



## EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held via Zoom Remote Meetings

on 14th April 2021 at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** Cllr M Ledger (Chair), Cllr Butcher, Cllr Hansell, Cllr C Ledger, Cllr Meehan, Cllr Millard, Cllr Morgan-Lovett, Cllr Whitehead and Cllr Wright.

**Also, present** Cllr Linda Keen (DDC), Cllr Peter Walker (DDC), Community Warden Juliet West, Caroline Vincent (Clerk to Eythorne Council), Ray Luckhurst (Speedwatch, joined at 7.15pm) and 1 member of the public.

#### **4/1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Geoff Lymer (KCC)

#### **4/2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

#### **4/3. MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March were circulated to members.

**Resolved:** The minutes were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Morgan-Lovett, seconded by Cllr Wright and carried. Minutes were signed by the Chair.

#### **4/4. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE MARCH MEETING/MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk circulated the actions to all members prior to the meeting, actions completed as follows:

- Comments to the Local Plan were submitted to DDC
- The Community Centre Committee were contacted and it was agreed for the Community Welfare Works to be able to hand out food bags from the lobby of the Community Centre during the Easter Holidays.
- KCC/DDC have been contacted again for further information on the routeing agreements for businesses at Pike Road.
- DDC Planning were contacted regarding application DOV/12/00412, 6 Monkton Court Lane to advise of the changes made but no response has been received, this has been chased up again.

#### **4/5. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS**

##### **Report from Community Warden Juliette West**

Several complaints received reference;

- Increased amounts of dog fouling in area. (requests have arisen for more dog poo bins to be put in area) Littering. Increased amounts reported in area
- Parking - on pavements- on junctions - some reported to have been causing obstructions
- Dogs off lead causing nuisance
- Dog attack on other animals
- Requests arisen for specific areas to be considered for dog control zones
- Graffiti

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- Damage to fencing
- Damage to vehicles
- Scams/attempted scams mail- emails-phone calls
- Welfare/individual welfare issues

The Elvington Community Welfare Works had a very successful morning on Tuesday 13th April. Multiple families popped along to the community centre to say hello and picked up some food parcels. Further events and initiatives are being planned by the group and will be announced in the public domain in due course. Huge thanks to the Elvington and Eythorne Heritage Group for so kindly allowing us to share their space, it was greatly appreciated. Proposal for a regular village Litter picking group to be set up (agenda item).

Cllr Meehan asked if there were still discussions for continuing to use the Community Centre for the Welfare Works and if it had been resolved, Juliet said the Community Centre were onboard with this. Cllr Meehan also mentioned that the dog attack was the Woodpecker Court incident where an animal had been attacked.

Members spoke about the increase in dog fouling and bags of dog poo left hanging in the trees particularly at the Welfare Field near Wigmore Lane, signs had been put up asking people to clear up after their dogs, suggested more dog poo bins were required. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that DDC had said normal litter bins can be used for the dog poo bags and if there is a regular problem DDC can be contacted and an officer will check the area and will question anyone caught not picking up after their dog.

The Clerk had contacted DDC for the prices of obtaining a new litter bin and collections costs for the year.

#### **Report from Cllr Peter Walker**

##### **Cllr Walker raised points on the following:**

- Dog bins, Cllr Walker felt there should be a better programme in place and will raise this at Full Council (DDC).
- Litter picking along the A256 had taken place, Cllr Walker is aware that litter is an issue within the villages and bottles filled with urine are often by the sides of the roads.
- Traffic/Highway issues, Cllr Walker has received complaints of speeding along The Street and feels this will only get worse once houses increase. A tougher plan is needed to be put in place and have joint working with KCC/DDC and the parishes.
- Recovery vehicle at Cherry Way has been reported to the Police and will hopefully be resolved soon.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett raised how hard the Parish Council has worked over the last 18 months with regards to speeding and had successfully had dragon's teeth put on the road at Kennel Hill, have tried very hard with engaging KCC and DDC.

Cllr Hansell asked if there would be extra bin collections over the summer if normal litter bins were used for dog poo bags, Cllr Walker will investigate this with DDC.

Cllr Whitehead discussed speeding and due to the Local Plan EPC had started joint working with other parishes, collective working could be more effective against the speeding issues. Cllr Whitehead explained very recently due to further research there is legislation in place from 2016 that prevents areas with certain criteria from placing extra 30mph signs which is why areas in Eythorne can't have them.

#### **Report from Cllr Linda Keen**

- Cllr Keen was in agreement with Cllr Walker over speeding, thought it was great to have joint working with other parishes.

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- The Local Plan, Cllr Keen had responded to the consultation which had been circulated and pleased with Parish Council comments.
- Double yellow lines are the responsibility of DDC to enforce and said please contact them with any issues.
- Litter bins, Cllr Keen said she could try to see if more bins may be provided if we contact her and Rebecca Walledge from DDC may be able to help with the litter picking.
- Routeing Rules for Pike Road query has been passed on to the relevant officers by Cllr Keen.
- Cllr Keen was happy for us to copy her into any emails with specific issues for DDC if necessary.

### **Report from DDC Cllr Geoff Lymer**

Cllr Lymer was not present but circulated the following report on speeding:

I have had several members of the community complain to me about comments they have read, made on social media by just a handful of residents concerning speeding issues in areas such as The Street, Eythorne, where clearly they do not have a grasp of the protocols of dealing with the reporting of such speeding issues.

Let me put the record straight, so those who are in ignorance of how to make a complaint about continual speeding should follow the appropriate protocols in order that all partnership workings are copied into the issue.

First of all, let us be clear, speeding is an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1972 as amended. The majority of offences committed in breach of the Road Traffic Act are enforced in this County by Kent Police, not Kent County Council.

Kent County Council is not a prosecuting authority and so if you have complaints regarding speeding motorists, it is to Kent Police that you should be addressing your complaint, but copying in the Parish Council at this stage, simply for their information, should they be involved in any partnership working at a later stage.

Speak to any police officer who has conducted speed checks, following complaints and the majority of speeding motorists are found to reside within that very community and most specialist Traffic Police Officers who have conducted such speed checks will confirm that invariably the person who actually made the original complaint to the police about speeding, also is found to go through the speed check in excess of the lawful limit too.

So at this stage, there is no need to contact a County or District Councillor to ask them "what are they going to do about it?" or try to imply the County or District Councillor is "not listening to their complaints," because at this stage, the County, District Councillor or come to that, the local MP should not be taking a lead role.

If the Police take the requisite action, you may see speeding reduced for a while until offending driver complacency sets in again, so negotiations may need to be made with the police to hold a speed check at certain times of the day, once a fortnight or once a month to keep things in check. The main times for speeding are during commuter periods, parents carrying out the school runs are often prolific offenders and social drivers during the weekends, so one may need to negotiate varying times of road checks with the police.

If the Police cannot provide the manning to carry out speed checks, which is quite understandable, because I do not know of any parish throughout Britain that does not appear to have a problem, then this is when you should make your first request for assistance from your Parish Council and by all means copy in your County or District Councillor at this stage, just for their information, but they will not be becoming involved at this stage as the Parish Council will have some options to evaluate first.

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The first is Speedwatch. I have my own views on this unit which I will not go into here, but needless to say the money used for funding this unit and equipment would be better spent on employing correctly trained and authorised Traffic Officers carrying out the role.

Should Speedwatch prove it is not a deterrent, which in comparison to a true speed check by the police, then it is not, then your next step is to return to the Parish Council to declare that Speedwatch isn't working, due mainly to two reasons, the volunteers soon tire of having to commit to fulfil a timetable of standing out in all weathers throughout the year and the occasional risk of assault, which has occurred by some offending drivers who have had a red mist moment and stopped to challenge, quite aggressively, the volunteers who tend to be retired, because who else can afford such luxury of time carrying out the voluntary work that is depriving others from being in paid employment for such a role.

So as I have witnessed in all the parishes I serve, that have employed Speed Watch, it has not the ability to inflict damage on the purse or wallet and driving licence, which is the deterrent that the Police have. So, a lot of roar but no bite.

Once it is shown the use of the Police and Speedwatch is ineffective, then you approach once more the Parish Council in order they can consider ways to reduce the speed of vehicles driven by errant drivers.

Once more the reason you should address your complaint continually to your Parish Council is because if the Parish Council consider a speed reduction scheme, then they will have to pay for this from their parish funds. If I tell you most speed reduction schemes can start from £30k rising to £250k when many parishes do not even hold reserves much over £20k then you will understand the reasons you must always go through your parish council first and not the County or District Councillor for such complaints, for there is no point in a County or District Councillor liaising with KCC Highways to prepare a speed reduction scheme if the parish council cannot afford to fund it. To be successful with such schemes evidence of injury crashes over the previous few years will go a long way in corroborating your views for a speed reduction scheme.

Finally, to those who wish to deter errant drivers from speeding, can I please advise you do not suggest speed humps (commonly known as sleeping policemen). I am against these for they do not deter the errant driver for several reasons.

Spend just five minutes standing next to a speed hump in the 20mph limit at Astor Avenue, Tower Hamlets, Dover or the Sandwich Road, Whitfield, to witness the number of cars crashing over them at speed to show their ineffectiveness.

If in a 4x4 or a van or larger car, the wheel base is such that the wheels pass either side of the hump thus not retarding the vehicle.

Those who generally speed everywhere will not slow the vehicle to manoeuvre over the hump, but just crash over them. Nationally it is now acknowledged this manner of driving over the hump causes permanent damage to the tyres, car suspension and steering components which in turn can affect braking distances. So, after repeated driving over speed humps at speed will damage a vehicle and render it possibly unroadworthy as a result. Nationally it is acknowledged speed humps do not slow vehicles.

Anyone who suffers from diseases such as arthritis on certain limbs, are elderly and frail, have sustained a limb fracture, have had spinal injuries or are disabled will tell you a speed hump can vary from an uncomfortable to an extremely painful experience to manoeuvre over, so I will not support speed humps.

However, "constructed single alternate working build outs, do have some effect on reducing the speed of errant drivers and are less injurious to vehicles and their occupants. Some of the most effective build outs I have seen are in the Cotswolds where boards are erected on the build out, so

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that your view of opposing vehicles is reduced to such a point that even the most foolish of drivers are forced to have to slow to a mere few miles an hour to negotiate the build out. However, for obvious reasons they are not so effective during the hours of darkness."

Many who complain of excess speed in a 30 mph then insist on a 20mph speed limit. Why? If errant drivers can not comply at 30 why will a 20 mph make any difference. Visit Capel le Ferne to see my point. Most of the offenders once more tend to be local and parents on the school run. Need I say more.

So, once we arrive at the stage that the Parish Council consider a speed reduction scheme, that is when the County or District Councillor should become involved to assist and liaise with KCC Highways regarding how to fund the project.

I hope this clarifies the protocol of dealing with speeding issues in your parish."

#### **4/6. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

There were no questions put forward from members of the public.

#### **4/7. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

- a) Authorisation of payments: The invoices as detailed below were agreed for payment, proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Morgan-Lovett, unanimously carried.

Finance Report		
Payee	Payment Type	Amount
C Vincent	Salary (March)	£1268.19
S Thomson	Salary (March)	£603.40
HMRC	Quarter 4 (30.03.21)	£971.92
KCC LGPS	Pension (Taken 16.03.21)	£360.73
Tony Kilbee	Internal Audit	£30.00
Kingston Trees	Clear & cut all windblown trees	£280.00
S Thomson	Expenses	£40.80

**b) Quarter 4 accounts**

The Quarter 4 accounts were received by Members and the Clerk explained the year end accounts had been completed and there was a significant underspend from the previous year and would be more detailed at the next meeting with the AGAR.

**c) Annual Subscriptions, Direct Debits and Standing Orders**

The details of all subscriptions, direct debits and standing orders were circulated and all members were happy to accept these.

**d) Annual Insurance**

Quotes had been received from our current insurers from the following:

1. Pen Underwriting Limited for £1,826.56
2. Hiscox for £1,651.34.
3. Ecclesiastical for £2,760.95

It is their recommendation for the Hiscox quote, whereby they can arrange a 3-year long term agreement for £1,618.77. The Clerk pointed out that last year was £1603.24, just a small increase.

**Resolved: Cllr Whitehead proposed members accept the Hiscox quote for £1618.77, this was seconded by Cllr Hansell and carried.**

**e) Eythorne Playing Field Rotten Bin**

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The Clerk asked if members would be happy to replace the bin in Eythorne Playing Field or to wait and see if a replacement is required.

**Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Millard to have the bin replaced and this was seconded by Cllr Meehan and carried.**

**f) KALC Subscription**

**Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Wright to accept the KALC subscription, this was seconded by Cllr C Ledger and carried.**

**4/8. PLANNING**

**DOV/21/00305 5 Chaucer Road, Elvington CT15 4ER**, Erection of an outbuilding for use as a dog grooming salon (existing shed to be removed).

**Resolved: Members had no objections, proposed by Cllr Millard, seconded by Cllr Wright and carried.**

**21/00469, 29A Adelaide Road, Elvington, CT15 4DP**, Erection of 2no. attached dwellings with associated parking and vehicular access.

The applicant was present and gave a brief outline to the application.

**Resolved: Members had no objections with this application.**

**KCC Application DO/17/1244/R14&18, The Old Tilmanstone Colliery, Pike Road, Eythorne, Kent, CT15 4ND**, Details of a Traffic Management Plan (Condition 14) and details of additional signage to assist in enabling pedestrians using footpath EE337 to safely cross the site access road (Condition 18) pursuant to planning permission DO/17/1244

There was an in-depth discussion on this application and members felt there was not enough information provided and would like to object on these grounds.

**Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Whitehead to object to this application and for members to provide comments to the Clerk to send onto KCC, this was seconded by Cllr Meehan and carried.**

**Decided Applications:**

**DOV/20/00412 Former Tilmanstone Colliery Tip, Pike Road, Eythorne CT15 4ND**, Variation of Conditions 1 (approved drawings) & 28 (ecological mitigations strategy) of planning permission (DOV/13/00654). **Permission Granted.**

**DOV/20/00833, Land to The North West of Eythorne Station, Shooters Hill, Eythorne**, Outline application for the erection of up to 11 dwellings (appearance, landscaping and scale to be reserved). **Application Withdrawn.**

**DOV/20/01407, Land Between South View and Dean Holme Flax Court Lane Eythorne**, Erection of a detached dwelling, cycle shed, recycle store, electrical vehicle charging unit and associated parking. **Granted.**

**DOV/21/00178, 80 Adelaide Road, Elvington CT15 4DP**, Erection of a single storey extension with 1no. rooflight and side canopy. **Granted.**

**DOV/21/00277, 1 Albion Place, Wigmore Lane, Eythorne CT15 4AT**, Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Granted.**

**4/09. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Complaint received about the littering of masks and gloves outside a business at Pike Road.  
**Resolved: The Clerk had contacted the business and also reported to the Community Warden to speak to them. A further email has been received to say the area had been cleared of masks and gloves.**

- Email received from Bruno Peek regarding 5<sup>th</sup> July NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day and if we wish to be involved? It was suggested to have a 2minutes silence by the organisers and other celebrations if Parish Council's wished to do so.  
**Resolved: Members agreed to have a 2 minutes silence and place an NHS flag on the flagpole and advertise this on Facebook/Website. The Clerk to respond to Bruno Peek.**
- An anonymous letter/photo had been received regarding the recovery vehicle at Cherry Way which is blocking the pathway. The Clerk has reported this to our PCSO and reported previously to DDC, per Cllr Walker this has also been reported to the Police.

**Action: Members asked the Clerk to report to the fire brigade as well.**

#### **4/10. WILLOW WAY**

The Clerk had contacted the Land Registry to find out the owner of the alleyway leading from Willow Way to Eythorne Playing Field due to repairs required, the information returned was that the alleyway was not registered with anyone. Members felt although **Eythorne Parish Council were not the owners** of the alleyway that perhaps we should obtain quotes for the work.

**Action: The Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for the work required.**

Cllr Millard mentioned the spring on the gate to the children's play area needed replacing as it was not closing properly. Members suggested asking Stuart to take a look and replace the spring as necessary.

**Action: The Clerk to ask Stuart to have a look at the gate.**

#### **4/11. LITTER PICKING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Millard asked members if it was possible to set up a litter picking committee to help resolve the litter within the area. There was a discussion on litter issues within the area and that Rebecca Walledge from DDC maybe able to help towards litter picking equipment, Cllr Butcher was happy to help with this and Juliet our Community Warden.

**Action: Cllrs Millard and Butcher will meet to discuss along with our Community Warden and Rebecca Walledge will be contacted.**

#### **4/12. SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE**

Speeding is an on-going issue through the villages, Cllr Millard suggested we contact local the local police as suggested on the report from KCC Cllr Geoff Lymer.

Ray Luckhurst from Speedwatch was present, bot himself and Members provided information on speeding:

- The Special Inspector had previously been contacted to carry out speed checks in the village, it's not known if this was carried out. Still awaiting a response from the PCSO regarding the speed checks and unable contact the Special Inspector as they do not provide contact details, it has to go through the PCSO.
- Unable to set up Speedwatch on The Street or Wigmore Lane as this area is not suitable to put the posts as per a site visit from KCC Highways
- Another SID would be ideal but had originally been informed that not allowed to have more than 6 posts.
- Any further permitted traffic calming measures would need to be funded by the Parish Council which is not viable due to the costs.
- Top speed of 51-56 MPH along Wigmore Lane but not a high enough percentage to do anything about even though it involved 100's of vehicles.
- It had been agreed by those within the Police that Wigmore Lane was an issue with speeding.

It was suggested to write to the Police Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable from the Parish council as a whole. The idea of producing stickers with 30 mph on to place on bins and people's own property was also suggested.

**Action: Cllr Millard proposed a letter be sent from the Parish Council to the Police Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, this was seconded by Cllr Whitehead and carried.**

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At 8.35 pm Cllr Morgan-Lovett quoted the Standing Orders as the meeting had gone over 2 hours, Cllr Morgan-Lovett proposed to continue with the meeting, seconded by Cllr Whitehead and all agreed.

#### **4/13. ALLOTMENTS**

The clerk reported that the annual invoices have been sent out and there are currently 5 vacant plots. An advert has been placed on the website, still to place on the EPC Facebook page. Cllr Ledger has placed 6 water containers at the allotment site. Cllr Millard was asked if the original tenant who agreed to fill the water containers in exchange for a small charge for other tenants was still prepared to do this? All tenants need to be made aware that the containers need to be moved in place prior to filling up. The gate at the allotments has been looked at and Cllr Millard is awaiting feedback.

**Action: The Clerk to contact the tenant regarding the water to see if this is still possible and to also contact all tenants to let them know to move the water containers to the position required prior to filling.**

**Action: Cllr Meehan to chase up regarding the gate at the allotments.**

#### **4/14. HANDYMAN JOB DESCRIPTION**

A revised copy of the Handyman's job description had been circulated to members, the gritting of roads was discussed but members were not keen to add this to the job description due to health and safety.

**Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Whitehead to accept the updated job description as circulated, seconded by Cllr Wright and carried.**

#### **4/15. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

- Cllr Morgan-Lovett reported concerns over the amount spent of over £700 in the last 3 years servicing the church clock for it not to be working and how this didn't seem like value for money and asked for members thoughts?  
Cllr Millard said this is working at the moment and it stops working each time there is a power cut which is the issue rather than the company who service it, a local company could possibly be sourced to save money but this is arranged by the Church.
- The Clerk asked members who would like to go along to a site visit with Kent Wildlife Trust for the proposed wildflower area at The Green with a couple of residents. Cllr Hansell volunteered to go to the site visit and report back.

**Action: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hansell with a date for the site visit.**

- Cllr Hansell reported she had been contacted regarding a sycamore tree pressing onto a residents' fence at the entrance to Eythorne playing Field at Green Road.

**Action: The Clerk to ask the Handyman to investigate and add to the next meeting.**

#### **4/16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk reported that due to virtual meetings ending by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> June and the uncertainty of being able to meet face to face due to restrictions, it would be advisable to hold the Annual meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting virtually prior to this date and suggested Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> May to hold both meetings from 6.30pm as this was a legal requirement.

**Resolved: Members agreed to hold both meetings virtually on the 5<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30pm.**

**The meeting closed at 20.55pm**

#### **4/17. CLOSED SESSION – To agree staff overtime.**

**Resolved: During the closed session Cllr Whitehead proposed the overtime be agreed, seconded by Cllr Millard and carried.**

**The meeting Closed at 9.05pm.**

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