



## **Eythorne Parish Council** **Operation London Bridge Protocol**

This protocol sets out the action to be taken in the event of the death of H.M. The Queen (codename Operation London Bridge) and shall only be implemented when an official announcement is made by Buckingham Palace. A 10-day period of state mourning will commence, and the State Funeral shall be held at Westminster Abbey on the 10<sup>th</sup> day; unless this falls on a Sunday in which case the funeral will be on the Monday. The Clerk will be the lead for this protocol in the event of the Royal death, in liaison with DDC. The following actions will be undertaken to mark the occasion.

### **Cancellation of meetings/business**

Meetings pre-arranged to be held anytime within the 10 days of mourning must be cancelled/rescheduled. This includes any events of a celebratory nature (Christmas, Easter, fetes, parties) but does not include Remembrance Services. Unless falling on a Saturday, the day of the state funeral will be a public holiday and no business should be transacted.

### **Words of Condolence**

A message of condolence from the Parish Council as a corporate body shall be published on the website, and social media.

### **Condolence Book**

This shall be placed in the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Church Hill, Eythorne and made available for parishioners to write their messages of condolence from the first working day after the day of death until the day after the state funeral has taken place.

Public service and declarations may need to be cancelled or delivered online should COVID restrictions be in place. It may not be possible to have a 'hard copy' of a condolence book however a link to an online book will be made available.

### **In Mourning Veil on Website**

From the first day after death the home page will be overwritten with a black page carrying a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen during the period of mourning. This shall be arranged by the current website developer and remain in place until the day after the state funeral has taken place.

### **In Mourning Covering Image (for EPC Facebook page)**

From the first day after death a suitable cover image shall be published. This shall stay in place until the day after the state funeral has taken place. To be arranged by the Clerk.

### **Area for Laying Floral Tributes**

Floral tributes may be laid, and place agreed, and this opportunity will be published accordingly at the time. Only cut flowers in compostable wrappings (with no plastic ribbons/ties or rubber bands) may be laid. The area shall be checked regularly during the

week of mourning. These will remain in place until the day after the state funeral has taken place. Once removed the flowers will be composted appropriately. For alternative locations the District Council shall provide a list on their website of appropriate locations over the district where floral tributes can be laid and will be managed. A link to this information shall be provided to parishioners via the EPC website and social media.

**Policy Adopted: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
**Minute Ref: 6/14**  
**Policy to be Reviewed: June 2022**