

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in Eastling Village Hall on 17 July 2023

Present: Cllr Julia Bailey (Chairman), Cllr Annie Adams, Cllr Barrie Neaves and Cllr John Payne; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was PC Gary Morris

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Caroline Gilbert (holiday).

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

PC Gary Morris introduced himself as the new Kent Police neighbourhood beat officer for Boughton and Courtenay, East Downs and Watling Wards. Kent Police has been restructured and the Force has decided to go back to neighbourhood policing with a named officer for the Ward to ensure continuity. PCSO numbers have decreased and the numbers of Police Officers has increased, Police Officers have more powers than PCSOs. Officer Morris informed the Council that he is based in Faversham and has fourteen Parish Councils in his area.

Cllr Payne said the problems rural communities face are from outsiders and involve hare coursing and theft of garden equipment. There is also concern regarding the proposed closure of the Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre as this might lead to increased flytipping.

Officer Morris said anyone witnessing an incident should not confront the person but should take note of vehicles and report to the Police.

Cllr Bailey thanked Officer Morris for attending.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting Held on 15 May 2023

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Bailey.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Payne reported the notice board has not yet been refurbished.

5. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

6. Proposed Closure of the KCC Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre

Councillors noted that the consultation starts on 18 July and that the Faversham Centre is listed for closure in all options. Concern was raised regarding a possible increase in flytipping if the centre closed. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the closure.

ACTION: Cllr Bailey to draft objection.

7. Website

Consideration was given to the content of the Parish Council website and it was agreed that there should be no businesses advertising on the website and no political articles. Information

will be transferred from the Village website to the Council's website and permission to use the Faversham Society's photos will be sought.

ACTION: Cllr Adams to write article for the Good News to explain the closure of the Village Website.

8. Chairman's Report

There was nothing to report as all matters are on the agenda.

9. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported that there is £10,557 in the bank. Staff salary and invoices have been paid including £240 to Mr Paul Ainsworth for the Village Website and £408.03 to Mr Colin Bell for the materials to refurbish the village sign, there was no charge for labour.

ACTION: Clerk to send letter of thanks for the refurbishment of the village sign and also for the gardening.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED** to pay Arien Designs £9.24 for an extra notice board key.

It was **AGREED** to pay Mr L Robbins £90.00 for the internal audit.

iii. Independent Internal Auditor's Report

Cllr Payne said the Internal Auditor had raised that the Council needs a Statement of Internal Control. If the Council exceeds £25,000 turnover the accounts have to be externally audited. Statement of Internal Control will be approved at the January meeting.

10. Planning Matters

There were none.

11. Village Hall 25th Anniversary 2023

Cllr Bailey noted that the Village Hall will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year and there will be a celebration on 9 September with villagers being invited to bring their own food and drink.

12. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Bailey reported that KCCllr Lehmann had approached KCC Highways for SLOW signs in Newnham Lane. Statistics show that vehicles do not speed down the lane and KCC Highways will not fund the signs, the Parish Council would have to pay to have them installed and maintained.

It was agreed not to progress the signage.

Cllr Neaves reported that the Otterden Road has been improved.

13. Telephone Box

There was nothing to report.

14. Correspondence

1. 22.05.23- KSSAAT letter of thanks for donations
2. 26.05.23- NALC CEO bulletin
3. 01.06.23- KALC conferences
4. 01.06.23- Faversham Town Council: Parish to Town Cycling and Walking Project
5. 07.06.23- KALC newsletter
6. 08.06.23- NALC newsletter
7. 09.06.23- NALC CEO bulletin
8. 13.06.23- Police & Crime Commissioner: Update on rural policing
9. 13.06.23- Citizens Advice Swale: newsletter

10. 14.06.23- KCC's Draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 and Draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan - Regulation 18 Public Consultation
11. 14.06.23- Police & Crime Commissioner: Special Edition of the Kent PCC Newsletter
12. 14.06.23.- NALC newsletter
13. 15.06.23- NALC CEO bulletin
14. 20.06.23- KALC: official Guide to Taking Part in the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings
15. 21.06.23- NALC newsletter
16. 23.06.23- NALC CEO bulletin
17. 28.06.23- KALC: training courses
18. 29.06.23- NALC newsletter
19. 30.06.23- Swale Borough Council: planning training for Parish Councils. Part 1, Monday 17 July, 6.30 – 8.30, virtual; Part 2, Monday 18 September, 1.30 – 4.30 Swale House
20. 30.06.23. Kent County Council: National Highways & Transport Network surveys
21. 04.07.23- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
22. 04.07.23- Faversham Town Council: details of protest against the closure of Faversham Tip
23. 06.07.23- NALC newsletter
24. 06.07.23- KALC newsletter
25. 12.07.23- KALC Annual General Meeting 18th November 2023- call for motions

ACTION: Clerk to circulate training information.

15. Any Other Business

Cllr Neaves reported that the Carpenters Arms has a new tenant and will reopen on 9 August.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15pm

Date of next Meeting: Monday 18 September 2023

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 18 September 2023