

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Eastling Parish Council held remotely on
Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 6.30pm

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

Also present was County Councillor Andrew Bowles, Ward Member David Simmons and five members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Paul Adams; apology accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting Held on 27 May 2020

Councillors considered the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 27 May 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

Cllr West said that there is currently a moratorium on Traffic Regulation Orders.

KCCllr Bowles said that this is in the process of being allowed. The agenda setting meeting for the next Swale Joint Transportation Board will take place in August.

Cleve Hill Solar Park

Cllr West said it was sad news that the Cleve Hill Solar Park has been given permission.

KCCllr Bowles said that he had fought hard against the proposal. Legal advice was sought regarding a Judicial Review but there were no grounds on which to proceed. There are many reserved matters which will have to go to Swale Borough Council Planning.

5. Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the public time.

Cllr West thanked the applicant of planning application 20/502636/FULL, Porch House, for her email which was detailed and helpfully explained the situation.

A resident said that he had put comments on the planning portal to give details of the measurements of the access.

Cllr West thanked the resident for the clarification.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Village Warden's Report

Cllr West said a Neighbourhood Watch report has been received. There have been four burglaries, three attempted burglaries and the Police have been in touch.

Cllr West thanked Mr Willson for working well with the Police

7. Website

The Clerk reported that there are no issues with the Parish Council website. HugoFox have been working to making the website compliant with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations.

Cllr Ainsworth said that he will liaise with the Clerk to see if it applies to the village website. There has been a lot of use of the village website during the last few months because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The website has not been updated with the Government guidelines as more up to date information is readily available in the media.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr West said there had been antisocial behaviour in the Village Hall car park.

Cllr Ainsworth said there had been a WhatsApp message and this was a good use of WhatsApp. There had also been a message from the school that they were aware and that the teachers were monitoring the area. Nitrous oxide gas cannisters had been found at the car park but this was from a previous incident.

Cllr West said the road has been resurfaced and people were pleased the road was smoother but there was a mystery as to why a third of the road had not been resurfaced. KCC Highways said that it was due to the risk of flooding and that if they raised the level of the tarmac there was a risk that some of the houses might become flooded. The matter was raised to a higher level at KCC Highways and an engineer made a site visit and confirmed that there would be a flood risk. In the Autumn KCC Highways will return and dig down the strip so the tarmac will not be used. The main surface area is good and the contractor will return on 8 August to raise the iron works from Kettle Hill to near Painters Forstal.

Cllr West said there has been a letter from SBCllr Mike Baldock, Cabinet Member for Planning, regarding ponds and important hedgerows.

ACTION: Cllr Bailey to investigate.

9. Finance

i. Annual Governance Statement

Councillors considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement which was duly signed by Cllr West and will also be signed by the Clerk.

ii. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

Councillors considered and approved the Accounting Statement which was duly signed by Cllr West and will also be signed by the Clerk.

iii. To Certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 Of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. The certificate was duly signed by Cllr West and will also be signed by the Clerk.

iv. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported to Members that there is £7285 in the bank, only the Clerk's salary has been paid and also £10 to Newington Parish Council being a share of the Clerks' Conference 2019.

v. Independent Internal Auditor's report

Cllr West said the report highlighted that the budget was not approved before the precept was set and this will be done in the future. The insurance was agreed subject to the approval of Cllr Payne, who was absent at the meeting, the insurance can only be agreed by Members at a meeting. The Finance Regulations could be tweaked and a typo was noted.

vi. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was agreed to pay by BACS: Mr P Ainsworth £52.40 being reimbursement of the rose bushes and Mr L Robbins £75.00 for conducting the internal audit.

vii. To consider request from Citizens Advice Swale for a grant

Councillors considered the request for a grant.

Cllr West **PROPOSED** to make a grant of £100 to Citizens Advice Swale; **SECONDED** by Cllr Payne: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

viii. To consider request from VETS for donation of £100

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay, by BACS, Community Heartbeat £100 for the Village Emergency Telephone System.

10. Planning Matters

i. 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 Ainsworth excluded himself from the meeting and did not take part in the discussion or decision on this matter.

Cllr West said there are issues concerning access and a doorway. There have been seven submissions in support from villagers and there are three near neighbour objections. The Parish Council's remit, as statutory consultee, is to advise Swale Borough Council, the Planning Authority, of the views of residents and the Parish Council has always done this. Swale Borough Council makes the decision on planning applications and it is not always the view of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has no authority in the decision. The objections have become very technical concerning width of access for the Fire Service and the use of the door on the east side. The door is well camouflaged.

Cllr Bailey said the Parish Council would wish that Swale Borough Council take into account the views of residents and that there is no further comment to add.

Cllr Payne said it is important for Swale Borough Council to take the views of residents into account.

Cllr West **PROPOSED** that the Council responds *Councillors have considered the application and have no further comment to make save that the views of neighbours be taken into account:* **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Any other planning matter received by 22 July 2020

No other planning matters had been received.

11. The Carpenters Arms

Cllr Bailey said the Parish Council did register The Carpenters Arms as an Asset of Value to the Community and this has expired. The Asset of Value to the Community status ensures that if Shepherd Neame were to sell off the pub, the Council would be given notice of this and have six months to take action on it. This means it cannot be sold off without residents having a say.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to register The Carpenters Arms as an Asset of Value to the Community.

ACTION: Clerk to send details to Cllr Bailey.

12. Correspondence

1. 04.06.20- KALC Newsletter
2. 04.06.20- KCC Highways: notice of roadworks on Eastling Road
3. 10.06.20- LAG Code of Conduct consultation

4. 12.06.20- SBC: Consultation on Faversham Town Council application to designate a neighbourhood area
5. 12.06.20- NALC Newsletter
6. 17.06.20- KALC CEO bulletin
7. 18.06.20- KCCllr Bowles's newsletter
8. 22.06.20- Letter from SBC leader
9. 22.06.20- KCC Highways report on Highway Flooding & Storm Response
10. 26.06.20- SBC anti-idling campaign
11. 29.06.20- NALC CEO bulletin
12. 29.06.20- KALC Newsletter
13. 03.07.20- Kent Police: Rural Taskforce report
14. 13.07.20- KALC SAC minutes
15. 14.07.20- KCC Budget consultation review

13. Any Other Business

KCCllr Bowles said KCC is in discussions regarding meetings but there does not seem any likelihood of any face to face meetings at the moment, the problems is with the insurance and the cleansing of County Hall. There is a horrendous gap in the budget due to reduced income from Council Tax and Business Rates and the extra expenditure due to COVID-19. £67,000,000 has been received from Central Government but there is still a gap in funding of £50,000,000. There is currently a public consultation regarding the budget and there will be a KCC emergency budget meeting in September. All committees are running on their normal schedule and are being held virtually.

Cllr West thanked KCCllr Bowles for his report.

Cllr Ainsworth said the Village Hall Committee is discussing the re-opening of the hall and feels there is not enough demand to re-open.

7.20pm SBCllr Simmons arrived.

KCCllr Bowles said that of the twenty-three Parish Councils in his Division, nineteen have met during lockdown, seventeen online and two face to face.

SBCllr Simmons said that Doddington is considering re-opening the hall. Newnham Parish Council is trying to persuade the Village Hall Committee to install wifi.

Cllr Ainsworth said that there is no wifi in Eastling Village Hall although this might be considered following the grant received and this might also bring in commercial hirers.

Cllr Simmons said that it can also be used to look up planning applications during a Council meeting.

SBCllr Simmons reported that Swale Borough Council has decided to go ahead with area committees and the Eastern Committee will have its first meeting on 29 September. The committees will have minor grant giving capabilities.

Cllr West thanked SBCllr Simmons for his report.

Cllr West thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 30 September 2020

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 30 September 2020