

# Eastling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Eastling Village Hall on 10 March 2026

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

Also present were PC Gary Morris and Mr Alan Willson

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, Mr Willson explained guardianship of the defibrillator. Cllr Bailey thanked Mr Willson for attending and also for his support of the defibrillator in the village.

Mr Willson left the meeting.

### 1. Apologies

All Members were present.

### 2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

### 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 13 January 2026

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 January 2026 as a true record. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Bailey.

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Adams reported that Mr Mount has quoted £17.50 per hour for maintenance of the Memorial Garden.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Mr Mount.

The Clerk reported that the fly tipping in Mill Lane had been raised with SBCllr Thompson who has requested the exact location.

Cllr Gilbert said the land owner should be approached.

*ACTION: Clerk to contact Belmont*

### 5. Public Time

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time*

PC Morris informed Councillors that the only incident of note was hare coursing; everyone is encouraged to report occurrences to the Police quoting Operation Galileo. There was one reported crime, the theft of number plates.

Cllr Bailey asked for an update on Romany Rest.

PC Morris reported that he has attended a disturbance at the site; the Police are working with the residents.

Cllrs Neaves said there had been a report of a kitchen knife found in the road, should this be reported.

PC Morris said knives should be reported to the Police.

Cllr Bailey thanked PC Morris for attending and for his report.

*The meeting was reconvened*

## **6. Chairman's Report**

Cllr Bailey said concern has been raised regarding footpaths through the fields not being cut. Cllr Neaves will monitor the footpaths.

*ACTION: Cllr Neaves to report issues to Belmont*

Cllr Bailey said the Council had been contacted regarding whether a Parish Council could be too small and thanked the Clerk for her response.

## **7. Planning Matters**

There were none.

## **8. Finance**

### i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported that there is £14,849 in the bank.

### ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Eastling Village Hall £70 for room hire.

## **9. Review of Parish Council Website and Emails**

Councillors reviewed the Council's website and email arrangements and considered Assertion 10 which has been added to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). It was agreed not to change the current arrangements.

## **10. Highways**

Cllr Payne reported the drains had been cleaned at the Z bends.

Cllr Neaves said the pot holes near where the gullies will be installed, have been marked up. Maintenance is planned for 17 March.

*ACTION: Councillors to put the notice of maintenance on WhatsApp.*

## **11. The Carpenters Arms Asset of Community Value**

Cllr Adams reported that she had submitted the nomination, the panel requested evidence of activities at the pub which benefit the community. The information was sent and a request was received for a copy of the lease; this has been submitted and a decision is pending.

Cllr Bailey thanked Cllr Adams for her sterling work.

## **12. Defibrillator**

Cllr Gilbert reported that the current defibrillator is very old and has exceeded the life expectancy of 8-10 years, so needs to be replaced. Consideration needs to be given regarding whether to purchase or rent a defibrillator and where to install it.

Councillors considered the quotations and locations for the defibrillator.

Cllr Gilbert **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £1,854.30 from Hopkins for a defibrillator package including defibrillator, external cabinet, installation, signage, training voucher and one-year AED Governance Aftercare Plan: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Gilbert **PROPOSED** the defibrillator be installed in the phone box: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

*ACTION: Clerk to check the insurance to ensure cover is in place and type of cabinet required.*

## **13. Correspondence**

1. 15.01.26- Kent Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Newnham Lane, Eastling - 12th February 2026
2. 16.01.26- NALC CEO bulletin

3. 19.01.26- Faversham Healthy Futures: report on the NHS 10 Year Plan
4. 20.01.26- KALC bulletin
5. 20.01.26- Kent Fire and Rescue: free resilience training
6. 23.01.26- NALC CEO bulletin
7. 27.01.26- Kent Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Bunce Court Road, Otterden - 25th February 2026
8. 28.01.26- KALC: Neighbourhood Area Committee workshop
9. 29.01.26- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 29.01.26- Kent Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Kettle Hill Road, Eastling - 29th January 2026
11. 03.02.26- Swale Community & Voluntary Services: Loneliness in Swale - Champion Training
12. 03.02.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
13. 06.02.26- NALC CEO bulletin
14. 06.02.26- KALC Newsletter
15. 06.02.26- Swale Borough Council: Local Government Reorganisation consultation
16. 09.02.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
17. 12.02.26- NALC CEO bulletin
18. 12.02.26- KALC training bulletin
19. 19.02.26- NALC CEO bulletin
20. 20.02.26- KALC bulletin
21. 24.02.26- Kent Highways: invitation to the Road Safety & Active Travel Group seminar
22. 24.02.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
23. 26.02.27- NALC CEO bulletin
24. 04.03.26- KALC newsletter
25. 04.03.26- Swale Borough Council: policy round-up
26. 06.03.26- NALC CEO bulletin

#### **14. Any Other Business**

##### Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that this will be on Thursday 16 April at 8pm; the Village Hall Annual General Meeting will start at 7.30pm.

##### KALC Award

Cllr Bailey said ideas for an appropriate gift is being sought.

##### Parish Council Records

Cllr Adams reported that she and Cllr Payne are dealing with this.

##### Green Spaces Correspondence

Cllr Neaves asked that the letter from Swale Borough Council be uploaded to the website.

*ACTION: Clerk*

##### Citizens Advice Swale

Cllr Neaves informed Members that from 1 April 2026, Citizens Advice Swale will merge with Canterbury and Thanet to form Citizens Advice North East Kent. There will still be local representation at Faversham. This will be approved by the Charity Commission and Companies House.

#### **Date of next Meetings:**

Annual Parish Meeting- Thursday 16 April at 8pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting- Tuesday 12 May 2026

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 12 May 2026