

# Eastling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Eastling Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 30 September 2020

Present: Cllr Jimmy West (Chairman), Cllr Paul Adams, Cllr Paul Ainsworth, Cllr Julia Bailey and Cllr John Payne; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was County Councillor Andrew Bowles and three members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from Ward Member David Simmons (at another meeting); apology noted.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

None were declared.

### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 22 July 2020**

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 July 2020 and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept them as a true record of the meeting. The minutes will be signed by Cllr West at the next physical meeting of the Council.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

#### Newnham Lane Petition

KCCllr Bowles said that there is no update on the matter, it has been agreed that it will happen. KCC Highways has an issue with site visits during the current pandemic.

#### Cleve Hill Solar Park

KCCllr Bowles said the application has been approved and signage has been erected. There are reserved matters on the planning permission and this will have to go to Swale Planning Committee.

#### Swale Borough Council request for details of ponds and hedgerows

Cllr Bailey reported that if the village had special ponds and hedgerows they could be protected, but Eastling does not have any except a pond on private land. This is not currently relevant.

Cllr West thanked Cllr Bailey for looking into the matter.

#### Carpenters Arms – Asset of Value to the Community

Cllr Bailey reported that the registration has been completed online. Swale Borough Council has asked for more information as there have been challenges elsewhere. The supplementary evidence has been submitted and a decision will be made in eight weeks.

Cllr West thanked Cllr Bailey for her work on the application.

#### Village Hall

Cllr Ainsworth reported that the Committee is undecided regarding installing WiFi at the Village Hall and there is concern as to whether it would be used. There is a phone line in the Committee Room so it would be easy to install.

Cllr Ainsworth said that it had been previously thought that there was no interest from groups to meet at the hall again, but two classes in Sheldwich expressed an interest in hiring the hall and the Village Hall was re-opened a month ago. There have been two Bounce sessions and three Pilates sessions and there has been an enquiry from another Pilates group. There was concern regarding the Government restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic but the regulations do not apply to exercise classes. There was an event with children on stage last Saturday. There is a limit of twelve people in the hall and it has been marked out to enable social distancing.

Cllr West said the church is currently limited to twenty people.

Cllr Ainsworth said the Committee will consider WiFi provision at its next meeting.

Cllr West thanked Cllr Ainsworth for his report.

## **5. Public Time**

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time*

*A resident from Faversham said that some parishes have aspirations for a twenty mile per hour speed limit, Eastling Parish Council needs to have a Parish Highways Improvement Plan on its agenda.*

KCCllr Bowles said that when Parish Councils put forward a highways scheme the KCC Highways manager has said he will not look at it unless the Parish Council has a Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

*ACTION: Clerk to circulate details.*

*The meeting was reconvened.*

*7pm Cllr Payne joined the meeting.*

## **6. Village Warden's Report**

The following Neighbourhood Watch report had been received

Over the last couple of months there has been reported to the police a total of seven burglaries within the village with probably five attempted burglaries not reported. The property stolen was nearly all gardening equipment, none recovered. One of the reported burglaries was by a person whom we thought responsible and the crime reported was a smoke screen to deter responsibility away from them. There have been no further crimes reported over the last four weekends. There have been many instances on the outskirts of Eastling and surrounding villages of persons hare coursing which the police take very seriously and hence there has been many visits by the Rural Task Force through the village late at night and have been reasonably successful in apprehending these people.

There are still persons within the village whom thing that the rule of law of COVID-19 does not apply to them. This is most irresponsible and as we have had one death from this virus within the village let us hope these people see common sense.

## **7. Website**

Cllr West said the village website looks good.

Cllr Ainsworth reported that there are still quite a few people looking at it.

Cllr West said the Parish Council website looks good as well.

The Clerk reported that all the financial information, following the audit, has been added to the website.

Cllr West said the Parish Council website starts with HugoFox.

The Clerk said that this is the standard format and once it has been used, only the name Eastling needs to be typed in the browser and the website comes up.

## 8. Chairman's Report

Cllr West said that there was nothing further to report as matters have been covered earlier on the agenda.

## 9. Finance

### i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported that the bank balance is £9,895 as the second instalment of the precept has been received. There has also been a VAT reclaim of £91.61. All approved payments and the Clerk's salary have been paid. The invoice for open space maintenance is yet to be received.

### ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to pay Upchurch Parish Council £8.33, being a share of the Clerks' Conference, and Newington Parish Council £42.33, being a share of the SLCC subscription.

## 10. Planning Matters

### i. Ref 20/503375/FULL

Address: 1 Prospect Place The Street Eastling Faversham Kent ME13 0BQ

Proposal: Erection of side conservatory.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal

### ii. Any other planning matter received by 30 September 2020

Ref: 20/502636/FULL Address: Porch House The Street Eastling Faversham Kent ME13 0AY

Proposal: Erection of a single storey one bedroom dwelling with 4 roof lights and bike store.

Proposed Parking and garden to side (Part retrospective revised scheme to 19/501799/FULL).

Cllr West reported that the proposal has been approved by Swale Borough Council with various conditions attached.

## 11. Eastling Tree Warden

Cllr West reported that Mr Colin Bell will be moving out of the village. Mr Bell has contributed so much towards the village. He has done a terrific job in restoring the gate to the church path and this was done as a gift to the village, and he has also carried out work on the style.

Cllr Ainsworth said Mr Bell has been incredibly helpful to the Village Hall Committee and built the stage and has carried out lots of other work.

*ACTION: Cllr West to write a letter of thanks to Mr Bell from the Parish Council for his sterling contribution to the village over so many years.*

Cllr Adams asked if there could be a formal thank you to Mr Bell at the Village Hall.

Cllr Bailey said he could be presented with the KALC Community Award.

The Clerk said that nominations are submitted in January, there could be an Eastling Parish Council Award.

*ACTION: Cllr Bailey to organise the award and the presentation.*

Cllr West said that Mr Bell has resigned as Tree Warden and a new volunteer is needed. Tree Wardens plant, protect and promote their local trees. No training or experience in tree management is needed – just a love of trees and a few hours to spare. Tree Wardens are organised into local groups. Each group is managed by a co-ordinator and is autonomous, meeting regularly to decide what they would like to focus on.

Cllr Payne said the Tree Warden also works with the Belmont Estate and a lot of the replanting has been a result of this.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr Payne be the Tree Warden for Eastling.

## 12. Correspondence

1. 28.07.20- KALC SAC: list of appointments for the AGM on 14 September 2020
2. 28.07.20- SBC: request for agenda items for the Swale Joint Transportation Board

3. 04.08.20- KCC Highways: Reminder of start of works for Eastling Road, Eastling, Swale
4. 04.08.20- KALC Newsletter
5. 06.08.20- NHS Kent and Medway CCG: Community Bulletin Shielding Guidance
6. 07.08.20- SBC: Housing allocations policy consultation
7. 11.08.20- SBC: Call for sites to be submitted as proposed Local Green Spaces
8. 11.08.20- NALC: briefing papers on Government consultations on reforming the planning system
9. 11.08.20- Kent Police: Fraud alerts
10. 18.08.20- KALC SAC: papers for meeting and AGM 14 September 2020
11. 18.08.20- SBC: Details of Solar Together scheme
12. 21.08.20- KALC CEO bulletin
13. 27.08.20- KCCllr Bowles's newsletter
14. 27.08.20- Highways England: M20 movable barrier works
15. 27.08.20- KALC/CPRE Kent Planning White Paper virtual Information event 11 September
16. 27.08.20- NHS Kent and Medway CCG: Community News
17. 28.08.20- SBC: Swale Joint Transportation Board agenda
18. 03.09.20- KALC: Dynamic Councillor course 1 October
19. 03.09.20- SBC: Swale Green Grid Forum meeting on Wednesday 23 September.
20. 03.09.20- KALC Newsletter
21. 07.09.20: KCC Highways: start of works notification (ironworks) for Eastling Road, Eastling 28 September
22. 07.09.20: Kent Rural Task Force: Rural report and Rural Matters publication
23. 07.09.20- SBC: Climate and Ecological Emergency presentation to Parish Councils
24. 11.09.20- Kent Police & Crime Commissioner: survey on roads enforcement and safety
25. 11.09.20- Kent Resilience Team: Kent Prepared Newsletter
26. 11.09.20- Kent County Council: adoption of the Kent Mineral Sites Plan and the Early Partial Review of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30.
27. 22.09.20- KCC Adult Social Care: survey
28. 22.09.20- Faversham Town Council: Neighbourhood Plan consultation
29. 24.09.20- NHS Kent and Medway CCG: Community News
30. 28.09.20- KALC SAC: draft minutes
31. 29.09.20- SBC: Swale Eastern Area Committee meeting

### **13. Any Other Business**

KCCllr Bowles reported that there has been a severe effect on the Kent County Council budget due to the reduction of income from rates and business rates. There has also been extra cost to Social Services because of COVID-19 and unaccompanied minors seeking asylum. There have been some savings due to less travel by Members and officers; less work on buildings and less maintenance; and less overtime and less casual employment. There have been a few cuts; Community Wardens were going to be increased but this has been put on hold; there is a moratorium on opening Council buildings so any building not already opened will not be, this will effect some of the parish libraries and Children's centres; there is a halt on recruitment unless essential; Members have taken a cut in their special responsibilities allowance and individual Members have taken a cut in the amount of grant funds they have for their own Divisions. The Council has managed to make the budget balance without any severe effect. KCCllr Bowles reported that he has been involved in the Home to School transport appeals.

Cllr West said the recently resurfaced road looks good, the iron works have been raised and we are just waiting for them to finish off the strip in The Street. There are not too many pot holes at present.

Cllr West said that there has been a flooding issue.  
Cllr Ainsworth reported that his neighbour was flooded.

Cllr West thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25 November 2020**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 25 November 2020