

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 6.30pm in Eastling Village Hall.

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

Also in attendance was County Councillor Andrew Bowles.

1. Apologies

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

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

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 31 July 2019

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31 July 2019 and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept them as true records of the meetings. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr West.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Memorial Garden

Cllr Ainsworth said that he will buy the new roses in October and the grass will be removed.

Cllr West said it would be good to make the garden really special as it is an important feature of the village.

Z bend

Cllr West said there was no update on the issue.

KCCllr Bowles said the problems have been reported on several occasions and that he had even walked the road with KCC Highways officers. The road is not on the scheme of work for this financial year. Due to the amount of schemes countywide, work has been prioritised according to the condition of the road and this has been ascertained by using ultrasound equipment.

Cllr West said the road from Newnham Lane to the Carpenters Arms is very bad. It had been reported and white lines marked the areas but the lines were now worn. There has been an accident which had been reported to KCC.

KCCllr Bowles said it was not on the list at the Swale Joint Transportation Board and that he will raise the matter with the relevant officers.

Cllr West said the road is heavily used for school traffic and also an increasing number of cyclists, at great speed, are using the road and the pot holes are a great danger to cyclists.

Cllr Ainsworth reported that workmen had filled a few holes in.

KCCllr Bowles said the current system is to carry out emergency repairs first and then to repair the rest of the pot holes at a later date.

Road names

Cllr Payne informed Members that there was a mill which was demolished in 1908, it was behind Lime House and the last miller was called Elvy.

Grant Policy

Cllr West reported that details are on the Council's website.

Charges at KCC Tips

Cllr West reported there had been a thorough response from KCC.

Cllr Payne said there was a concern that the charges would lead to an increase in flytipping. KCCllr Bowles said he had voted against the policy at KCC and that it was passed by a small majority. The rationale was that Bexley, Bromley and East Sussex had introduced charges and there was concern that people would cross the border and use KCC tips for free.

5. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

6. Village Warden's Report

There was no report from the Village Warden.

7. Website

i. To receive an update

Cllr Ainsworth reported the village website was updated, there has been a slight increase in usage.

ii. To consider Parish Council website provider

The Clerk reported the current website, provided by EIS KCC, does not comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines but it will be upgraded and from September 2020 KCC will start charging Parish Councils approximately £1200- 1300. HugoFox offer free websites to Parish Councils and community groups and the websites are compliant. HugoFox offers paid for commercial websites.

It was **AGREED** to have a new website with HugoFox.

ACTION: Clerk.

Cllr Payne asked if Councillors should have .gov.uk email addresses.

The Clerk said KALC recommend that Councillors should have a separate email address for Council business although this does not have to be a .gov.uk email address which would attract a cost to the Parish Council.

KCCllr Bowles said that if a FOI request was made, the person would have the right to go through all emails including personal and business ones but a separate email address would prevent this.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr West said the hedges need cutting back.

Cllr Bailey said the hedges can only be cut back between 1 October and 28 February unless causing a hazard, to avoid disturbing nesting birds.

9. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported the Council has £6274 in the bank account. BACS payments since last meeting: salary and expenses July- £86.08; HMRC - £19.20; NEST DD- £18.94; salary and expenses August £59.42, HMRC- £12.60; NEST £12.42.

Cllr Ainsworth asked whether the grant awarded in the 2018-19 financial year to the village hall for the lighting rig is still available.

Cllr Payne said the award has been earmarked in the budget and is ring fenced.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Newington Parish Council £36.66 being a share of the Clerks' Conference fee.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr D Buckett £255.85 internal audit fee.

iii. Independent Internal Auditor's Report

Councillors considered the Independent Internal Auditor's report.

The Clerk said under the Transparency Code the draft minutes must be on the website within thirty days of the Council meeting. Draft minutes are clearly marked as draft on the website. Cllr Payne said the VAT needs to be show separately on the spreadsheets and this will be addressed. The Finance Regulations will be dealt with on this agenda.

iv. Review of Financial Regulations

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the revised Finance Regulations.

The Council should review the appointment of the Internal Auditor as good practise.

ACTION: Clerk to request a list of Independent Internal Auditors from KALC.

10. Planning Matters

Ref: 19/503828/FULL Address: Churchfields The Street Eastling Faversham ME13 0BG

Proposal: Conversion of existing stables into 2no. additional residential apartments.

Cllr Bailey reported a decision is expected on 28 September.

11. Correspondence

1. 07.09.19: KALC EVENTS- Annual Finance Conference on 12th October (Herne Centre) and Transport Conference on 26th October (West Faversham Community Centre)
2. 12.08.19: Kent Police- newsletter and the Annual Policing Survey.
3. 15.08.19: Swale CAB AGM invitation
4. 15.08.19: Kent Police Rural report
5. 15.08.19: Dynamic Councillor event flyer
6. 18.08.19: SBC- invitation to the Swale Green Grid Forum
7. 19.08.19: KALC Newsletter
8. 24.08.19: KALC Swale Area Committee agenda and minutes
9. 03.09.19: KALC flyer for Swale Area Committee
10. 05.09.19: KCC Forward Works Programme
11. 09.09.19: KALC SAC minutes and Prof Packham's presentation
12. 23.09.19: Kent Police Rural Task Force report
13. 23.09.19: KCC Public Satisfaction Survey on highways and transport services
14. 24.09.19: Kent Police Rural Task Force

12. Any Other Business

KCCllr Bowles informed Members that following the resignation of Paul Carter, KCC Leader, a new leader will be appointed on 4 October. Mr Carter's last meeting as Leader of KCC will be on 17 October.

Cllr West thanked KCCllr Bowles for attending and for his inputs.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13 November 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 13 November 2019