

# Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.

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## 9101 PRESENT

### Members Present

Mr A Cooke

Mr J Griffiths (arrived 7:40pm\_

Mrs J Laird

Mr D Naylor

Mr V Robson

### Others Present

Cllr Lindop (Sevenoaks District Councillor), 1 member of the public

### Clerk in Attendance

Mrs N Wintour

## 9102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr M Baker, Cllr R Gough (County Councillor)

## 9103 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Robson, noted that it was a shame that Mrs F Haxby had resigned and he was sorry to inform the council that we had just received Mr N Rix's resignation as well.

## 9104 CLERK'S COMMENTS

Mrs Wintour reported that SDC are looking at ditching the recycling bags and providing reusable bags/bags for life. This will be decided at the next financial meeting in February. SDC will carry on using the black/recycling bags until they run out of stock, but if this gets passed, they will be providing every household with 1 reusable bag. SDC are also around 8-12 weeks behind in delivering black & recycling bags to households.

Mrs Wintour, at the Clerks Meetings, raised the issue of the tight time constraints for the local plan consultation with it being over Christmas, other councillors raised this issue as well. A lot of other councillors commented None of the above, as they thought it was unfair to comment on other councillors' areas and felt that if they push it to other parishes, it was unfair. Also, SDC should have put the consultation on the front page of the In-Shape magazine rather than on page 8. Also, how the consultation was misleading as Pedham Place was not mentioned as being in the Green Belt and AONB. Kelly Webb agreed to take all the complaints about the process back to the planners.

The Consultation about the closure of the Household waste disposal site is no longer happening and they will be keeping the site open for the foreseeable future.

## 9105 GOVERNANCE

### a) Declarations of Interest

None

b) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and the extraordinary general meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 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 December 2023, as per Appendix A and a schedule of payments.

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts are approved, and that the payments are made.

d) Outstanding Actions

Councillors were asked to review any outstanding actions.

**RESOLVED:** Mr Naylor noted that DVLP will be taking over the interpretation board for Riverside. Mr Cooke noted that the Christmas lights needed to be removed, a working party to be arranged to do this as soon as possible. Mr Naylor advised that he will bring sizes back for the cycle signs for Crockenhill Lane.

e) Review of the Zero Tolerance Policy and Letters to Allotment & Car Park Tenants

Councillors were asked to approve the policy and the information included in the letters to tenants relating to this.

**RESOLVED:** That the policy and letters are accepted.

f) Car Park at Harrow Meadow

Councillors were asked to decide whether the council would pay for the new car park at Harrow Meadow, at a cost in the region of £200,00.00. Councillors held a long discussion on the maintenance, usage, and ownership of the new car park.

**RESOLVED:** That Eynsford Parish Council would own the new car park at Harrow Meadow, that the council would decide its construction and choose the specification of the car park. They would also choose the contractor using normal council tendering process. That the council pay a percentage of the build of the car park, the percentage to be determined at later date. That the council manage the usage of the car park and the management of the car park.

g) Causal Vacancy

Councillors were informed that Mrs Haxby had resigned from the parish council and that there is now a causal vacancy. Notices from Sevenoaks District Council were put up on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

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

**9106 PLANNING**

a) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

Councillors were told of the outcome of the planning applications as follows:  
23/02977/HOUSE – 54 Eynsford Rise, Eynsford GRANTED

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

c) Pedham Place- Fountain Hoy Woodland

Councillors were asked to re-investigate what is required to get the Fountain Hoy Woodland certified under a blanket TOP.

**RESOLVED:** That the council applies for a blanket TPO for Fountain Hoy Woodland, via Sevenoaks District Council.

**9107 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

a) A225 Project & Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

Councillors were asked to add proposals to improving access south from the Station onto the HIP so that they can be considered by Kent Highways. These include a new puffin crossing (already included) clearing and maintaining the verge to make access wider and easier, adding signage to direct pedestrians. Councillors also agreed to request to moving the 30 mph sign from its current location to before the public footpath on the A225 south of the railway bridge.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposals to improve access south from the station are added to Eynsford's HIP.

b) Zebra Crossing Street Lights

Councillors were asked to look at the trees that may be blocking the streetlights adjacent to the belisha beacons at the zebra crossing next to the church. This issue has been reported to Kent Highways in the past, but no useful action had been taken. Councillors were asked to agree next steps.

**RESOLVED:** That we contact the Church and ask them to cut the trees back, as the trees may belong to the church.

**9108 COMMUNITY**

a) Police & Crime Report

The Clerk provided details of crime statistics. In November there were 18 crimes were reported as follows:

Lullingstone Golf Club – 1 x violence & sexual offence.

Lullingstone Castle - 1 x vehicle crime.

Eynsford Station - 3 x Criminal damage & arson  
- 1 Vehicle crime.

Eynsford Rise - 1 x burglary.

Saddlers Park - 1 x vehicle crime.

- 1 x violence & sexual offence.

Knights Field - 1 x criminal damage & arson.

- 1 x violence & sexual offence.

Crockenhill Lane - 1 x violence & sexual offence.

Lullingstone Lane - 1 x bicycle theft.

- 1 x drugs.

- 1 x Public order.

- 2 x other crime.

Upper Austin Lodge - 1 x criminal damage & arson

Mr Robson asked if it would be possible to get a further break down on the crimes.

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

c) Community Award

Councillors were asked to choose a recipient for this year's award from the nominations received.

**RESOLVED:** That Adrian Elms is awarded the Community Award.

**9109** OPEN SPACES

a) Use of Riverside Green

The Grace Centre Church would like to use Riverside for a community picnic on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May. This will include a live steel band and will run from around 11 am – 3 pm.

**RESOLVED:** That the use of Riverside is allowed, subject to the usual terms and conditions.

c) Signage for new football pitch

Councillors were asked to consider creating signs stating, "No Dogs", "Keep off" for the new football pitch.

**RESOLVED:** That signage is put up around the football pitch. That Mr Robson looks at suitable signs and costs.

d) Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms Works

Councillors were asked to consider preparing a specification to send out quotes for works to the changing rooms. Mr Robson advised the council that the football clubs are willing to help prepare for the works, with any demolition works, such as removing tiles, to save the council money. Mr Cooke advised that he is meeting with a builder to look at the damp problems and will also give the list of maintenance work that needs to be done to get a price for remedial works. Mr Robson noted that builders he has spoken to have condemned the building in some parts.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Cooke and Mr Robson will look at the specification of works that is required to be done. That Mr Cooke will provide the costs for the damp works.

At this point, 8:40pm, the meeting was opened for questions from the public (see Appendix Q). The meeting resumed at 8:47pm

e) Management of Harrow Meadow Football Pitch.

A resident had raised concerns about the proper management and maintenance of the new football pitch. Councillors were asked to discuss whether to create a plan. Mr Cooke noted that the council is working to the Agrostis' plan which was written and can be viewed. The plan states 33 cuts need to be taken prior to being able to be used and that the contractor will be back in April.

**RESOLVED:** That the Agrostis are taking on the management of the pitch for now, until it is ready for playing on and then the council will take over the management of the pitch. That the Agrostis' report is passed to Mrs Laird.

f) Cleaning of Harrow Meadow Play Area

Quotes have been received for jet washing the safer surfacing and playground equipment as follows:

CDL Exterior Cleaning - £175.00 + VAT

GCF Maintenance - £520.00.

Councillors were asked to decide whether to accept either of these quotes.

**RESOLVED:** That GCF maintenance quote is accepted. That Mr Cooke and/or Mr Robson meet GCF onsite prior to the work commencing.

g) Access to Harrow Meadow

Councillors were asked to agree that we are preventing access to the public until the football pitch has matured and because the other area will be becoming a building site.

**RESOLVED:** That the above approach is agreed.

**9110 FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT**

a) Flood Strategy

Mr Naylor has drafted a response, sent via email, to councillors, to the Kent Flooding Strategy for the council to approve.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Naylor's response, sent via email, is agreed. That Mr Naylor will also contact DRiPs regarding this strategy.

b) Tree Work Quotes

Quotes were sought for outstanding work identified in the tree survey. Callum Smith had provided a quote of £1870.00 to pollard the group of trees by the entrance to the scout hall car park and the trees behind the parish office to 8m, including clearing around the security lights, the price also included cutting back branches from the signs at Riverside. Another quote was sought but had not yet been received.

**RESOLVED:** That we wait for the other quote and bring back to another meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

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Chairperson: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024