years.

#### f) Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mr Barker was not present but submitted a written update as follows:

The public consultation on the protected green spaces is now finished and the local green spaces working group is studying the responses.

Emails were received from 2 local landowners and from the parish council. 20 paper feedback forms were received from respondents at The Space. Quite a lot of comments were received online. Some attributable, some anonymous. Some people appeared to have submitted multiple submissions, one way or another.

Most of the submissions are generally supportive although there are objections to some of the sites. The members of the LGS working group felt that they needed more time to consider the responses and put a report together.

One outcome is that a further green space is proposed that includes a copse on the south side of Eynsford Rise, and a seat. we are discussing with the consultant what level of additional consultation is required but probably a notice on the parish council website will suffice. We will also have to contact the landowner.

I would anticipate that the full report, plus new green space proposal will be ready for the parish council meeting in May. I hope to have a rough time scale then as well.

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

#### g) Neighbourhood Plan Design Code

Councillors were asked to agree to funding an additional part of the Neighbourhood Plan – a Design Code which would set out the council’s preferences regarding design, character, types of development and local infrastructure. This would cost £5265 + VAT.

**RESOLVED:** That the parish council agrees to fund this work subject to budget and the agreement of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group.

#### h) Village Hall Update

Mr Cooke provided a report on the project. He said that the design work was 95% complete with only a few small issues to resolve. Packages have been sent to subcontractors for costings and are due back in the next few weeks. The contractor is working to the original programme but the sale of the site is still in progress.

A licence agreement needs to be set up with the trustees re the siting of a storage container on Harrow Meadow.

The trustees are required to provide approval for sale of the hall to their new legal entity. There are some clauses in the lease that need to be agreed to allow this. These will be on the agenda for another meeting.

**RESOLVED:** The information was noted.

#### i) Membership of KALC

Councillors were asked to agree to renewing their membership of KALC for 2026/7 costing £1086.22. Councillors questioned value for money and asked the clerk to research the benefits further and also to look at SLCC membership.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk brings back information about KALC and SLCC membership to the next meeting.

#### k) Water Contact

Councillors were asked to make a decision regarding a water contract. The council is currently out of contract, but being in contract will lower potential costs, taking into account that wholesale prices are rising. Details of options were provided.

**RESOLVED:** That a three year contract is taken out with Everflow which will be paid by Direct Debit. It was noted that the contract was organised via a broker 'Love Business' who would receive a small commission fee.

## **9440 PLANNING**

### a) Report of the Last Planning Committee Meeting.

Councillors were asked to approve the reports of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

### b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusals

26/00109/HOUSE – 2 Bower Lane, Eynsford – REFUSED

26/00018/HOUSE – 5 Park House Cottages, Bower Lane, Eynsford - REFUSED

## **9441 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

### a) Street Light Replacement Costs

Councillors were informed that they had previously agreed to replace 4 street light columns for safety reasons. All fees have been paid to UKPN for their part of the work and it has been scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026, however, the cost of the Street light contract have increased by £300 per column due to truck hire costs.

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

## **9442 COMMUNITY**

### a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting.

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

### b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk read out the crime report from February 2026, there were 10 crimes reported:

*1x criminal damage & arson                      Lullingstone Park*

*2 x violence and sexual offences      Upper Austin Lodge Road*

<i>1 x theft</i>	<i>St Martin's Drive</i>
<i>1 x burglary</i>	<i>Eynsford car park</i>
<i>3 x violence and sexual offences</i>	<i>Saddlers Park</i>
<i>1 x criminal and arson</i>	<i>Saddlers Park</i>
<i>1 x public order offence</i>	<i>Saddlers Park</i>

The Clerk added that there had been a good response to the PSPO consultation and that is was progressing through the SDC committee system.

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

c) Donation Kent Air Ambulance

Members discussed a donation to Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance charity.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £200 is made.

d) Membership of CPRE

Members were asked to agree to renewing their membership of the Campaign to Protect Rural England costing £60.

**RESOLVED:** That membership is renewed at £60.

e) Donation to DRiPS Project

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation to a project being run by DRiPS (Darent River Preservation Society) to explore effective solutions to over abstraction of the rive and maintenance of the flow.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £200 is made to DRiPS.

**9443 OPEN SPACES**

a) Grounds Maintenance Contract – Common Meadow

Members discussed tenders for the grounds maintenance contract at Common Meadow.

**RESOLVED:** That Common Meadow contract is awarded to Eynsford Cricket Club.

b) Common Meadow Fencing

Members considered the quotes received for the replacement of the fence alongside Common Meadow.

**RESOLVED:** That the contract is awarded to Sevenoaks Fencing at a cost of £6485 + VAT and that they are asked to provide green fencing.

c) Harrow Meadow Gate

Councillors were asked to discuss the type of automated gate that should be installed for the entrance to the car park/meadow.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Cooke looks into options for a steel gate with a height restrictor.

## **9444 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 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**RESOLVED:** That the report is approved.

b) Noticeboard Repairs

Councillors were asked to agree to a quote to replace the corkboard (with new backing) on the two noticeboards outside the parish office and at the school entrance costing £420.

**RESOLVED:** That the work is agreed.

c) War Memorial Repairs

Councillors were asked to agree to repairs to the chain and posts around the war memorial costing £160.

**RESOLVED:** That the work is agreed.

d) Green Team Proposal

Councillors were told about a proposed programme from the Green Team to put on a series of events during Green Week (6-14 June 2026) including an art workshop, litter pick, repair café, poetry workshop, evening event and walk. The expected costs were £570 with estimated income of £190.

**RESOLVED:** That the costs of the programme are funded out of the Green Initiatives budget.

At this point, 8.37pm, the meeting was opened up to questions from the public (see Appendix Q).

The meeting ended at 8.45pm

Signed, Chairman, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

## Appendix Q

### **Questions from Members of the Public heard on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 8.37pm.**

A member of the public asked whether the war memorial could be fixed before Eynsford in Bloom judging at the end of June or early July.

A member of the public raised concerns about the ongoing leaks on Priory Lane and that they could be undermining and damaging the flint wall on the junction of Priory Lane/High Street. The Clerk agreed to report this again to Thames Water.

The Clerk noted the report received from Cllr Marc Logen that had been circulated to all councillors.

Public questions closed at 8.45pm.