

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 20th March 2025, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.

9282 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr Barker
Mr A Cooke
Mrs J Laird
Mr Robson
Mr O Young

Others Present

Mr J Gee, Tree Warden, Mr R Gough, County Councillor (8.55pm – 9.25pm), two members of the public.

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

9283 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Naylor, Mr J Griffiths, Mrs H Sim.

9284 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Robson let those present know that former parish councillor and chair John Harris had sadly died the previous week. Councillors sent their condolences to his wife and agreed to send a card.

9285 CLERK'S COMMENTS

The Clerk noted that due to the unavailability of at least four councillors it might be necessary to move the April meeting from 17th April to 24th April.

9286 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

None.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on 20th February 2025 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 December 2024 and February 2025 along with the most recent schedule of payments.

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

d) Outstanding Actions

Councillors provided updates on the outstanding actions spreadsheet and noted the following items should be amended:

To update the 'permissive path' item with recent actions about the meeting with KCC.

RESOLVED: The information is noted, that the spreadsheet is updated.

e) Newsletter Articles

Councillors were asked to agree articles to be included in the next parish council newsletter due out in April.

RESOLVED: That the following articles are included where possible:

Budget article (Mrs Ivaldi/Mr Robson)

Annual Parish Meeting advert (Mrs Ivaldi)

Eynsford in Bloom article (Ms Langridge)

Arbor Day article (Mrs Laird)

Neighbourhood Plan article (Mr Robson)

Local Government Reorganisation article (Mr Barker)

Eynsford Village Hall update (Mr Cooke)

A225 Proposed Footpath article (Mr Young)

Permissive Path at Castlefield article (Mrs Laird)

VE Day article (Mrs Tunbridge/Mrs Laird)

Police/Anti-social behaviour article (Mr Griffiths)

f) Annual Parish Meeting

Councillors were asked to agree details regarding the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th April 2025.

RESOLVED: That the meeting will run from 6.30pm to 9pm. That committee chairs provide reports relating to their areas of work. That there is a short introduction and welcome from one or more councillors. That the community award is presented. That Eynsford Village Hall trustees make a short presentation.

g) Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mr Robson gave an update. He reminded councillors that the consultation regarding a joint plan ends on 28th March. In the meantime, a meeting was held with some residents who had expressed interest in the project and who offered their experience and expertise. A public meeting has been organised for 22nd May at 10am in St Martin's Church. Once the consultation has concluded, further plans will be made.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

h) Clerk's Salary Review

Councillors were informed that the Clerk's Salary had not been reviewed for seven years. Following an appraisal meeting an uplift was suggested.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's salary is increased from Local Government Pay Scale point 27 to point 30 from 1st April 2025.

9287 **PLANNING**

a) Report of the last Planning Committee meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusals

The following information had been received since the last meeting:

24/02601/FUL – The Five Bells, High Street, Eynsford – GRANTED

25/00176/HOUSE – Crayfish Cottage, High Street, Eynsford – GRANTED

25/00166/HOUSE – 54 Eynsford Rise, Eynsford – GRANTED

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Planning Application 25/00211/HOUSE – The Old Manse, High Street, Eynsford

Councillors reviewed an application concerning the replacement of the front boundary wall with replacement railings and new vehicular/pedestrian gates with associated works.

RESOLVED: That no objections are made.

d) Tree Work Applications 25/00547/WTCA -Land opp 32-34 Riverside; 25/00558/WTCA – Land opp Tudor Cottage, Riverside.

Councillors were informed that both these applications had been submitted by the Clerk following the council's agreement to carry out tree work on Riverside as follows: T0273 Common Oak – remove major dead wood; T0289 Turkey Oak – reduce crown by up to 4m.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

9288 **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 3rd March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Proposed Closure of Hulberry Rail Crossing

Councillors were told that Network Rail wish to close the foot crossing at Hulberry for safety reasons and will be carrying out a public consultation on this.

RESOLVED: That clarification is sought on the alternative route. That the consultation is promoted within the community.

c) Streetlights

Further to previous discussions about the replacement of the lamppost outside the school, the contractor has responded to say that the column needs replacing soon and that the cheapest option would be in the school holidays. The contractor also provided a list of other works they have identified for the street lights in the village including more replacement columns.

RESOLVED: That the asks the contractor to arrange for the light outside the school to be replaced during the school holidays. That a meeting is set up with the contractor to look at the other columns that require work or replacement.

9289 COMMUNITY

a) Report of the Last Community Committee Meeting.

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community committee, held on 3rd March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Police/Crime Report

The Clerk provided crime information from January 2025. Five crimes had been reported as follows:

Lullingstone Country Park	1 x Antisocial Behaviour
	1 x Criminal Damage/Arson
Crockenhill Lane	1 x Violence/Sexual Offence
Sparepenny Lane	1 x Public Order Offence
High Street	1 x Burglary

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

c) Additional Donation to Eynsford in Bloom

Councillors were asked to agree to an additional donation to Eynsford in Bloom to help to fund their work in the village. £1500 has been budgeted and £1055.77 had been paid already. Eynsford in Bloom had indicated that they would like an additional £324.96 to spend on plants and tools.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £324.96 is made to Eynsford in Bloom.

d) VE Day

Councillors discussed whether to organise any activities beside the flag raising for the anniversary of VE Day on 8th May.

RESOLVED: That St Martin's Church is contacted to see if they would be willing to co-organise readings/prayers and may tea and coffee around the flag raising at 9am; bell ringing at 6.30pm along with refreshments and additional music/entertainment on 8th May.

e) Family Fun Day

Councillors were informed that Eynsford's family fun day would take place on 13th August from 10.30am – 1.30pm at Anthony Roper Primary School. Volunteers would be welcome to help with refreshments. The Clerks will obtain costs for additional activities and bring them to another meeting.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

f) Coronation Fountain

Councillors were told that a resident had been in touch about the issues being caused by the Perspex screen in front of the restored fountain. The screen is causing a build up of algae which is damaging the glazed bricks.

RESOLVED: That the restoration company is contacted to ask about the possible removal of the screen or any other remedial work that could improve the situation.

g) Anti-Social Behaviour, Riverside

Councillors were told that various residents had put in complaints to the parish council and the police about anti-social behaviour mainly from traveller groups who were blocking the road with their vehicles, causing members of the public to feel intimidated, and taking their horses onto Riverside Green.

RESOLVED: That the emails from residents are shared with the police and that the police are asked for help and advice. That some investigation is undertaken into the installation of cattle grids around the ford and/or on Furlongs Road. That residents are encouraged to report all crimes to the police via My Community Voice, online or the phone. That this information is publicised online and in the parish council newsletter.

h) Donation to Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance

Councillors were asked to make a donation to the air ambulance charity providing vital work in Kent.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £150 is made from the Donations budget.

9289 **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 3rd February 2025.

RESOLVED: That the report is approved.

b) Permissive Path Update

Mrs Laird gave an update on a meeting with David Munn (KCC) and Stuart and Robert Alexander about the proposed permissive path around Castlefield including chalk hill and the allotments/Harrow Meadow. The two options were discussed which were either an informal path which the parish council would be responsible for, or a licence agreement with KCC for a permissive path. KCC may invest some funds in improving the path and would provide signage where required and would be responsible for any repairs. Mr Munn promised to produce a sample licence agreement so that the parish council could make an informed decision.

RESOLVED: That this item is brought back to another meeting when the draft licence has been received.

c) Use of Parish Land - Eynstock

Councillors were asked to agree to Eynstock (music festival) being held on Common Meadow on 25th August 2025 to raise funds for the new village hall. The organisers also asked that the event be covered by the parish council's insurance and had provided a detailed risk assessment.

RESOLVED: That permission to hold Eynstock on Common Meadow is granted. That the parish council agree to cover the event with its own insurance.

At this point, 8.55pm, Mr Gough arrived and the meeting was opened up to questions from the public (Appendix Q). The meeting resumed at 9.25pm.

d) Grounds Maintenance Contracts

Councillors were asked to decide how to award the grounds maintenance contracts for 2025/6. Only two contractors of the five approached had put in tenders.

RESOLVED: That contracts A1 and C are offered to GF Garden Maintenance. That Eynsford Cricket Club are asked if they wish to tender for the work at Common Meadow. That Mr Free is asked if he wishes to quote for the work at Common Meadow. That Mr Free is asked to reconsider his quote for the extra works at Harrow Meadow.

e) Use of Football Pitch Next Season

Councillors were asked to consider a request from an adult football team to use the pitch on a Saturday next season. They are in the same league as Eynsford FC so would need to alternate with them.

RESOLVED: That the request is declined on the basis that the pitch may not take the wear of three senior games plus a youth team game on the same weekend.

f) Harrow Meadow Sub Committee Update

Mr Cooke provided a summary of what was discussed at the recent meeting of the Harrow Meadow Sub Committee. He noted that each team had a different number of matches and this should be considered when setting fees for the next season. He also noted that the goals were getting damaged moving and options about moving and storage were being considered. It may be sensible for the parish council to buy new goals when needed instead of the teams. Mr Cooke also said that a youth team has been in talks with Eynsford FC about integrating and becoming an Eynsford team.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

g) Football Fees 2025-6

Councillors discussed proposals for fees for the different clubs for the coming season based on the likely number of matches to be played.

RESOLVED: that the following annual fees are agreed – Eynsford FC Adults £1000; Riverside Wanderers FC £1300; Under 16 team £1150.

h) Ad Hoc Use of the Football Pitch

Councillors were asked to agree a system for approval of ad hoc bookings for the football pitch.

RESOLVED: That no other teams should use the pitch this season, and that a proposal for a new system is brought to another meeting.

i) Eynsford Cricket Club Update

Mr Robson reported that he and Mr Cooke had met with a representative from the cricket club to discuss the proposed agreement further. However, no agreement was reached. There were discussions about improvements to the fencing and other aspects.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

9290 FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT

a) Arbor Day

Councillors were asked to approve plans from the Green Team to celebrate Arbor Day at Harrow Meadow/Chalk Hill on 8th June 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Arbor Day plans are approved.

b) Green Team Update

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to lack of time.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

The meeting ended at 10.16 pm

Chairperson: 24th April 2025

Appendix Q

Public Questions from the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council, held on Thursday 20th March 2025

The meeting opened to questions from the public at 8.55pm.

Mrs Penney asked if the parish council could ask the rector to encourage people to complete the 'vulnerable persons' form as part of the Community Resilience Plan.

Mrs Penney asked if the parish council could take charge of the poppy wreaths at the war memorial. They have historically been tied up after the act of remembrance and left in place until the beginning of Lent. Councillors said this would be discuss at a future meeting.

Mr Gough provided various updates: he would send through the support letter for the CIL grant and was also happy to support with negotiations about the proposed closure of the footpath at Hulberry. He was waiting to hear back from Nigel Rowe at Kent Highways and would be willing to take part in a meeting about the Highways Improvement Plan and the proposed footpath on the A225. Mr Gough also noted that the soakaway issue at Walnut Close would be resolved soon. He would be attending the meeting with the planning consultant about the proposed Wasps stadium in Crockenhill. Mr Gough was also assisting with school placement appeals issues.

Mr Robson updated Mr Gough on plans for the joint Neighbourhood Plan with Farningham.

Mr Cooke said that a neighbour had noted that Eynsford Rise would be closed for resurfacing on 24th March. The Clerk agreed to post on social media.

Mr Gee asked if the sycamore adjacent to the playground could be saved. Councillors noted that it had been agreed to get quotes to remove it, but it could be discussed again if necessary.

Mr Robson said he had invited residents to come to the meeting if they had any questions about the budget or precept as these had been raised on social media. However, although none had attended for this reason, he gave a brief statement.

Mr Robson noted that the increase for Band D houses was £1.13 per month making a total increase of around £14,000 this year. A few items had contributed towards this including running the parish office, administration costs and the extra employers NICs. Streetlight energy had gone up with an increase in budget of £1300. In addition, several columns needed to be replaced at up to £8,000 per column. The new Neighbourhood Plan was a new budget line of £5000 and would help to shape the future of the village. Mr Robson noted that it was not easy to compare Eynsford to other villages as each had different facilities and amenities for instance Horton Kirby have a cemetery, and Otford have very few streetlights. These factors, plus population make a difference to the costs.

The public questions closed at 9.25pm

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 3rd March 2025 held at Eynsford Parish Office at 7.30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr M Barker (Chair of the Planning Committee)
Mrs H Sim
Mr V Robson
Mrs J Laird
Mr J Griffiths
Mr D Naylor

Clerk in Attendance:

Mrs J Tunbridge

Others Present

Mrs Pauline Penny

Apologies for Absence:

Mr O Young
Mr A Cooke

- 1) Declarations of Interest
None
- 2) Planning Application 24/02529/HOUSE, Hollyhurst Cottage, Station Road, Eynsford
Councillors were asked to discuss the removal of 8 aluminium double glazed sash windows which they want to replace with 8 wooden double glazed sash windows.
Resolved: No objections
- 3) Planning Application 25/00271/HOUSE – Sparepenny Cottage, Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford
Councillors were asked to discuss the replacement of the existing detached garage, to be replaced with a new detached garage.
Resolved: No objections
- 4) Tree Work Application 25/00408/WTCA – Home Farm, Riverside, Eynsford
Remove two false acacia trees.
Details of this application have been sent to the Tree Warden for comment, and he submitted no objections on behalf of the council but would like Sevenoaks District Council to ask Home Farm to plant two new trees nearer to the water to encourage a wildlife platform for kingfishers etc.
That the information was noted.

The meeting of the Planning Committee closed at 7.36 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 3rd March 2025 held at Eynsford Parish Office at 7.36 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr M Barker
Mrs H Sim
Mr V Robson
Mrs J Laird (Chair of the Community Committee)
Mr J Griffiths
Mr D Naylor

Clerk in Attendance:

Mrs J Tunbridge

Others Present

Mrs Pauline Penny

Apologies for Absence:

Mr O Young
Mr A Cooke

1) Declarations of Interest
None

2) Membership of CPRE
Councillors were asked to consider renewing their membership of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) costing £60.
Resolved: Councillors agreed to renew the £60 membership for 2025.

3) Community Emergency/Resilience Plan
Councillors were asked to review the responses to the Community Emergency Plan and to discuss the next stage of the process.
Resolved: That the council continues with the plan. That the clerks remind the parish about the emergency plan via facebook and the council's website to try and get more responses. That the clerks collate current responses into a spreadsheet. That Councillors Laird and Barker will draft a letter to send to the local business to ask them if they wish to be part of an emergency contingency plan. That Cllr Laird will contact the Kent & Medway Prepared forum for further guidance.

The meeting of the Community Committee closed at 7.46 pm.

Minutes of a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee of Eynsford Parish Council held on Monday 3rd March 2025 held at Eynsford Parish Office at 7.46 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr M Barker
Mrs H Sim
Mr V Robson
Mrs J Laird
Mr J Griffiths
Mr D Naylor

Clerk in Attendance:

Mrs J Tunbridge

Others Present

Mrs Pauline Penny

Apologies for Absence:

Mr O Young
Mr A Cooke

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

1) Declarations of Interest

Mr V Robson declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 3 as treasurer of Eynsford Football Club

2) Path at Chalk Hill

Councillors were advised that the path surface at Chalk Hill has been very 'claggy' during this wet weather, and it has been suggested that a layer of woodchip be spread on it to improve this.

Resolved: Councillors agreed that woodchip would be a good idea and that local tree surgeons will be approached to see if they can provide wood chip.

3) Football Pitch Use Agreement

Councillors were asked to agree the revised 'agreement' for hire of the football pitch.

Resolved: Councillors agreed the agreement but agreed to review it again before the next season in terms of safeguarding.

4) Sycamores adjacent to Play Area, Harrow Meadow

Councillors were asked to consider removing the tree behind the fence adjacent to the play area as it is causing shade leading to a build-up of moss/algae. Comments from the Tree Warden were noted.

Resolved: Councillors agreed that although the tree is in good health, this would be beneficial to the playground and safer for the children when playing as providing more light to the area thus reducing the moss/algae. That quotes are requested for the work and once the trees are removed, hedging whips will be planted & wood chips from the trees put on Chalk Hill.

5) Children's Play Area

The play area is looking very tired in areas and the safe surfacing is slippery in some areas.

Councillors were asked to consider starting a project to replace all or part of the play equipment and to include more opportunities for older children.

Resolved: Councillors agreed to do the necessary research to get started on the replacement of the play area and to investigate a MUGA to extend the area for the older children. This will be brought back to another meeting once initial research is done and pricing gathered.

The meeting of the Open Spaces Committee closed at 8.07 p.m.