

MINUTES OF EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2020

1. PRESENT

Documents sent to: Cllr Ledger (Chair), Cllr Butcher, Cllr Hansell, Cllr C Ledger, Cllr Millard, Cllr Morgan-Lovett, Cllr Wiles and Cllr Whitehead.

Invite with an opportunity to send a report to: KCC Cllr Lymer, DDC Cllr's Keen, Walker and Woodgate and Community Warden Juliette West. Also, C Vincent, Clerk.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES 08 JULY 2020 MEETING

Cllr Wiles asked for an amendment as the word site had been used instead of sight on page 3 and asked the Clerk to use Action instead of resolved.

The minutes were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Morgan-Lovett, seconded by Cllr Butcher and carried. Minutes will be signed by the Chair when circumstances allow.

4. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

Report from KCC Cllr Geoff Lymer

The Covid-19 helpline within the Kent and Medway Growth hub was set up early in lockdown in March, sponsored by KCC. Up to 24th July it had received 8,470 phone calls; dealt with 1,890 queries via the web chat line; providing 3,301 individual phone-based advice sessions.

The Maidstone and Ashford areas have seen the greatest level of use. Hospitality and Leisure services have made the most contacts, just ahead of retail businesses. The Agriculture sector has made fewest contacts. 53% of the enquiries related to the Business Rates Relief Grant, the highest topic for queries.

This week saw the rebranding of the Covid-19 Helpline and the launch of the Business Recovery Workshop programme with 190 businesses registering in the first few days. The workshops and one to one session begin over the next few weeks to help businesses assess what action they can take to increase the chances of their business continuing to trade.

A few businesses continue to seek clarity around the re-opening of certain sectors, but in general most seem comfortable with their understanding of their obligations. Perhaps surprisingly, the introduction of the face mask guidance didn't cause as much concern as anticipated as this appears to have been seen as a consumer requirement rather than a business issue.

There has been a worrying number of calls relating to redundancy and it may be that, as forecast a few weeks ago, this is the lagged effect of the economic shock associated with lockdown starting to play out. Access to cash flow is still a focus of attention. Conversations suggest that some businesses are reluctant to take on further debt; as they don't have confidence in their future trading strength.

The shift from high street to online continues at pace, as retailers seek to replace the losses in footfall. While some areas have seen the benefits of pent up demand, most see the need for an online presence as being critical.

KCC will continue to provide all the support it can to businesses struggling to recover and thrive.

A video for schoolchildren using the bus to and from school from September is planned, which will feature in special 'back to school' newsletters for parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), Disability and residents, as well as being promoted on social media. Kent Communications is also working with Strategic Commissioning, Headstart and the NHS on an article for these newsletters and elsewhere to help parents and schools support children coming back to school who might be particularly anxious or worried. All communications will be fully covered on [kent.gov](https://www.kent.gov.uk), including information on parental expectations of specific transport options for eligible learners.

While on the subject of school transport, detailed transport guidance from the DfE has been expected for over four weeks, since school return announced, and is still awaited. However, initial planning for

transport services is underway, based on the current guidance. Guidance has been provided to schools to explain current limitations on the transport available, but focussing on what planning can still be completed. Clear communication lines for all schools enabling them to raise individual concerns have been established.

SEN students will be provided their normal hired transport and mainstream students entitled to transport will continue to be provided with either dedicated hired vehicles or a season ticket on a local bus.

Initial guidance for these pupils does not require social distancing on dedicated school transport vehicles, due to the consistent cohort and lack of interaction with the general public. Social distancing and face covering requirements are clear for different pupils on different types of transport and will be implemented. The schools transport team has worked with local bus operators to identify services which can be designated as for schools only, which increases on-vehicle capacity to 70% from the normal 50%.

The application window for the Kent Travel Saver remains open. Applications made by the 9th August are guaranteed a pass in time for start of term. The application process for free school transport has been available throughout the lockdown period and applications are being submitted.

The cost of KCC subsidising school travel passes for parents amounts to £8 million annually, from its budget. Not all county councils around Britain provide such a scheme and this should be viewed as a privilege and not a right, for it could be withdrawn if KCC has to make savings as a result of COVID-19 creating a financial drain on its funds.

There are currently 508, under 18-year-old, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in the County. There have been 331 new arrivals since the start of the year, including 50 young people so far in July.

Quarantining of young people arriving was stopped on 10th July in line with government guidance (unless they have been in a Country not on the exempt list within the previous 14 days). This enabled Oakwood House, which had previously been used for those quarantined, to be taken out of use. All young people are now housed at Millbank, Swattenden, Appledore, and the Mansion House, with Oakwood House being kept as contingency accommodation in case there is a sudden rise in numbers or the requirement to quarantine all those arriving from France is reintroduced.

As of today, 75 young people have moved to other Local Authorities as part of the partially revitalised National Transfer Scheme, with a further 10 moving this week. We are grateful to our colleagues working in other local authorities for this and the other 137 offers of placement that have come through. The service is working hard to match young people to the pledges made.

It is worth noting that there have been no known Covid-19 cases among the new arrivals.

The Integrated Children's Services team have been working with colleagues in Strategic Commissioning to model the potential latent demand that may be seen in September, when all children are back in school. The service has been carefully looking at the trends in referrals across the County during recent months as there have been some clear differences across the districts and is making preparations at the Front Door to ensure there are sufficient staff to process referrals from our partners. It is, of course, to be hoped that the latent demand will not materialise, but this seems unlikely and the consequent pressure on resources will be significant.

Finally, I am very concerned at the loss of employment some members of our community may suffer due to the impact of COVID-19 on local businesses, including some of the major ferry companies at Dover Port, even though some of these companies took advantage of the Central Government financial schemes.

I would like to assist those who have been made redundant to become reemployed quickly to stave off financial problems along with the worries that brings.

To this end, if anyone on my ward has been made redundant, please email me, I require NO NARRATIVE, just first and family name, email address, contact telephone landline and mobile number, type of occupation before redundancy, any particular additional skills eg class1 HGV driver, qualified mechanic, seamstress, etc. By sending me your email, you accept and agree to giving me open permission to pass

your details on to a potential recruiter. I will not reply to your emails, other than acknowledge its receipt.

If you operate your own business or control a major business and you require one or more staff, full or part time, once more I require no narrative just your first and family name the name of the company, farm or small holding contact email address and phone number. Just email to me the type and number of job vacancies you have. Once more I will only acknowledge receipt of your email.

My intention is to get those who have suddenly lost an income back to receiving an income quickly, to ease any major financial worries and to support local industry grow. To do this, all my role will be is to pass the details of those unemployed to business operators and farmers who require staff.

Whilst I encourage those who are out of work to sign on at the Department for Work and Pensions, hopefully, if we all work to support each other, should you be unemployed you may be recruited sooner and then this will ease the case load for the DWP too.

Finally, those unemployed who may consider this is the time to start their own business. My advice, really research that business, is there a market? be honest with yourself, do you have the discipline, the energy, the tenacity and strength of character and knowledge to actually run such a business, are you prepared to put in the time? Are you prepared to listen and learn? If you feel you have what it takes, drop me a brief line stating what type of business you would like to consider starting, explain why you believe there is a market by evidencing your beliefs, explain how you intend to fund it and I may be able to assist you further with advice. One of my many roles at KCC is "start-up business enterprise and support." I am contactable on email address Geoff.Lymer@kent.gov.uk.

Report from Julliette West Community Warden

- Inappropriate parking and litter issues Pike Road
- Parking concerns Eythorne roundabout/ The Street
- Bonfire smoke nuisance
- Nuisance noise dog barking
- Straying dogs
- Damage caused to buildings
- Fly tipping
- Theft from vehicle
- Individual welfare needs

Contacted current trustee of the Manse, Milner Road who will liaise with PC reference defibrillator housing unit.

There has been a noted reduction in the number of recorded /incidents of motorbike nuisance and noise.

A reduction in incidents of ASB in and around the village has also been noted.

Am currently working with partners on the community social supermarket project idea and am keen to hear the Parish Councillors views.

Members discussed the social supermarket idea, they felt this was a good idea but there were concerns of security, cleansing due to COVID and where this would be held. The Community Centre was the obvious choice but the only possible area would be the youth room, the Church Hall was also suggested.

Action: The Clerk will report back to Julliette.

5. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no questions put forward from the public.

6. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Cllr Whitehead reported the last payment for Suzanne is on the list this month as the handover is now complete. Cllr Wiles asked about McAfee and if that had been resolved and asked what name the account was in, the Clerk confirmed this is in the Council's name and it is possible to pay by bank transfer next time to prevent a personal card being used.

The invoices as detailed below were agreed for payment, proposed by Cllr Whitehead, seconded by Cllr Butcher and carried.

Finance Report		
Payee	Payment Type	Amount
Idverde Limited	300783	£65.98
C Vincent	Bank Transfer	£1311.20
S Thomson	SO	£589.65
S Thomson	300784	£100.64
S Collins	300785	£92.05
PFK Littlejohn	300786	£360.00

6.a) TO RECEIVE THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT

The Clerk reported the agar had been returned from the external auditor PKF Littlejohn with no problems and were happy all information in sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is within accordance with proper practices.

7. PLANNING

Applications:

There were no planning applications.

Decisions:

There were no decided applications.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES 08 JULY 2020 NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The Clerk reported the traffic mirror to KCC, the mirror was taken down by KCC and the resident concerned was informed to collect it if they wished to have this back. The Clerk informed the original resident who made the complaint.

Cllr Whitehead reported that the road works on Kennel Hill for adding dragon teeth markings will begin on the 31st August and should take 3 days to complete.

9. ALLOTMENTS – Water containers/tenants update

The Clerk reported to members that letters had been sent out to the 2 tenants that had not paid instructing them if payment was not received within 14 days the plots will be issued to someone else. The Clerk said no responses have been received. Cllr Whitehead said one of the current tenants would like one of the plots and details will be on the Council emails.

Further water containers have not yet been obtained; the Chair will be dealing with this.

Action, the Clerk was asked to advertise the available plots on the website and on the noticeboard and to contact the tenant who previously asked for one of the plots.

10. VILLAGE SIGNS UPDATE

This is to be adjourned to a further meeting.

11. WIGMORE LANE FOOTPATH UPDATE

Cllr Whitehead reported that there is no update for Wigmore Lane and are now awaiting KCC.

A site visit is still required for Pike Road by KCC who have issued the following email:

Thank you for your recent communication. KCC's Schemes Planning & Delivery Team is currently experiencing exceptional service demand and must focus on the delivery of the Government's recently announced Emergency Active Travel Fund and the securing of the second phase of a significant injection of funding for the highway network in Kent. We have our programmed list of safety critical schemes to deliver and we need to focus on these between now and the end of March 2021. We recognise this is a difficult time and understand the frustration this may cause by not receiving an individual response to your enquiry. We hope to be in a position to provide the high level of customer service that has previously been provided once again when the situation changes. Please be assured that the safety critical issues are still being dealt with, but you will not receive a response to your enquiry at this time. It is not necessary for you to contact us again. If you are concerned about a highway fault please use the online fault

reporting tool <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>.

Action, to forward this email onto KCC Cllr G Lymer, District Councillors and our Community Warden.

12. FACEBOOK – Possibility of setting up a Council Facebook page

The Clerk asked members if they would be happy to have a Facebook page set up for the Parish Council. Cllr Butcher commented that there is an Eythorne Residents Group on Facebook that the Clerk should look to joining for commenting on and also a Next door Eythorne which Cllr Butcher will provide details for. There was a discussion on Facebook including the amount of time it takes up and to have someone else as admin on the page, Cllr Chelsea Ledger volunteered to do this. Cllr Millard was in full agreement to have a Facebook page.

It was agreed the Clerk set up a Facebook page, proposed by Cllr C Ledger and seconded by Cllr Morgan-Lovett, unanimously carried.

13. DEFIBRILATOR – Retrieving remaining defibrillator items

Cllr Morgan-Lovett updated everyone on the Milner Road defibrillator, this is now at the Parish Council office but the transformer is still within the property and the new owner was not known making it difficult to retrieve. Cllr Morgan-Lovett had also made Community Warden Julliette West aware who had been making enquiries.

The Clerk contacted the Community Warden to ask advice on retrieving the remaining equipment and if it was a police matter. Julliette West replied that she already has this in hand and had contacted the owner and someone will contact the parish to arrange retrieval.

Members then discussed where best to place this defibrillator and Cllr Morgan-Lovett suggested the wall near the carpark at the Community Centre as this is covered by CCTV and the handyman is close by. Cllr Morgan-Lovett spoke to members about the idea of swapping and charging between the other defibrillators within the area, which was well received.

Action for the Clerk to write to the Community Centre Committee asking for permission to install the defibrillator on the wall of the carpark.

14. MUGA COURT – Members to discuss the usage

The Clerk had received communication from a lady wishing to use the MUGA Court for Zumba classes and asked for permission to do so. Members discussed the MUGA Court and Cllr Hansell commented that there are some regulations in place which she will find.

Cllr Butcher felt the Council should allow this as it is good to allow people to exercise.

It was resolved to allow the use of the MUGA Court for Zumba classes, this was proposed by Cllr Butcher, seconded by Cllr Millard and unanimously carried. The Clerk to contact the lady to let her know.

15. FOOTPATH ACROSS KENNEL HILL – Members to discuss following a letter received

A resident sent in an email to Cllr G Lymer and copied in the Clerk over concerns of use of footpath EE401A and EE401B into the Walderslade estate which they felt was dangerous due to crossing Kennel Hill where traffic speeds at 60mph with no footpath which then leads down some very steep unsafe steps. Cllr Millard walked this route which he also considered quite unsafe including the steps.

Action for the Clerk to respond to Cllr G Lymer that the steps will be reported to KCC Public Rights of Way and to copy in the resident.

16. THE GREEN – Area for a wildlife garden

Cllr Whitehead updated everyone about turning The Green into a wildlife garden, the Kent Wildlife Trust will be contacting the Clerk to arrange a site visit with the Council and the volunteer for advice. Cllr Whitehead asked if members were all happy for this area to be a wild garden.

It was agreed members were happy with this idea which was proposed by Cllr Morgan-Lovett, seconded by Cllr Hansell and unanimously carried.

17. THE WILLOW WAY ACCESS PATHWAY TO THE PLAYING FIELD – Trip hazard

Cllr Butcher had a resident report to her about the pathway leading to the playing field off of Willow Way being a trip hazard and not accessible by wheelchair users. The Clerk is trying to find out who owns the pathway to report the hazards to.

Cllr Butcher asked if new signs could be placed at the playing field for picking up dog mess.

Action for the Clerk to contact DDC for new signs for picking up after your dog.

18. SYCAMORE TREE BLOCKING LIGHT

A resident had reported to Cllr M Ledger that a sycamore tree at the entrance to the playing field at Eythorne off of Green Road is blocking light to a couple of properties.

The sycamore tree has been inspected and it was not felt this was an issue at this time and will be reviewed regularly.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported an email received from a resident regarding excess rubbish in the area of Old Tom's Hole and asked if a bin could be provided. This was reported to DDC, due to lack of budget they are unable to provide a bin but will add as a request for when funds may become available at a later date, the Clerk updated the resident.

20. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Wiles asked about the bus shelters and Cllr Whitehead updated everyone that due to COVID the firms had closed down so were unable to proceed with a quote. It had previously been decided to arrange a quote for vandal proof metal grills.

Action, Cllr Whitehead will forward the details for the company to contact to see if they are now in a position to provide a quote.

Cllr Millard asked members if video meetings were a possibility in the future, members discussed this and decided to review this on a month by month basis.

The Clerk asked if it would be possible to book for the Clerk's conference in September for which there is a charge.

It was agreed the Clerk could book this as this is in the budget, Cllr C Ledger proposed, Cllr Morgan-Lovett seconded and unanimously carried.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm