

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Eastling Village Hall on 11 March 2025

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

Also present were two members of the public.

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Annie Adams (holiday); apologies accepted. Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting); apology noted.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 14 January 2025

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Bailey said an alternative proposal had been put forward for the village green space but this was rejected by the Village Hall Management Committee.

5. Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the public time.

A member of the public asked if there had been any feedback regarding the proposed village green space.

Cllr Bailey said there had been no formal response.

KCCllr Lehmann was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted the following report:
Swale Borough Council will be hosting a public meeting this coming Wednesday about Local Government Reorganisation.

The government's aim is for Kent to be turned into Unitary Authorities in the next two to three years. This will mean Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council would become part of a larger Unitary Authority responsible for all of the services Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council currently provide.

The authority we become part of will cover a massive area (probably 3-4 times larger than Swale), and both residents and councillors could easily end up finding themselves with less power and less of a voice to represent their local area.

Current possible options for the reorganisation could see Swale grouped in with Medway, Gravesham and Dartford, or possibly with Canterbury and Ashford (or even Canterbury, Ashford, Thanet, Dover and Folkestone).

To hear more about these plans, and to share your views, please go along to the meeting on Wednesday evening. For those not able to make it to Sittingbourne, the meeting will also be broadcast on Swale Borough Council's YouTube channel.

Cllr Bailey said it was known that KCCllr Lehmann is opposed to the change in Local Government. Kent Council Council's bid to be fast tracked to a Unitary Authority was unsuccessful.

Cllr Neaves said that the presentation by Swale Borough Council suggested that some parishes may merge.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Chairman's Report

Cllr Bailey reported that it has been quiet in the village. Mr Binder is concerned that someone has cut the gas pipes on the bird scarers.

A resident raised concern that lights have been seen coming across the fields.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate details of Operation Galileo.

Cllr Gilbert said flytipping continues to be a problem.

Cllr Bailey said that most has been cleared quickly.

Cllr Neaves said the rubbish at the bottom of Mill Lane has been there since November and has been added to. It is on private land and down to the Belmont Estate, the landowner.

Cllr Gilbert informed Members that she had reported this, there is also asbestos in the rubbish.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Ward member Terry Thompson.

7. Planning Matters

There were no new planning applications to consider.

Eastling Manor Kettle Hill Road Eastling Kent ME13 0AX

24/505051/FULL Erection of replacement attached single storey summer house, new detached garden shed, and a ground mounted solar panel array.

24/504898/LBC Listed Building Consent for demolition of existing attached summer house and erection of replacement attached summer house, new detached garden shed, and a ground mounted solar panel array.

Awaiting decision.

The Old Rectory Eastling Road Eastling Kent ME13 0AN 24/505326/LBC

Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations including demolition of conservatory and front shed. Erection of a single storey rear extension, creation of a rear terrace, removal of internal walls on ground floor and first floor, insertion of wood burners and changes to fenestration.

24/505325/FULL Demolition of conservatory and front shed. Erection of a single storey rear extension including creation of an outside terrace and patio and changes to fenestration. Conversion of garage for use as home office including a rear dormer extension, patio and external landscaping works.

Awaiting decision.

8. Finance

Cllr Payne reported that there was £12,362 in the bank. The Village Hall rent, £96 has been paid.

Councillors considered the quotation to maintain the church path and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation of £240 from Mr N Swatland.

9. Website

There was nothing to report.

10. Correspondence

1. 16.01.25- KALC bulletin
2. 16.01.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy round-up
3. 16.01.25- NALC CEO bulletin
4. 22.01.25- KALC: devolution update
5. 24.01.25- KALC bulletin
6. 24.01.25- NALC bulletin
7. 28.01.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy round-up
8. 30.01.25- NALC CEO bulletin
9. 03.02.25- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure Otterden Road, Eastling on 31 January 2025
10. 03.02.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy round-up
11. 05.02.25- KALC Newsletter
12. 07.02.25- NALC CEO bulletin
13. 10.02.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy round-up
14. 13.02.25- KCC: The Inspector's report on Kent County Council's Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 (KMWLP)
15. 14.02.25- KALC bulletin
16. 14.02.25- NALC CEO bulletin
17. 19.02.25- KALC bulletin
18. 20.02.25- NALC CEO bulletin
19. 24.02.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy round-up
20. 25.02.25- KALC: update on the latest developments regarding local government reorganisation in Kent
21. 28.02.25- NALC CEO bulletin
22. 28.02.25- KALC CEO bulletin
23. 04.03.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy round-up
24. 05.03.25- KALC: Newsletter
25. 05.03.25- Swale Borough Council CEO devolution presentation
26. 06.03.25- NALC CEO bulletin
27. 06.03.25- Swale Borough Council: JKC Policy round-up
28. 06.03.25- KALC Training Bulletin

11. Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Bailey informed Members that the Council will provide drinks at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Village Hall Committee will provide the food.

ACTION: Clerk to invite groups to give a verbal or written report to the meeting.

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Neaves thanked the Belmont Estate for hedge cutting generally throughout the village; the Housing Association for hedge cutting at The Glebe; and Kent Highways for hedge cutting at the entrance to Meesons Close.

A resident asked if the gaps in hedges could be re-instated.

Cllr Bailey said that this would have been done as part of the village green space scheme.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Belmont Estate to re-instate the hedges.

Date of Annual Parish Meeting: 10 April at 8pm
Date of Annual Parish Council Meeting: 13 May 2025 at 6.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.58pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 May 2025