

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in Eastling Village Hall on 15 May 2023

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

All Members signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk before the meeting.

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Payne **PROPOSED** that Cllr Bailey be elected Chairman: **SECONDED** by Cllr Adams: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Bailey signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk

2. Councillor Vacancy

Cllr Payne **PROPOSED** Mr Barrie Neaves be co-opted to the Council; **SECONDED** by Cllr Bailey: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Mr Neaves signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the meeting.

3. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Caroline Gilbert (holiday); apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been received from KCCllr Rich Lehmann (at another meeting) and also from Ward Member Terry Thompson (at another meeting): apologies noted.

5. Election of Representatives

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Bailey be the Council's representative at KALC Swale Area Committee Meetings.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Adams be the Council's representative at Swale Borough Council Eastern Area Committee Meetings.

6. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 20 March 2023

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

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Payne said he is trying to progress the refurbishment of the noticeboards.

Cllr Bailey reported that the work at the village sign is going ahead and will be completed as soon as possible.

8. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

9. Website

Cllr Bailey informed Members that she had spoken to the webmaster who had no objections to removing the village website, he is seeking a meeting with the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Adams said that most of the content is on the Parish Council website and is up-to-date; the Council has control over this website. Only the front page of the village website has been updated but not the others, there are lots of groups on it which no longer exist and there are no dates on the news section some articles could be two or three years old.

ACTION: Clerk to thank webmaster for his work and to notify him the village website is no longer needed.

10. Chairman's Report

Cllr Bailey reported that the Coronation Celebration event was a success and thanked all those who help. The Council is grateful for the Lottery grant.

Swale Borough Council is requesting nominations for a Swale local heritage list, this would be irrespective of whether the buildings are listed and is a way to promote buildings in the village which are valued.

It was agreed not to make nominations as there are listed buildings and the village is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

11. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported that there is £13,268 in the bank.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED** to pay KALC subscription of £205.98 and £5 for the AGM event.

It was **AGREED** to reimburse Cllr Bailey £835.32 for the Coronation event expenses.

It was **AGREED** to pay Eastling Village Hall £50.00 hire for the Coronation event.

The cake raffle raised £355 and it was **AGREED** to donate this to the Faversham Food Bank.

iii. To consider request for a grant from Swale Citizens Advice

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make a donation of £100 to Swale Citizens Advice.

iv. To consider request for grant from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to make a donation of £250.00 to Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Trust.

v. Annual Governance Statement- To agree the statement.

Councillors considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement which was duly signed by Cllr Bailey and the Clerk.

vi. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2023- To receive the end of year return and to consider the adoption and signing of the return.

Councillors considered and approved the Accounting Statement which was duly signed by Cllr Bailey and the Clerk.

vii. To Certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 Of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to certify exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. The certificate was duly signed by Cllr Bailey and the Clerk.

viii. To consider Independent Internal Auditor's Report

Deferred to next meeting.

12. General Power of Competence

It was **RESOLVED** that Eastling Parish Council, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of

Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, adopts the General Power of Competence until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

13. Planning Matters

There were none.

14. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Bailey reported that the Council is waiting for the County Councillor's help regarding a SLOW sign on Newnham Lane.

15. Telephone Box

Cllr Bailey said there had been no suggestions for other uses of the phone box.

16. King's Coronation Celebration

Covered under Chairman's report and Finance.

ACTION: Clerk to write article for the Good News magazine.

17. Correspondence

1. 23.03.23- NALC CEO bulletin & NALC CEO bulletin
2. 27.03.23- Kent Police: Violence Against Women and Girls Community Engagement Event
3. 27.03.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Weekly Policy Round Up
4. 27.03.23- NALC: CEO bulletin
5. 29.03.23- KALC Swale Area Committee: draft minutes
6. 29.03.23- NALC: Newsletter
7. 31.03.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Kettle Hill Road, Eastling 31st March 2023
8. 03.04.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up
9. 06.04.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - The Street, Doddington - 6th April 2023
10. 06.04.23- NALC CEO bulletin
11. 13.04.23- NALC newsletter
12. 14.04.23- KALC Newsletter
13. 14.04.23- Kent Police Community Engagement Event - 26 April 2023
14. 14.04.23- KALC: National Testing of the UK's new Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 23rd April 2023
15. 14.04.23- Kent Highways: National Testing of the UK's new Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 23rd April
16. 20.04.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up
17. 21.04.23- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Kettle Hill Road, Eastling - 20th April 2023 (Swale)
18. 21.04.23- NALC CEO bulletin
19. 24.04.23- KCC Highways: Help with testing a new Highways Reporting Tool
20. 24.04.23- NALC newsletter
21. 24.04.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up
22. 26.04.23- NALC newsletter
23. 28.04.23- KCC Highways: start of works notification- Otterden Road 15 May
24. 02.05.23- Kent Local Authority Chief Executive's Policy Round Up
25. 09.05.23- KALC Newsletter
26. 09.05.23- NALC CEO bulletin
27. 10.05.23- NALC newsletter
28. 11.05.23- Kent's Plan Bee April 2023 Newsletter
29. 12.05.23- KCC Highways Soft Landscaping Works Programme 2023/2024
30. 12.05.23- NALC CEO bulletin
31. 12.05.23- Kent Police: rural update and Rural Matters

18. Any Other Business

An update on The Carpenters Arms was requested.

Cllr Adams said it is closing on 23 June, there has been no interest in the tenancy.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15pm

Date of next Meeting: Monday 17 July 2023

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 18 September 2023