

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Eastling Village Hall on 15 July 2025

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

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehman.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Adams declared a significant interest in item 8iii as a Trustee of the Village Hall which stands to benefit from the request.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting Held on 13 May 2025

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2025 as a true record. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Bailey.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

All matters on the agenda.

5. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

6. Chairman's Report

Cllr Bailey said there have been problems in the village regarding electricity outages.

Cllr Neaves said the issue seems to be weather related.

ACTION: Clerk to report to UKPN

Cllr Neaves reported that he had attended a meeting about Local Government Reorganisation. It is expected that Council Tax will increase for swale residents as surrounding areas have higher Council Tax. The reorganisation will cost £17,000,000 and will be shared amongst the community. Government guidance is that each unitary should serve 500,000 people; Kent has a population of 1,600,000, expected to go up to 1,800,000, and guidance is being sought if three or four unitary authorities will be created. There will be two tiers of local Government, Unitary Authorities and Town and Parish Councils. They are trying to match the Unitary Authorities in with the health districts. The report goes to Government in November; they may possibly be a consultation with the parishes beforehand. There is no proposal for a public consultation.

Cllr Bailey thanked Cllr Neaves for attending the meeting.

6.50pm Cllr Payne arrived at the meeting

Cllr Bailey reported that Mr Ben Binder, Farm Manager at the Belmont Estate for twenty-five years is moving to another farm management post. The parish Council is extremely grateful for his help with the maintenance of the hedgerows in the village.

7. Planning Matters

i. Ref: 25/502663/FULL

Address: Forge Cottage The Street Eastling Kent ME13 0AY

Section 73 - Application for variation of Condition 2 (to allow insertion of an additional rooflight and a log burner flu combined with a reduced size of the extension) pursuant to application 24/501365/FULL for Erection of single storey extension and alterations to existing extension and existing studio annex (subsequently changed under 24/504325/NMAMD).

Councillors considered the application and had no comment to make.

ii. Any planning matter received by 15 July 2025

Ref: 25/501769/FULL

Address: Orchard View Eastling Road Eastling Kent ME13 0AN

Proposal: Change of use of land for the siting of 2no. shepherds huts for use as holiday let accommodation.

Awaiting decision.

ii. Any planning matter received by 13 May 2025

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.

Applications permitted.

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.

Applications permitted.

25/500935/FULL Land Rear Of The White House Eastling Road Eastling Kent ME13 0AN

Proposal: Erection of 1 No. two storey 4 bedroom detached chalet style residential dwelling

Awaiting decision.

8. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne informed Members that there is £14,255 in the bank; the Council has received £187.50 VAT repayment. There has been another request for support from Swale Pride, the Council agreed not to contribute as the request did not meet the Council's criteria for making grants.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr L Robbins £105 for the internal audit.

iii. To consider request for a donation towards Foodbank Hub at Eastling Village Hall

Councillors considered the request. There was no budget regarding costings and there was no proof of need. It was noted that this was for a four-month trial period. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make a grant of £200 and to request to see costings for the project and also number of residents using the hub before agreeing further support.

iv. To consider Independent Internal Auditor's report

Councillors considered the report and the auditor's comment about public rights but noted that as the auditor did not complete the audit before the May meeting, the Council was unable to approve the Annual Return until the July meeting. The auditor would be requested to carry out the audit earlier to ensure the deadline is met.

v. Annual Governance and Accountability Return - To agree the statement.

Councillors considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement which was duly signed by Cllr Bailey and the Clerk.

vi. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2025- To receive the end of year return and to consider the adoption and signing of the return.

Councillors considered and approved the Accounting Statement which was signed by the Clerk and duly signed by Cllr Bailey.

9. Correspondence

1. 15.05.25- NALC CEO bulletin
2. 20.05.25- KALC update bulletin
3. 20.05.25- Swale Citizens Advice: letter of thanks for grant
4. 20.05.25- KALC: Planning Conference
5. 22.05.25- NALC CEO bulletin
6. 23.05.25- KCC Highways: Road Safety & Active Travel Group newsletter
7. 03.06.25- Swale Borough Council: Policy round-up
8. 03.06.25- Kent Sussex Surrey Air Ambulance Trust- letter of thanks for grant
9. 06.06.25- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 13.06.25- NALC CEO bulletin
11. 16.06.25- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Holbeam Road, Eastling - 13th August 2025
12. 16.06.25- Swale Borough Council: Policy round-up
13. 19.06.25- KALC update bulletin
14. 20.06.25- NALC CEO bulletin
15. 23.06.25- - Swale Borough Council: Policy round-up
16. 01.07.25- KALC newsletter
17. 03.07.25- KCC Highways: Road Safety & Active Travel Group newsletter
18. 03.07.25- NALC CEO bulletin
19. 03.07.25- Swale Pride: Request for Support in Light of Statement by KCC Councillor
20. 10.07.25- NALC CEO bulletin
21. 14.07.25- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Otterden Road, Eastling - 8th September 2025
22. 14.07.25- Kent Police: Rural Task Force update

10. Any Other Business

No further matters were raised.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 16 September 2025

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 16 September 2025