

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Eastling Parish Council held on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 6.30pm in Eastling Village Hall.

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

Also present was County Councillor Andrew Bowles, PCSO Jamie Dolton and PCSO Dennis Pashov.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr John Payne; apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from Ward Member David Simmons (at another meeting); apology noted.

Cllr West welcomed PCSO Dolton and PCSO Pashlov to the meeting, who as part of their duty are attending a number of Parish Council meetings to inform residents of the work that they carry out.

PCSO Dolton reported that over the past month, there had been one call from Eastling regarding hare coursing. Residents are encouraged to call in any incidents. The area covered by the PCSOs includes Eastling, Boughton, Dunkirk, Selling, Graveney, Faversham, Throwley, Luddenham, Newnham and Doddington. PCSOs work with Police Officers when needed. PCSOs deal with parking issues including obstructions; nuisance youths; nuisance bikes, anti-social behavior and neighbor problems. They also help with Road Traffic Collisions. PCSOs have no powers to deal with outcomes. 101 calls go through to the Force control room and goes to PCSOs if more relevant.

PCSO Pashlov said PCSOs might deal with house to house enquiries but if there was a risk it would be dealt with by Police Officers.

PCSO Dolton said 101 is a non-emergency number and if life or property is at risk, residents should call 999. Non-emergency calls can also be reported online as well as by LiveChat.

Cllr West asked if PCSOs have contact with Neighbourhood Watch.

PCSO Dolton said that they are registered with some but not at Eastling or Doddington which liaise with the Kent Rural Police Team. The PCSOs work out of Faversham Police Station.

PCSO Pashlov said they would not be able to attend every meeting but will send monthly reports to the Council.

Cllr West thanked PCSO Dolton and PCSO Pashlov for attending the meeting and this has been very informative.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 16 January 2020

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 January 2020 and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept them as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr West.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Memorial Garden

Cllr Ainsworth reported that the rose bushes will be delivered soon and will be planted in the memorial Garden.

Newnham Lane petition

Cllr Bailey reported the petition had been submitted to the Swale Joint Transport Board for the march meeting.

KCCllr Bowles informed Councillors that the Chairman accepted the petition and recommended that a technical report from KCC Highways be considered at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to give the resident an update.

KCCllr Bowles said that he will ensure Councillors see a copy of the draft report before the meeting.

Cllr West said that it would be good to know when officers come out so that Councillors can explain the issue.

5. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

6. Village Warden's Report

Mr Willson sent a written Neighbourhood Watch report.

Over the last couple of years, I have posted warnings in my Neighbourhood Watch report of people in the village employing people to work where it would need for rubbish to be moved and a licence needed for disposal of rubbish whether it be household or garden. A few people decided to ignore this advice and used unlicensed persons and these unlicensed people came under the attention of the Police together with whom they were working for and using untaxed no mot vehicles. They were warned last year about the vehicle and possible fly tipping. The vehicle involved is disposed of and another vehicle purchased and used which again was untaxed with no MOT. The police had had enough, and this new vehicle was seized and taken away from outside a resident's address where he was working. The vehicle was taken to the car pound and subsequently after fines were all paid the vehicle was returned and is now taxed and has MOT. A quantity of drugs paraphernalia was found at the top of Newham Lane which had obviously been dumped from a car and around the same time a large knife was found in Newham Lane further down which again had been thrown from a vehicle. The Police were informed, and the matter is under investigation. There has been a spate of vehicles in the fields in Eastling and surrounding areas which the Police are investigating, it is probably hare coursing. There has been a garden shed break in in Doddington.

What is the legal position of Romany Rest?

Cllr West thanked Mr Willson for his report. The legal position of Romany Rest is that the owner has permission to be there.

ACTION: Clerk to respond.

7. Website

Cllr Ainsworth said there has been information regarding the coronavirus COVID-19 which could go on the Parish Council website rather than the village website.

The Clerk reported that she has added an update with links to the Parish Council website.

Cllr West said the information is very useful and there has been a lot of testing.

KCCllr Bowles said that for every one person who have contracted COVID-19 8,000 have caught flu.

Cllr Ainsworth said the situation might impact on the Annual meeting on 23 April, this will need to be reviewed nearer the time.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr West reported a resident had lots of planted pots stolen. The Government has pledged in the Budget this week that significant new money to deal with pot holes.

About three weeks ago, Cllr Payne saw a lorry sucking out the drain on the z-bend towards Faversham, the contractor informed him that the drain was so full of roots that it cannot be cleared properly; this should be reported back. The contractor also admitted that they cannot clear every drain so some do get omitted. Cllr Payne said houses should be protected first.

Cllr Bailey reported that on the day of the torrential downpour, four operatives were cleaning the drains.

KCCllr Bowles said KCC Highways has a list of acute sites and the sucker vehicles were sent out, also tankers were deployed to remove surface water.

KCCllr Bowles reported that no roads were being checked for faults and that he will raise this with KCC Highways.

9. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr West said that Cllr Payne had advised that there is £6031 in the bank account and only the Clerk has been paid since the last meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to send accounts to Cllr Payne and the Chairman for the Annual Parish Meeting.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED** to pay Swale Borough Council £64.90 for the Parish Council election costs.

It was **AGREED** to renew the CPRE membership £36.00

iii. To consider request for a grant from Kent Sussex Surrey Air Ambulance

Councillors considered the request for a grant and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to give £125.00. Cllr Adams said that he will match the Council's donation.

10. Planning Matters

Cllr West informed Members that a resident had written expressing concern regarding the new development at Porch House.

Cllr Ainsworth declared a pecuniary interest in the matter as he owns the neighbouring property. Cllr Ainsworth took no part in the discussion.

Cllr West said the Parish Council did object, but the application received planning permission. There is no door at the front on the plans and one has been installed contrary to the planning permission granted. Concern has been raised that vehicles will be parked near the front door and the lights will spoil the environment for neighbours.

Cllr Adams said the owner is in breach of planning permission.

It was **AGREED** to bring the matter to the planning officer's attention.

ACTION: Cllr West to draft letter for Clerk to send to Swale Borough Council and copy in the Ward Member.

11. Correspondence

1. 16.01.20- Rural report and the Winter 2019/20 edition of Rural Matters Magazine from the Kent Police Rural Task Force
2. 16.01.20- KCCllr Bowles: details of funding event
3. 20.01.20- Swale Borough Council corporate plan 2020-2023 consultation
4. 20.01.20- KALC CEO January bulletin
5. 22.01.20- SBC: Invitation to briefings at Swale House
6. 22.01.20- SBC: minutes of the Swale Joint Transportation Board meeting held on 13 January 2020
7. 28.01.20- KCCllr Bowles' newsletter
8. 06.02.20- KALC: Membership survey
9. 06.02.20- KALC Newsletter
10. 06.02.20- KCC Highways Notice of Temporary Road Closure – The Street, Doddington – 17 February 2020
11. 06.02.20- KCC Highways Notice of Temporary Road Closure – Sharsted Road, Doddington – 19 February 2020
12. 06.02.20- KCC Highways Notice of Temporary Road Closure – Seed Road, Newnham – 5 March 2020

13. 06.02.20- SBC: Invitation to Swale Green Grid Forum and Visit Swale Familiarisation Trip to Elmley Nature Reserve
14. 26.02.20- KALC CEO newsletter
15. 26.02.20- Invitation to the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Civic Service 2020 at Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday 17 March 2020- would anyone like to go to represent the Parish Council
16. 26.02.20- KALC Swale Area Committee agenda
17. 26.02.20- Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner newsletter
18. 26.02.20- Faversham Town Council- notes and other documents from the Faversham Future Forum
19. 04.02.20- KCC: Coronavirus COVID-19 Update
20. 05.02.20- Coronavirus COVID-19 Update
21. 09.02.20- Coronavirus COVID-19 Update
22. 10.02.20- KCC Highways: Temporary road closures for micro-surfacing.
23. 10.02.20- Coronavirus COVID-19 Update
24. 11.03.20- KCCllr Bowles's newsletter
25. 11.03.20- Coronavirus COVID-19 Update

12. Any Other Business

Cllr West reminded members that the Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be held on 23 April at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm.

Cllr Bailey said the Bluebell Walk will be held again on 3 May.

KCCllr Bowles informed that he has contacted Earl Bournier, KCC Highways Drainage Team Manager, and reminded him that neither Eastling nor Stalisfield are on the maintenance list, and also highlighted hotspots in the parishes. Pett Dane Road is programmed for resurfacing in July/ August.

Cllr West said the road between The Carpenters Arms and Newnham Lane is in a poor state. KCCllr Bowles said the problem is not always the surface of the roads and the roads have an ultrasound scan to detect defects.

Cllr Adams said there will be a pantomime in Eastling in 2020 and this will be big social event for the village. Proceeds will be given to the Village Hall although there is concern that there might be a shortfall.

Cllr Ainsworth said the group could apply for a grant from the Parish Council.

The Clerk said the 12th edition of Charles-Arnold Baker Local Council Administration has been published, one copy could be purchased between the Councils. It was agreed to share the book with the other Councils.

Date of Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 23 April 2020

Date of Annual Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 27 May 2020

Signed as a true copy of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 27 May 2020