

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in Eastling Village Hall on 16 November 2023

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

Also present were Ward Member Terry Thompson and four members of the public.

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr John Payne (holiday); apologies accepted. Apologies had also been received from Kent County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting): apologies noted.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 18 September 2023

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Bailey.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

All matters on the agenda.

5. Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time.

Residents raised concern about the Parish Council possibly leasing land from the Belmont Estate for a village green, as the cost of the maintenance of the land, including the hedges, would be significant. Residents understood that as an alternative, the landlord of The Carpenters Arms might lease the land; concern was raised regarding what the land might be used for and while grass would be welcomed the use of marques and loud music would cause a nuisance. It was noted that the pub has had several landlords over the past few years.

Concern was raised regarding the parking on the footpath at the junction of Kettle Hill Road and The Street, as this makes it dangerous for pedestrians.

It was requested that agendas be posted on the notice boards and not just QR codes. Cllr Bailey said this will be done.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Eastling Village Green

Cllr Bailey reported that she had spoken to the landlord of the pub who has made it clear that she did not want to go into partnership with the Parish Council to create a village green. The Clerk has contacted the agent who has said that following a previous request from the Parish

Council, she had started to work up Heads of Terms for an agreement but unfortunately the Parish Council did not pursue the licence for some reason and that she would rather not spend hours on working up an agreement if this is going to happen again. They would not want any permanent structures on the land, but would be happy to see some tree planting on the edges and a bench or two and that the area would be principally a green area that can be used for the village May Pole dancing/Fireworks night and some sporting /community fetes; initially on a ten-year licence at £1,000 per annum. The main objective is that it should become a neat smart backdrop for the village where villagers can come together from time to time and enjoy being together, but it must not become a nuisance site. The Trustees next meet in January 2024 and would consider the application.

Cllr Neaves said it would be useful to ascertain what the whole parish thinks of the idea.

Cllr Gilbert said that if the Parish Council wanted to submit a proposal for a village green, it would need to consult the parish first and that would not be possible before the Trustees meeting in January.

Cllr Adams said the issue has been contentious in the past and the Council needs to be sure that it is the will of the village, there needs to be a consultation.

Cllr Bailey **PROPOSED** to make a formal application to Belmont for the land to make a village green; there was no seconder, motion failed.

Cllr Adams **PROPOSED** that the matter be postponed until the outcome of the application from The Carpenters Arms is known: **SECONDED** by Cllr Bailey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the agent

7. Proposed Closure of the KCC Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre

Cllr Bailey reported that the administration at Kent County Council has informally voted to withdraw its proposals for the closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres, however no official decision has been taken yet.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr Bailey reported that she had attended the Swale Borough Council Local Councils Liaison Forum, there is a gap of £3,000,000 in the budget with uncertainty over £1,800,000 Government funding.

SBCllr Thompson said that this is an issue for the Borough Council; regardless of inflation, Council Tax has been capped. The Council is looking to create revenue from other areas such as renewable installations and shared charging points.

9. Website

Cllr Adams reported that there is very little work to be done to complete the transfer of information to the Parish Council website.

10. Finance

i. Finance Report

It was reported that there is £12,378 in the bank.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED** to pay Mr N Swatland £270 for grounds maintenance.

It was **AGREED** to pay Swale Borough Council £80.13 for the election costs.

11. Planning Matters

Ref: 23/505029/FULL

Address: Orchard View Eastling Road Eastling Kent ME13 0AN

Proposal: Change of use of land for the siting of 2no. mobile shepherds huts and the installation of a septic tank, for use as holiday lets, including associated works and planting of wild meadow on existing site (resubmission of 23/500129/FULL)

Cllr Gilbert declared a pecuniary interest in this item as she has an Air B&B, and did not take part in the discussion or vote on this item

Councillors considered the application and raised concerns regarding the access point for holiday makers being on a blind bend on a busy road; the need for a septic tank for mobile holiday units was questioned; the site is located outside of any built-up area boundary, within a rural location and the proposal would represent undesirable residential development within the countryside. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to object to the application.

It was also noted that there are at least two new black structures on the land.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Swale Borough Council Enforcement.

12. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Adams said that following a site visit from KCC Highways there was an online meeting regarding the change of speed limit in Newnham Lane. There is a 40mph limit between The Street and Woodbine Cottage and this could be reduced to 30mph. The cost of a Traffic Regulation Order is £2850 although this could be shared with another parish.

Cllr Bailey said the cost of the scheme might not give much benefit. The Council has also asked for double yellow lines to be installed at the junction opposite the pub, the Council could ask the pub if they could ask their customers not to park there.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the landlord.

13. Village Christmas Tree

Cllr Bailey thanked Mr Colin Bell for buying a tree and coloured Christmas tree lights for the telephone box.

14. KALC Community Award 2024

Cllr Bailey **PROPOSED** that Mr Jimmy West be nominated for the KALC Community Award 2024 for his outstanding long service to the Parish Council: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

15. Correspondence

1. 22.09.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
2. 29.09.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
3. 03.10.23- Kent Police: Police Officers attendance at meetings
4. 03.10.23- KALC: events
5. 06.10.23- KALC Newsletter
6. 06.10.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
7. 12.10.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
8. 16.10.23- SBC: Policy round-up
9. 18.10.23- NALC: Newsletter
10. 20.10.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
11. 21.10.23- SBC: Policy round-up
12. 26.10.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
13. 31.10.23- KALC SAC: planning concerns and free training, 14 November
14. 01.11.23- South East Water: update on the East Kent project progress
15. 03.11.23- KALC News and training information
16. 03.11.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
17. 06.11.23- SBC: Policy round-up
18. 09.11.23- KALC CEO bulletin
19. 10.11.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
20. 10.11.23- KALC training events

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Bailey informed Councillors that she will attend the KALC AGM on Saturday 18 November.

Date of next Meeting: 15 January 2024

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 7.40pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 15 January 2024