

# EASTLING PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for Eastling held in Eastling Village Hall on Tuesday 11 April 2023

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

Also present were eight members of the public.

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held remotely on 4 April 2022

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 April 2022 as a true record, Cllr Bailey duly signed the minutes.

### 2. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Report of the Chairman of Eastling Parish Council

Cllr Bailey reported that County Councillor Rich Lehmann and Ward Member David Simmons regularly attend the Parish Council meetings.

This year's election is uncontested with four nominations having been submitted. Over the last year Cllr Paul Ainsworth and Cllr Paul Adams stepped down; Annie Adams and Caroline Gilbert were co-opted to fill the vacancies.

The Council meets every two months and now meets in person following on-line meetings during the pandemic; initially the Council met in the hall, after restrictions were lifted, to enable social distancing, and now meets in the Committee Room.

The phone box has been totally redecorated thanks to the help of Mr Colin Bell and Mr Brian Williams. At Christmas, they put a tree in the phone box. The Council is keen to have ideas for use of the phone box.

We have a qualified Clerk who advises the Council on legal matters.

The Highways Improvement Plan was close to our hearts, seven years ago a resident was concerned that his children were young and that Newnham Lane needed a reduced speed limit. Cllr Lehmann helped with this, when KCC Highways monitored the lane there was an average speed of 21mph and KCC Highways concluded there was no need for restrictions. We might be able to get SLOW signs on the road.

The Council managed to achieve improved drainage on the z-bend and we managed to get the fencing down Kettle Hill Road replaced. Reducing the speed limit would potentially cost the Parish Council £2,500 but KCC Highways said it was not appropriate for Eastling. Pot holes need to be reported online and details are on the Parish Council's website.

The Eastling Village website was set up before the Parish Council had a website. Change in legislation means that we have to have a website and, with the hall website as well, the village has three websites. Following discussion with the Eastling Village webmaster, it has been agreed that the information will be included on the Parish Council or Village Hall websites.

There are no current issues with the footpaths.

In June, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a hog roast. On 8 May there will be a celebration for the King's Coronation, there will be a ploughman's with bubbles and beer. We have a grant for this and we also received a grant for the Jubilee celebration.

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of John Darlington and Allan Payne, both stalwarts of this village. Allan served for over twenty years as clerk to the Parish Council and was on the original fund-raising committee which raised funds to build the Village Hall.

Carl, the landlord of The Carpenters Arms, will be leaving in June and it is hoped that a new tenant will be found soon. Carl was brilliant during the pandemic. The Parish Council is grateful to Cllr West for his sterling work on the. Council having served on finance, as Chairman, an ordinary Member and then as Chairman again. His leadership has been exemplary.

#### **4. Financial report of the Parish Council**

Cllr Payne reported that the precept for a Band D property has been kept the same as for the last five years at £35. The Parish Council continues to maintain the church path and the village sign. A grant of £100 was given to Swale Citizens Advice which benefits all of Eastling's residents. The Council has a grant fund.

We received a grant of £800 from Swale Borough Council for the Jubilee celebrations and we have secured £634 from the Lottery Funding for the Coronation celebration.

The internal audit will take place on 11 May and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be signed off at the Council's meeting on 15 May.

Cllr Bailey thanked Cllr Payne for his report.

#### **5. To receive reports from local organisations**

None were received.

#### **6. To receive questions and comments from parishioners.**

*#1- Can the Council's meeting dates be published in the newsletter?*

ACTION: Clerk to send dates to the editor.

*#2- Does the Parish Council get notification of road repairs?*

Cllr Bailey said it does and these are posted on the Parish Council website, which gives out email alerts, and also WhatsApp.

*#3. Every time they repair the road the level increases and with heavy rain there is the danger of water run-off going under front doors, can they skim off the surface?*

Cllr West said KCC Highways are aware of the issue, when The Street was repaired, they left a strip in front of the houses. The Parish Council cannot control what KCC does.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Cllr Lehmann if the surface can be skimmed.

Cllr West said that different contractors put up the road closure signs and sometimes these are left out longer.

KCC has a scheme called Plan Tree and the parish might get £500 for trees, if anyone has any ideas where trees could be planted, they should let the Parish Council know.

*#4- Thank you for putting the information in the Good News regarding the defibrillator. There was a number to call if you need the defibrillator, can this be published again? Is it possible to have a first aid / defibrillator training course in the village?*

Cllr Bailey said that in the event of an emergency, the first thing people must do is call 999, they know the location of the defibrillator. The Council can consider hosting a training session.

Cllr Gilbert said the defibrillator gives spoken instructions and can be used by anyone.

ACTION: Training session for next Parish Council agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting: