



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 14 December 2022 at 6.30 pm, Elvington Community Centre, Eythorne.

Present: Cllr M Ledger (Chair), Cllr C Ledger, Cllr Millard, Cllr Morgan-Lovett, and Cllr Wright.

Also, present: Jo Pannell (Clerk to EPC), 7 Members of the public

12/1/22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Keen, due to the cold weather, Cllr Meehan, due to another meeting, Cllr Whitehead (Vice Chair), Cllr Butcher and Cllr Hansell due to other commitments. Apologies received and accepted.

12/2/22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations under this item.

12/3/22. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on the 09 November Council meeting had been circulated to members.

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Millard, and carried. Minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

12/4/22. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that all but one of the actions had been completed, the Clerk will write to Bakkavor to request a litter pick to take place around their grounds.

12/5/22. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

There were not any KCC Councillors present

Cllr Keen had provided the following statement of activity in her absence, which the Clerk read out at the meeting.

Congratulations to the Parish Council on its excellent and well-researched response to the second local plan consultation - I have sent of mine in support of all your comments. My other main activities recently have been attendance at the lovely monthly lunch last week, a very complicated housing maintenance case, getting KCC drains officers to agree to clear out the Adelaide Rd drains (and I asked for a permanent solution too) and, of course, buses. Your Chair spoke movingly about the current plight of residents with no buses, and the Aylesham PC Chair and I spoke too. - the Committee was left in no doubt as to the utmost seriousness of the situation. As you know, there is a meeting in January with Stagecoach about the Aylesham minibus service, which includes Eythorne/Elvington, and the KCC officer at the meeting agreed to helping you with the KCC transport grant application should you decide to pursue this. Happy Christmas and New Year to all of you.

Report by Community Warden Juliet West:

The Community Warden was not present at the meeting and no apologies had been received.

12/6/22. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

No members of the public raised any questions under this item.

12/7/22. PLANNING

Applications:

22/01421 - 5 The Crescent, Eythorne, CT15 4BB

Erection of first floor side extension over existing ground floor extension - **Permission Granted**

Late Application:

22/01567 – Waldershare Park and Gardens

Erection of deer fencing

Cllr Wright explained that this application related mainly to the South side of the park near the gliding club and that it looked to be a substantial area that would be fenced off and deer would be brought back into the estate, which would be beneficial. Cllr Morgan-Lovett also agreed that this would be beneficial but noted it would not really affect the Villages.

Decisions:

CON/19/00856/B – 56 Sandwich Road, Eythorne, CT15 4ED

4 – Construction Management Plan – **Condition approved – 23.11.2022**

CON/19/00856/G – 56 Sandwich Road, Eythorne, CT15 4ED

15 – Visibility Displays – **Condition approved - 21.11.2022**

12/8/22. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, circulated prior to the meeting: The invoices as detailed below were agreed for payment, proposed by Cllr Morgan-Lovett, seconded by Cllr D. Ledger, unanimously carried.

Finance Report Payments		
Payee	Payment Type	Amount £
Clerk and Handyman salaries for November – TO NOTE Mr Thomson backdated salary from April 2022	Cheque	
HMRC NI contributions for November for Clerk and Handyman	Cheque	£600.73
Clerks' expenses - £69.99 & Handyman £26.85	Both Paid with salaries cheque	
KCC Pension payments for November	Cheque	£315.70
Poppy Wreaths	Cheque	£102.50
Idverde – October	Cheque	£135.88
Landtech Southeast removal of bus shelter	Cheque	£912.00

The Clerk was asked to check if the insurance money to remove and install the new shelter had been paid by the insurance company.

Action – The Clerk will clarify if payments were received.

The Poppy Wreath payments were discussed in terms of why the Parish Council were paying for four Wreaths. The Clerk explained that this had been resolved to be paid annually at a meeting in 2014. Cllr Millard proposed that the payment should be made, all Cllrs present agreed with Cllr Millard.

The Let's Eat request for funding had been withdrawn prior to the meeting. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that the email sent to the Clerk by the Vicar saying that he was withdrawing the request for funding had been rude and inaccurate. Cllr Morgan-Lovett thought that at the very

least an apology should be made by the Vicar. Cllr M. Ledger thought it best to leave sleeping dogs to lie. Cllr Morgan-Lovett continued, that the Vicar had stated in the email that the Parish Council does not do anything for the community, which she found insulting, but he did not attend the Parish Councils meetings so he would not realise what the Parish Council does for the community. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that some of the comments in the email to the Clerk were inaccurate and proposed that a letter should be written to the Vicar asking for an apology, Cllr C. Ledger seconded the proposal and all Cllrs present agreed with this action. The Clerk reminded Cllr Millard that he should have declared an interest on this under agenda item 2 due to his wife being involved with the Let's Eat. Cllr Millard declared an Other Significant Interest on this item.

Action – The Clerk will draft a letter to be sent to the Vicar and circulate to Cllrs before posting for agreement.

12/9/22. CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors by the Clerk.

The Clerk explained that following an email from the public about the consultation carried out on this project she had researched the double yellow line scheme and responded back to the member of the public.

12/10/22. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk explained that there had been no issues reported during the last month.

12/11/22. Upgrading the Speed watch equipment

Cllr Millard asked if the Speed watch results had any legal standing, Cllr Wright explained that she follows up on all the results and that some enforcement letters did go out to speeding offenders. Cllr D. Ledger asked what benefit there would be to upgrading the existing equipment? Cllr Wright explained that the current equipment is six or seven years old. Cllr Wright had forwarded the email from Mr Watson showing the two new possible items to Ray. One was a handheld device and the other a moveable sign on a tripod. Ray had come back to say that the sign on the tripod would not be suitable for siting in Adelaide Road due to the high winds that occur across the road, so he had suggested the handheld model. Cllr Wright thought that Ray should be invited to the next meeting or Mr Watson to provide some more information. Cllr M. Ledger explained that there was not enough information to decide on which one to purchase at that the moment. The Clerk was asked to contact Ray and Mr Watson to invite them to the next meeting. Cllr M. Ledger queried the battery life of the handheld one? Cllr Wright explained that it lasted for seven days. Cllr Millard explained that he was keen to get a Speedwatch device on The Street, Cllr Wright explained that The Street was not a suitable site, due to no pavements. Cllr M. Ledger explained that it was down to the Police to designate the site where equipment can be placed.

Action: The Clerk to invite Ray and Mr Watson to the next meeting

12/12/22. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Clerk had circulated the new updated HIP document prior to the meeting. Cllr Millard explained that replacing the fencing around the play area with steel fencing in Eythorne should be a priority. Cllr Wright explained that this document was for Highway priorities only. Cllr Wright had had a discussion with Cllr Whitehead during the autumn and explained that there had been a site meeting with the KCC Highways officer Mrs Winch at Wigmore Lane entrance near to Bay Tree Cottage. At the meeting the KCC officer noted that the current speed bumps were not fit for purpose and that KCC needed to reinstate these, KCC had initially agreed to fund this. The Clerk was requested to contact KCC Highways again about this issue.

Action: The Clerk to email KCC re: reinstating the speed bumps

Cllr Wright asked if the signage and gates to the entrance of the villages all could go as one priority and should be made the number one priority. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that the spelling of Barfreestone will come up again. Cllr Morgan-Lovett also noted that KCC had previously agreed with the roads that these would be sited on, but not the position of the siting, due to it impeding with drivers site view on the main roads into the village. Cllrs present agreed that the second priority should be the speed bumps in Wigmore Lane.

Action: The Clerk to update the HIP

12/13/22. Bus route cuts

The Clerk informed the meeting that there was a Microsoft teams meeting to be held online with Stagecoach on 12 January at 10 30. Cllr Wright explained that the recent JTB meeting that Malcolm attended was available to view on YouTube.

Action: The Clerk to remind Cllrs about the meeting the day before

13/14/22. Playground inspections

The Clerk asked if Councillors carry out any interim playground inspections? Cllr Millard explained that this was one of Stuart's roles but thought it may be an idea for a Cllr to accompany the ROSPA inspector on their next visit to see how inspections are carried out. Cllr Millard volunteered to accompany the inspector at the next inspection.

The Clerk was requested to ask Stuart to measure the Eythorne play area for some metal fencing to be installed. Cllr Millard explained that there were some local metal workers that may be able to do this, the Clerk was asked to discuss this with Stuart. Cllr M. Ledger explained that the equipment on site could also be reviewed and asked if the area needed to be larger? Cllr Millard did not think it needed to be larger.

Action: The Clerk speak to Stuart re: measuring the play area and for possible local metal workers

14/15/22. Any other matters

Cllr Millard and Stuart had discussed the salt bins being low or empty in the villages, noting that some were owned by KCC and some by DDC. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that if you put sand and salt down and someone fell over and injured themselves it was not the responsibility of the person who laid it down. Cllr Millard suggested that all Cllrs checked the salt bins in their areas.

A member of the public asked when the public were allowed to speak. Cllr M. Ledger explained that it had been under item 6. of the agenda. Cllr M. Ledger invited the member of the public to address the meeting. The member of the public had been a resident in the village for over twenty years and was here to represent the Tilmanstone Miners Welfare Institute as a Trustee. He would like to offer his apologies for the reception that Cllr Butcher received at Tilmanstone Miners Welfare in meeting in November, but he was not present on her arrival. He explained that there were only four trustees in place currently and this is not working because two side against the other two, so there really needs to be a new Trustee to make the numbers odd not even.

The biggest issue has been Woodpecker Court owned by Dominic Meehan who is also a Parish Councillor, he has made some remarks about Tilmanstone Miners Welfare. Cllr M. Ledger asked how they intended to move forward? The resident explained that two of the Trustees are procrastinating, if we get a new Trustee on board, they will lose their control. Cllr M. Ledger supported their views. The member of the public asked why Cllr Meehan had not declared an interest on his DPI form that he is a member of Tilmanstone Miners Welfare and that he leases a field that homes his horses. The Clerk responded that such issues had already been reported to her by other residents and she had hoped to speak to Cllr Meehan this evening, but he had given his apologies, so the Clerk will inform the Monitoring Officer at DDC about these discrepancies.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Monitoring Officer re Cllr Meehan

Cllr M. Ledger asked how many committee members were there? The resident explained that only the Trustees could vote, not the committee members. Cllr M. Ledger asked if anyone had come forward to be a Trustee? The resident replied that there were one or two at the moment, but CISWO makes the recommendations for people to become Trustees and the Charity Commission make the ultimate decision. Cllr Wright recalled that Cllr Hansell had agreed to become a Trustee, the resident explained that the secretary does not pass information on. The Clerk was asked to check if Cllr Hansell had applied, if not the Clerk will write to Tilmanstone Miners Welfare putting Cllr Hansell forward.

Action: The Clerk to contact Cllr Hansell and Tilmanstone Miners Welfare

The resident thanked the meeting for listening to them and Cllr M. Ledger concluded that the Parish Council will continue to support Tilmanstone Miners Welfare.

12/16/22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11 January 2023, 6.30pm Elvington Community Centre.

All agreed for the meeting to be held on the 11 January 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed _____ Date: _____

The Chairman: Cllr M Ledger

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until the parish council approves them at their next parish council meeting.