



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 08 February 2023 at 6.30 pm, Elvington Community Centre, Eythorne.

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

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

02/1/23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Keen, due to a prior engagement, Cllr Meehan, due to legal advice not to attend, and the Community Warden Juliet West due to other commitments. Apologies received and accepted.

02/2/23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs M Ledger and C. Ledger declared an interest in Item 7 on the agenda, due to this application being related to their property.

02/3/23. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on the 11 January Council meeting had been circulated to Councillors.

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

02/4/23. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE JANUARY MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that all the actions had been completed.

02/5/23. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

Apologies had been received from the DDC Cllr Keen – no reports had been received.

Report by Community Warden Juliet West:

No report had been received.

02/6/23. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

A member of the public explained that all the drains in Tye Wood and Roman Way in Elvington were blocked so when it rains it runs down the road like a river. **Action: The Clerk will report this to KCC Highways via the online portal.**

02/7/23. PLANNING

Cllrs M Ledger and C. Ledger left the meeting whilst their application was discussed. Cllr Whitehead Vice Chair stepped in as Chair for this item.

Applications:

22/01614

Proposal: Change of use to include a drinking establishment.

Barfrestone Court Farm, Barfrestone Road, Barfrestone, CT15 7JJ – comments close 16 February 2023

Cllr Wright was in support of the application. Cllr Butcher asked if this application was anything to do with the Wedding venue application? Cllr Whitehead explained that this was a separate application, following the closure of the local pub, there was nowhere in the Village now to

meet up with friends and relatives for a social drink, which residents missed, hence the application. **Action: It was agreed by all Cllrs that the Clerk will log support for the application on the planning portal.** Cllrs M and C Ledger returned to the meeting.

23/00091

Proposal: Erection of first floor/roof extension to provide accommodation within roof space, rear extensions, porch and associated works (porch demolished)

Location: 16 Green Lane, Eythorne, CT15 4DD – comments close 23 February 2023

Cllr Wright thought that the proposed extension was too over bearing from the side view. Cllr Whitehead explained that the proposed roof was very large and circulated a picture of the proposal. Cllr Whitehead continued to explain that the proposal was very close to the neighbouring boundary. It also had an inset balcony on the proposed plans which may overlook the bungalows and gardens below. A member of the public from the neighbouring property was not happy that the proposal was just 0.5 metres away from her boundary and was concerned that it would block the light that she currently enjoys in her home. Cllr Whitehead explained that previous applications in the area have overlooked neighbouring properties and the buildings had not been in keeping with the local area, there was also no design statement with the application and no specific measurements on the plans. Cllr Morgan-Lovett had looked on Street scene and explained that it extended beyond the permitted 45 degree angle. Cllr Whitehead proposed to object to the application, this was seconded by Cllr Hansell, all other Cllrs present unanimously agreed to object to the application. **Action: It was agreed by all Cllrs that the Clerk will log an objection to the application on the planning portal.**

Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation - None

Decisions:

CON/22/00262/A

Proposal: 6 - Transport plan 23-Jan-2023 COAP

Location: Forest School Activities and Education Centre Woodpecker Court 45 Wigmore Lane Eythorne Kent CT15 4BF – **Decision - Condition Approved**

23/00004

Proposal: Regulation 5 notice to install 1 x 10m pole and associated overhead lines 23-Jan-2023 Opposite 35/37 Cherry Way Eythorne Kent - **Prior Approval Not Required**

Late Application:

22/01567

Proposal - Erection of deer fencing (amended site plan)

Location: Waldershare Park and Gardens Waldershare Park Waldershare CT15 5BB – closing date for comments – 03 March 2023

Cllr Whitehead explained that there had been some objections to this application, especially from Waldershare House Residents Company whose concerns were as follows: the mains water line to Waldershare House could be ruptured by driving stakes into the ground for the fencing, they asked for some respect for Grade 1 & 11 Listed properties. There are no details of where the entrance gates will be sited and they appear to be large and intrusive, they have suggested installing cattle grids instead. The footpath on the planning application is incorrect, it is a bridal way, and the total distance of the fence is 2.37kms, but it is more likely to be 9km using the key provided on the drawing. I should be 2.37squared. The Garden Trust also query the measurements of the fence. It was agreed by all Cllrs present that the Parish Council will submit a neutral response on the planning portal but will note that the Parish Council supports the concerns raised by the objectors, due to the lack of detail in the plans. **Action: The Clerk will post a neutral comment on the planning portal noting the support of objections raised.**

Decisions: None received

02/8/23. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, the invoices detailed below were agreed for payment, proposed by Cllr Butcher, seconded by Cllr Wright, and unanimously carried.

Finance Report Payments		
Payee	Payment Type	Amount £
Clerk and Handyman salaries for January	BACS	
HMRC NI contributions for February for Clerk and Handyman	BACS	£432.51
Clerks' expenses - £65.43 & Handyman £40.87	BACS	£106.30
KCC Pension payments for February	BACS	£315.70
Smith of Derby Clockmakers	BACS	£306.00
Idverde – January	BACS	£67.94
123 Reg annual domain renewal	BACS	£14.39

Cllr Butcher asked why the Parish Council was paying for the Church Clock when it was still not working? Cllr Millard explained that following a power cut the Clock stops working and needs to be manually reset. Cllr Millard explained that the Clock was installed in 1902 and had been refurbished since then, the handyman and Cllr Millard usually reset the clock, but with all the pigeon mess in the tower it is not pleasant and there are health and safety concerns with using the ladder to get into the tower. Cllr Whitehead asked if Cllr Millard was still happy to attend the Church to reset the clock? **Action: Cllr Millard will speak to David and come back to the Council.** Cllr Butcher asked if there could be something done to keep the clock going? **Action: The Clerk was requested to contact the maintenance company to see if they could suggest something that keeps the clock going after a power cut.**

02/9/23. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The KCC consultation on the closure of its 35 Children Centres including Blossoms and The Sunflower Centre. Cllr Wright explained that with all the new house building in the area she could not understand why they were proposing to close valuable sites. **Action: The Clerk will summarise the Parish Councils objections to the proposal to close the two local centres and circulate to Cllrs for agreement prior to uploading to the consultation portal.**

KCC public consultation on Fair Access Team re: The future of School transport. **Action: It was agreed that the Clerk will draft an objection and circulate to Cllrs prior to uploading to the consultation portal.**

02/11/23. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had now received the outstanding rent payment for plots 4 & 5, however there are concerns about the amount of soil that is being dumped on the site. Cllr Millard explained that Cllrs had not carried out a site visit lately. Cllr Millard, M Ledger and Hansell will visit the allotment site.

02/12.23. Updated Policies

The Clerk explained that good practice states that an annual review of the Parish Council's Governance policies should be carried out, for other policies it should be done every two years. The Clerk has reviewed the following documents: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, the

Code of Conduct, Equality and Diversity and the Complaints procedure. The Clerk explained that the only one that had been updated was section 18 of the Standing Orders which relates to tendering procedures, which did not affect Eythorne Parish Council. Cllr D Ledger proposed adopting the updated documents and Cllr C Leger seconded, all other Cllrs present unanimously agreed. **Action: The Clerk will upload the revised documents to the website.**

02/10/23. Speedwatch

Ray joined the meeting he had spoken to Alan about which piece of equipment should be purchased. Ray had favoured the handheld option, but Alan pointed out that it did not show the speed being recorded which may lead to some confrontation by members of the public. Ray had considered the tripod option a little flimsy, especially in the wind, but it is mounted on a poll that could be lowered. Cllr Wright explained that the current equipment used is getting too heavy. Cllr Whitehead asked if the data recorded was different? Ray replied that it will still need to be written down. Ray explained that there was an upgrade due on the tripod, but no details of when this may happen have been given.

02/13/23. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

The Clerk confirmed that the HIP document had been emailed to KCC Highways. **Action: The Clerk was asked to clarify with KCC Highways if the Speedbumps in Wigmore Lane will be reinstated as part of the resurfacing programmed for mid-April.** Cllr Morgan-Lovett requested that the Clerk bring back any forthcoming road works in the Village to each meeting going forward. **Action: The Clerk will add an agenda item to reflect this.**

02/14/23. Bus route cuts

Cllr Whitehead explained that the new bus route starting later this month for the local villages will be funded for up to three years using S106 contributions as part of the Aylesham development. Cllr Whitehead confirmed that there were two 16-seater minibuses which are fully accessible for the route operating from 07.00 to 19.00. This service will require either booking via an app or calling a telephone number which will be answered by a person. Cllr Whitehead also explained that the following Regency Coaches rural bus services around Dover will cease on 12th February: 541,542, and 544. **Action: Cllr Hansell requested that the Clerk write to White cliffs Surgery to notify them that patients from the Village cannot get to Shepherdswell or Dover surgery from here.** Cllr Whitehead also raised the issue of the school buses which will be ceasing from September.

02/15/23. Any other matters

Action: The Clerk was asked to seek more quotes for the metal fencing to be erected at the Eythorne play area. Cllr Hansell informed the meeting that she was now a Trustee for Tilmanstone Welfare. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that a solar power project was currently being rolled out in Barcombe East Sussex, with other villages also signing up to this. Cllr Morgan-Lovett requested that all Cllrs do some research into this project to identify the pros and cons for a discussion at the March meeting. All Cllrs present agreed to do this. **Action: The Clerk will email a link to the article to the Cllrs.** Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that recently an inexperienced young man has been standing in the middle of the road outside Woodpecker Court, in Wigmore Lane directing traffic from the site onto Wigmore Lane. This is causing chaos during busy times and holds up normal traffic in the area. **Action: The Clerk was asked to write to DDC with regards to this, noting that anyone directing traffic on the Highway needed to be qualified in doing so.**

02/16/23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 08 March 2023, 6.30pm Elvington Community Centre.

All agreed for the meeting to be held on Wednesday 08 March 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.55 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.