

Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 22nd January 2026, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.

9404 PRESENT

Members Present

Mr A Cooke, Mr D Naylor, Mr J Griffiths, Mr V Robson, Mrs H Sim.

Others Present

Six members of the public.

Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

9405 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr M Barker (for lateness), Mr O Young, County Councillor Mr M Logen.

9406 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Robson acknowledged all the great work that had been done by Mrs Laird who had recently resigned from the parish council, and thanked her for her contribution.

Mr Robson then made the following statement: I am taking the extraordinary steps to use the Chairman's remarks to address Council and Residents. This has come about because of feedback from the "Welcome to Eynsford" event last Saturday and other gossip stating that there is "trouble" and "problems" at EPC. I do not know detail or where this started but it is clear that the land dispute between two Councillors has drawn the whole Council into a very embarrassing situation. More than that, it is also preventing work from progressing as it should.

I will go further: both Heather Sim and Damian Naylor, two Councillors at the heart of our problems, have broken the Code of Conduct multiple times but do not have the respect for the position or decency to resign. They continue to further their own aims. Damian has land and is doing his best to undermine and question the validity of the Neighbourhood Plan, possibly delaying the plan until he gets his planning consent in place. He is also abusing his position by remaining a

Councillor and getting privileged information. Last week he broke the ultimate code by sending screen shots of private WhatsApp messages from me to fellow Councillors. Heather has ignored Council requests and forced our hand to hold an EGM, she then proceeded to stir-up the Steering Group and other residents but failed to explain why Council had to take the step, resulting in a strained relationship between both parties. The plan is on hold because of the situation she created.

We have taken advice from Sevenoaks District Council Legal and Democratic Services and, regrettably, we are unable to enforce their resignation, however we are able to change and control matters around the Neighbourhood Plan, Local Green Space, and any other matters where their behaviour falls short of that expected of an Eynsford Parish Councillor. These matters will be discussed later in this meeting.

9407 CLERK'S COMMENTS

None.

9408 GOVERNANCE

a) Declarations of Interest

Mrs Sim declared a non-pecuniary interest as she owns land at Upper Austin Lodge.

Mr Naylor declared a pecuniary interest related to the Local Green Spaces item as an owner of land at Upper Austin Lodge.

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on 18th December 2025 and the EGM held on 31st December were presented for approval. Some small changes to the minutes were requested which the Clerk agreed to make.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the agreed changes, 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 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 were asked to provide updates on the outstanding actions spreadsheet.

There was nothing to report.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

e) Casual Vacancy

Councillors were informed that, due to the resignation of Mrs Laird, there is now a councillor vacancy which has been advertised as required by law.

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

f) Community Governance Review

Councillors were asked to consider whether a review should be undertaken to look at the number of councillor positions on the parish council.

During this and previous items, the behaviour of Mr Naylor made it impossible to continue with the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 7.52pm