

# Minutes of the Meeting of Eynsford Parish Council held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, at the Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford, at 7.30pm.

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## 9111 PRESENT

### Members Present

Mr M Barker  
Mr J Griffiths  
Mrs J Laird  
Mr D Naylor  
Mr V Robson  
Mr O Young

### Others Present

3 members of the public

### Clerk in Attendance

Mrs H Ivaldi

## 9112 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr A Cooke

## 9113 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr Robson, noted that he would be away for the next committee meetings.

## 9114 CLERK'S COMMENTS

None

## 9115 GOVERNANCE

### a) Co-option

Councillors were asked to co-opt Mr Oliver Young onto the parish council.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Young is co-opted. Mr Young signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

### b) Declarations of Interest

None

### c) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last full council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**RESOLVED:** That an amendment is made to minute 9105f as follows: after the third comma of the second sentence “and that the village hall trustees pay the difference” is inserted. That, subject to this amendment, the minutes are accepted as a true and complete record and that the recommendations are approved.

d) Finance Notes

The clerk submitted a list of accounts, and a budget report, for January 2024, as per Appendix A and a schedule of payments.

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

e) Outstanding Actions

Councillors were asked to review any outstanding actions.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors asked for the spreadsheet to be recirculated.

f) Mailing List for the Parish Council

Councillors were asked to discuss creating a mailing list for residents who wish to receive information via email. Various options were discussed.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Naylor, with input from other councillors, brings a proposed system to the next suitable meeting.

g) Saturday Surgery

Councillors discussed whether to continue with Saturday surgery sessions for members of the public to speak to councillors. They are not well attended.

**RESOLVED:** That Saturday surgeries are discontinued. That residents are invited to make appointments to speak to councillors at a mutually convenient time. That councillors attending community events in an official capacity advertise the fact in advance so that residents can speak to them. That the new arrangements are advertised.

h) Payments to Contractors

Councillors were asked to look at ways to make payments more quickly to individuals/small businesses. Currently payments are made after each council meeting, so contractors sometimes have to wait up to a month for payment.

**RESOLVED:** That in future, when a quote is agreed at a meeting, councillors also agree if payment can be made following the completion of the work, subject to signing off. That if necessary and extra payment schedule is signed. That payments are considered on a case by case basis.

i) Standing Orders: Appendix A

Councillors were asked to appoint members to committees and other responsibilities currently vacant due to the resignation of council members.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Griffiths and Mrs Laird are appointed to the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee; That Mr Naylor is appointed to the Tree Work Sub-Committee; that Mrs Laid becomes the School Run Safety Campaign representative; that Mr Naylor becomes the Eynsford Village Society representative; that all councillors share attendance at Kent Association of Local Councils meetings; that Mr Naylor is the representative on the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership; that Mr Robson is the representative on the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership.

j) DBS Checks

Councillors were informed that prices had been obtained for carrying out DBS (Disclosure Barring Service) checks on councillors who may be working with children or vulnerable adults. The cost would be £44.40 per person.

**RESOLVED:** That DBS checks are carried out on Mr Barker, Mrs Laird and Mr Naylor as councillors on the Green Team to which a young person wishes to attend. That councillors then review if and when to carry out further checks.

**9116** PLANNING

a) Report of the Last Planning Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Planning committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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

b) Notifications of Planning Consents/Refusal

None

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

c) Appeal Decision APP/G2245/W/23/3318183- Land South of Lane End, Sparepenny Lane

Councillors were told that the appeal against refusal of this planning application had been dismissed.

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

**9117** HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

a) Report of the Last Highways & Transportation Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Highways & Transportation committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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

b) Eynsford Station – Ramp/Lift Access

Councillors were told that the cost to install an accessible ramp up to platform 1 at Eynsford station would cost more than £1 million. Also, that the cost of installing lifts either side of the bridge would be even more. £30K had been set aside for work at Eynsford by Network Rail and could be transferred to the project to improve access for pedestrians along the A225 (puffin crossing, wider verge path and signage).

**RESOLVED:** That the funding is used for the improved pedestrian access project.

c) Damaged Street Light, Sparepenny Lane

Councillors were told that the streetlight on Sparepenny Lane outside Lane End had received a large dent and needed to be replaced. The cost would be £1272 + VAT for the replacement and £2669 + VAT for UKPN to dis/connect the power supply.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerks find out if the costs can be reclaimed on the council's insurance.

d) Repainting of Streetlights

Councillors were informed of a quote received to repaint all the parish council's streetlights (71) of £5560 + VAT.

**RESOLVED:** That all the street light columns are repainted at a cost of £5560 + VAT coming from the Streetlight Replacement rolling fund. That the contractor is asked what colour options are available.

**9118** COMMUNITY

a) Report of the Last Community Committee

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Community committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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

b) Police & Crime Report

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

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lullingstone Golf Club | 1 x vehicle crime              |
|                        | 1 x violence & sexual offence  |
| Lullingstone Park      | 2 x public order offences      |
|                        | 2 x violence & sexual offences |
|                        | 1 x criminal damage & arson    |
| Lullingstone Castle    | 1 x criminal damage & arson    |
| Eynsford Station       | 2 x criminal damage & arson    |
| Saddlers Park          | 2 x vehicle crime.             |
|                        | 1 x criminal damage & arson    |
| Bower Lane             | 1 x criminal damage & arson    |
| Pollyhaugh             | 1 x violence & sexual offence  |
| Riverside              | 1 x vehicle crime              |
| High Street            | 1 x vehicle crime              |
| Mill Lane              | 1 x criminal damage & arson.   |

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

**9119** OPEN SPACES

a) Report of the Last Open Spaces Committee Meeting

Councillors were asked to approve the report of the Open Spaces committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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

b) Harrow Meadow Changing Rooms Works

Details were provided of a quote from a plasterer to remove, assess and then repair/replace the plastering costing £1300. Meanwhile information has been received about a potential grant from the Football Association which could pay for part of any refurbishment costs.

**RESOLVED:** That the works are not progressed. That a professional report on the condition of the changing rooms, with possible solutions, is obtained.

c) Grounds Maintenance 2024/25

Councillors were asked to agree the contents of the grounds maintenance contracts for 2024/5 before quotes are sought. A document with the proposals was presented.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed contents of the grounds maintenance contracts are agreed.

d) Devolved Maintenance for KCC

Councillors were asked to decide whether to continue with the devolved maintenance contract for verges in the village on behalf of KCC.

**RESOLVED:** That, due to the low fee for the work, that maintenance is handed back to KCC from April 2024.

e) Signage at Harrow Meadow

Councillors were asked to agree to the purchase of signs for Harrow Meadow reading “Strictly No Dogs on Harrow Meadow/Football Pitch”. Prices would be £34.99 for 3mm plastic signs or £39.99 each for 3mm aluminium signs.

**RESOLVED:** That five aluminium signs are purchased costing £199.95 + VAT from the Recreation General budget. That backing the signs with plyboard is investigated.

f) Use of Riverside

Councillors were asked to agree to the use of Riverside by Orpington Methodist Church for a check/refreshment point for their annual sponsored walk on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**RESOLVED:** That permission is granted.

g) Changes to Allotment Tenancies

Councillors were asked to consider changing the tenancy to allow one small shed and one small greenhouse. Currently only one structure per plot is allowed.

**RESOLVED:** That the existing policy is retained.

**9120 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 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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

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. Aspen Tree Care had provided a quote of £1700.00 for the same works.

**RESOLVED:** That Aspen Tree Care is awarded the contract. That the Clerk applied to Sevenoaks District Council for permission to carry out the works at Riverside.

At this point, 8.53pm, the meeting was opened for questions from the public (see Appendix Q).  
The meeting resumed at 9.01pm

The meeting ended at 9.02 pm.

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Chairperson: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024