



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 8th June 2022 at 6.30 pm, Elvington Community Centre. Eythorne.

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

Also, present: Caroline Flynn (Clerk to EPC), DDC Cllr Peter Walker and Approximately 40 members of the public for part of the meeting.

6/1/22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Meehan (Personal Reasons)

Cllr Hansell (Unwell)

6/2/22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs C and M Ledger declared an interest, this was for agenda item 7/8/22 on planning application **22/00493** as they are the owners of Barfrestone Court Farm.

6/3/22. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on the 11th May Annual/Council meeting were circulated to members.

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

6/4/22. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE MAY MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

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

- All information and quotations forwarded to our insurers for the bus shelter damage.
- KCC Highways contacted about a hedge/fence obscuring driver's view turning from a junction. No further action to be taken due to lack of evidence this causes any issues.
- The AGAR for 2020-21 has been completed and sent to the external auditor.
- Two quotes have now been obtained for the pathway leading to Eythorne playing field.
- A further volunteer litter picker has been named and a thank you card will be forwarded on via our Handyman.

Cllr Whitehead spoke about Ukraine donations via the Baptist Church, they don't have anything planned but do have information for a couple of agencies and will let us know if they do plan anything in the future.

6/5/22. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

DDC Cllr Peter Walker:

- Jubilee events, Cllr Walker was disappointed that no-one came forward for Jubilee event funding from Eythorne or Elvington.

1 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....

- All DDC Cllrs received an email from the Local Plan Policy Manager with reasons for the delay in the Local Plan. This will go to cabinet in October with final decisions likely to be made next year.

Report by Community Warden Juliet West:

Juliet West gave her apologies and sent the following report:

- Multiple complaints reference nuisance bonfire smoke / acrid
- Referred to DDC
- Dogs loose/straying
- Dogs nuisance barking
- Nuisance noise/motor bikes
- Welfare calls
- Individual welfare issues
- Referrals to partner agencies
- Visits carried out on behalf of Trading standards due to another increase in scams/mail/calls
- Road closures/ maintenance
- Road closure incident
- Community projects
- Let's Eat enjoyed another good month, and new funding has been promised to tide us over for another 6 months appx.
- The Pop-up cafe has also been a success, the next one is due on Friday 17th in the community centre car park.

Report by PCSO Emma Carmichael:

PCSO Report for May 2022.

The Clerk has asked me to clarify the laws around the off-road bikes.

The Pitt is private land, police have no power. The off-road bikes fall under the same Section 143 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 laws as any other motor vehicle.

Subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act—

(a) a person must not use a motor vehicle on a road or other public place unless there is in force in relation to the use of the vehicle by that person such a policy of insurance as complies with the requirements of this Part of this Act, and

(b) a person must not cause or permit any other person to use a motor vehicle on a road or other public place unless there is in force in relation to the use of the vehicle by that other person such a policy of insurance... as complies with the requirements of this Part of this Act.

(2) If a person acts in contravention of subsection (1) above he is guilty of an offence.

There are points 4 to prove to act on this offence:

Used (**seeing** the person driving it)

It is classed as a motor vehicle.

On a Road or public place.

When this was witnessed it was not covered by any policy of insurance.

Reports over the last month:

2 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....

- **04/05/22** Shooters Hill (bridal way) , Possible Badger set filled in, this was passed to the Rural Task Force, The informant emailed pictures to them, they contacted the East Kent Badger Group for them to investigate further.
- **04/05/22** Fairview Rd, Elvington. Police made aware of a stolen quad bike at an address. Police attended and seized the bike.
- **06/05/22** Off road bike been ridden around the village no reg plates on the bikes. Anonymous caller.
- **07/05/22** Pike Road, a passing car saw 2 males on the side of the road, one had the other by the throat. Police carried out an area search. Nobody located.
- **10/5/22** Popular Drive, Elvington. Concern call for suicide. Male found deceased.
- **13/05/22** Larch Road, Elvington RTC non injury. Car vs Camper van.
- **15/05/22** Cherry Grove, Nuisance bikes. Anonymous caller.
- **16/05/22** Church Hill Eythorne, just after midnight, what looked like a drone with lights on was being flown.
- **17/05/22** Cherry Grove, Nuisance bikes. Anonymous caller.
- **19/05/22** Elvington stores, male 16 years old assaulted the member of staff when he was refused a purchase.
- **19/05/22** Tye Wood, member of the public stopped PCSO about oil in the road, it was a lot of oil stretching along Tye Wood and Mill lane, Reported to highways.
- **21/05/22** Cherry Grove, Nuisance bikes. Anonymous caller.
- **21/05/22** Terrace Road, Malicious communications. Slander on the community FB.
- **23/05/22** Milner Road theft of vehicle, Informant reporting his son has stolen his car.
- **23/05/22** – Thanet View Eythorne, RTC 2 males crashed the vehicle then ran off towards Elvington, this vehicle was reported stolen, believed to be the owners son.

The East Kent Railway in Shepherdswell have had 6 calls into us this month for intruders onsite after they were targeted in the day, the below locomotive was taken. The image was circulated of the suspects. We believe they are still active in the area regularly changing vans. Please be aware of surrounding when out and about. Always jot down a Reg number if possible. It could be nothing or it could be something useful to us. We are working closely with the Railway to support them and deter these persistent thieves.

6/6/22. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

No one present asked to speak.

6/8/22. PLANNING

At this point of the meeting Cllrs C & M Ledger left the meeting and Cllr Whitehead took over as Chair.

Cllr Whitehead asked if anyone had requested to speak regarding the Barfrestone Court Farm application, no-one had made a request and no-one asked to speak.

Applications:

22/00493, Barfrestone Court Farm, Barfrestone Road, Barfrestone CT15 7JJ, change of use of land to mixed agricultural and wedding events venue. Expires 8.7.22.

Cllr Whitehead said she had checked items on the DDC portal but not all consultees had yet responded, and the expiry date is before our next meeting, the Clerk had asked if an extension was possible for after our next meeting on the 13th July but were only given until the end of June due to the deadline being the 8th July. Cllr Whitehead explained responding with comments was difficult without all the information from other consultees who are more specialised and experienced in planning applications. KCC Highways had responded but had also asked for further information as did Southern Water due to lack of mains, the PROW Officer had been contacted asking for further answers, this makes it very difficult for Eythorne PC to respond without all the information. Cllr Whitehead suggested to members to call this application into committee due to lack of information

3 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....

and insist DDC have a site visit. Other members agreed that all reports from consultees were needed before any comments could be made.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett requested contacting DDC who have already had a request for a noise level report but have not responded to this.

It was also suggested to have a further meeting should the deadline be delayed or extended by DDC or this could allow further discussion at our next meeting but the next Planning meeting at DDC is near the end of this month so may be too late making it sensible to call the application in due to lack of information.

Resolved: Cllr Wright proposed to call the application into the Planning Committee at Dover District Council due to lack of information, this was seconded by Cllr Butcher and unanimously carried.

Cllrs C & M Ledger were invited back into the meeting and Cllr M Ledger took over as Chair from Cllr Whitehead.

A resident of Wigmore Wood who has been in residence for 22 years had requested to speak on behalf of the neighbours of Woodpecker Court, whilst they had no objection for the need of the provision for students, it is felt this is in the wrong place and up until 5 years ago was a very vibrant woodland and very secluded around the neighbours. Continuing expansion has had a detrimental effect on the environment and wildlife. The increase in noise, bad language and activities on the borders with more pupils in attendance will be worse. The continued tree felling on site has left neighbours with little privacy with removal of vegetation on the boundary. They have concerns over the relocation of the catering unit to the outskirts of the wood creating a fire risk with difficult access for the fire brigade. Concerns over increased traffic to the road from Adelaide Road down towards the Welfare Club and confusion over the number of pupils as to whether it is 50 or 60. Residents did not feel that previous objections had been addressed and felt it was an ill-considered application with lack of transparency.

Another resident of 45 years shared his worries over the woodland not being looked after as it should and too many trees being felled that will eventually cause building damage due to the boundary being taken down. He felt no further expansion should be allowed as it is already overflowing and that the community, students and staff deserve better.

Cllr M Ledger made all present aware that members of Eythorne PC did attend a site visit at Woodpecker Court as well as nearby neighbours and have seen it from both sides.

A spokesperson for Woodpecker Court spoke about the whole planning process and felt it sees the worse in everything. The woodland itself has to be insured annually for residents to have access otherwise it would need to be shut off which would be an easier option. A tree survey has to be in place for insurance purposes and for the woodland to stay open and work on the trees has been done as part of the tree survey, all reports are available for all tree works. It was explained that conifer trees had to be taken down due to causing damage to the listed house. It was felt too many assumptions are made when residents hear a chain saw that trees are being cut down, but it is also for cutting wood to use in activities for the students or centre pieces for weddings.

Traffic is already an issue on the weekends with people speeding down to the sports club which no-one else has mentioned, she said they are continually working with KCC to reduce the traffic numbers.

The reason pupil numbers would never go above 60 is because they believe at Woodpecker Court that quality is key. It was asked of everyone to please talk to them about any issues rather than casting aspersions as they have nothing to hide and are willing to share with residents what they are able to.

Cllr Millard asked why they want to increase to 60 pupils from 40? This is due to the Local authority continually asking to take on more students due to the quality of their provision. Other members had concerns over fire risk safety and numbers of pupils, but Kent Fire and Rescue have already been out to check and do have a fire risk assessment that is regularly updated as needs change. They also have a hybrid model where some students attend online so not all registered pupils are on site.

22/00262, Woodpecker Court, 45 Wigmore Lane, Eythorne CT15 4BH, Erection of 2no. buildings for use as catering unit and classroom, formation of car parking spaces and turning area, installation of solar panels to existing store building, relocation of bin store, variation of Condition 4 of planning permission 19/01241 to allow up to 60 students on site at any one time.

Cllr Whitehead said all sides are very passionate and it feels discussions are going around in circles and as it is ultimately Dover District Council who make the decision so suggested this be called in to the Planning Committee at DDC. To ask DDC for a site visit to Woodpecker Court and the neighbours.

Resolved: Cllr Whitehead proposed the application be referred to the Planning Committee at DDC, seconded by Cllr Wright and unanimously carried.

22/00636, 39 Adelaide Road, Elvington CT15 4DS, Erection of an attached dwelling, 1.8m high fence to north and west boundaries, new vehicular access and associated parking. **Expires 27.6.22**

Resolved: Members had no comments or objections.

Decisions:

22/00452, 62 Sandwich Road, Eythorne CT15 4DQ, Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, raise existing roof, insertion of 3no. rooflights and 2no. windows to first floor to facilitate loft conversion (existing conservatory to be demolished). **Granted**

6/7/22. 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 Wright, seconded by Cllr Millard, unanimously carried.

Finance Report Payments		
Payee	Payment Type	Amount £
C Vincent	May Salary	1280.90
S Thomson	May Salary	608.45
KCC LGPS	Pension (May)	367.15
S Thomson	Expenses (May)	45.03
Idverde	April Mowing	67.94
Lloyds	CC Monthly fee	3.00
McAfee	Annual Renewal	99.99
Tony Kilbee	Internal Audit	30.00

- b) **Children's Play Area Gate** – Cllr Millard explained a local contractor had been recommended and has fixed the gate and will use him for work in the future, it was pointed out the entire fence around the play area will need replacing. This will need to be added to our budget later in the year for replacing next year.
- c) **Pathway Quotes** – Two contractors had provided quotes, one from Eythorne Builders for £6449.33 and one from K M Roofing & Property Maintenance for £2759. Cllr Millard asked if this would continue as a slope rather than the steps, Cllr Millard requested to meet K M Roofing on site. **Resolved:** Proposed by Cllr Butcher to accept the quote provided by K M Roofing & Property Maintenance, seconded by David Millard.

5 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....

Action: The Clerk to contact KM Roofing with acceptance of the quote and to arrange a date of work. Also, to place a post on Facebook once a date has been agreed.

- d) **HIP** – The Clerk circulated final costings of £3188.58 for with Pike Road/Eythorne roundabout project for approval.

Resolved: Cllr Whitehead proposed to approve the costings on the proviso that this is in fact the final total, seconded by Cllr Morgan-Lovett and carried.

Action: The Clerk to contact KCC to ensure this is the final bill and to go ahead if this is the case.

6/9/22. CORRESPONDENCE

There was not any correspondence requiring any decisions, all routine emails had been circulated to members.

6/10/22. COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

As Cllr Meehan was not present, members suggested the Clerk contact Rev Sean Sheffield to see if there is any update on the community magazine. Members discussed that this had historically been a Church led magazine and Eythorne PC would like to contribute items but would not run the magazine. There was also a suggestion of contacting the Shepherds Well magazine editor to possibly add items to.

Action: The Clerk to contact Rev Sean Sheffield for an update.

6/11/22. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Hansell was due to arrange a site visit at Shepherds Well allotments with Cllr Millard but due to illness this was unable to be arranged at the moment, this will take place once Cllr Hansell is better. Cllr Millard commented that the allotments were currently in a bad state due to empty plots being overgrown and those rented out not being worked on.

6/12/22. DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk explained the defibrillator recently placed on the Community Centre Building originally from Milner Road had stopped working, it appeared the batteries had run out, but brand-new ones had been put in and still not working. The cost for a replacement would be around £1200.

Resolved: Proposed by David Millard to purchase a new or refurbished defibrillator, seconded by Cllr Wright and carried.

Action: The Clerk to find a replacement defibrillator and any possible funding towards this.

6/13/22. CCTV

Cllr Morgan-Lovett spoke about the possibilities of CCTV around the area as a deterrent against the motorbikes who use the fields and pit path, Cllr Morgan-Lovett mentioned that other areas use these to catch people littering. It was suggested by members to perhaps contact the Community Safety Unit for advice and if any other parishes use CCTV cameras for this purpose or if they can advise of anything else that can be done.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Community Safety Unit at DDC for advice.

6/15/22. SPEEDING

Cllr Morgan-Lovett spoke about vehicles speeding along the road to the Welfare Club and whether the Parish Council could add speed awareness signs along there?

Cllr Whitehead discussed information received from the PROW Officer, appears there shouldn't be an issue with adding signs on posts along the road, some have already been added by residents. It was felt it was particularly bad at the weekends with the football.

Action: The Clerk to purchase 6 suitable speed awareness signs.

6/16/22. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Millard asked who was responsible for the memorial bench in Eythorne Playing Field that is falling apart. Members discussed that it is likely to have been there for a long time and usually the owner would be responsible for a memorial bench, it does not belong to the Parish Council. Should it be dangerous we would have to remove it.

6 Signed by the Chair: Date:.....

Action: Clerk to ask Stuart to look at the bench and provide a photo.

Cllr Millard mentioned the alley way between The Street that runs along the back of the pub is overgrown with hedges and the pub fence is broken, the Clerk had contacted the pub previously. It was suggested either contacting them again or asking Juliet West to pop in and speak to them about it.

Action: The Clerk to contact Juliet to see if she can take a look and pop in to see the landlord.

Cllr M Ledger said how successful the Lighting of the Beacon was and was very pleased to see a good turn out from residents. Members thanked Malcolm and Chelsea for lighting the beacon.

Cllr M Ledger said he drove past Falconsview recently and noticed a lot of activity which appeared to be beyond the agreed planning agreement.

Action: The Clerk to contact Planning Enforcement.

5/17/22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 13th July 2022, 6.30pm Elvington Community Centre.

All were in agreement for the meeting to be held on the 13th July 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.