



## EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 12 April 2023 at 6.30 pm, Elvington Community Centre, Eythorne.

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

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

#### **04/1/23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from, Cllr Hansell Cllr Butcher, Cllr Keen and Cllr Beaney due to other commitments. Apologies received and accepted.

The Parish Council noted how proactive Cllr Keen had been in supporting the Parish Council and the local community. The Parish Council is most grateful for her hard work in areas such as the Local Plan and the recent demise of the bus service.

Cllr Keen emailed the following message to the Parish Council.

I am particularly sorry that I cannot come along to your meeting this evening because this would have been my last attendance, as, for various reasons, and with regret, I will not be standing as a DDC Cllr candidate in the forthcoming May election.

It has been a great privilege and pleasure to have worked with your very hard-working Clerk and Parish Cllrs over the past years, and also with many other very active local groups in your community, and I wish you all every success in the future.

I gather that the minibus service seems to be working well - please do use it - and please accept my very good wishes for the success of your ongoing Local Plan responses, and your representations to the forthcoming public enquiry....

Cllr Butcher has also decided not to stand in the May elections and wished the Parish Council the very best for the future.

#### **04/2/23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

#### **04/3/23. MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 08 March Council meeting had been circulated to Councillors.

**Resolved:** The minutes were agreed as a true record proposed by Cllr Wright seconded by Cllr M Ledger and unanimously carried. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### **04/4/23. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE MARCH MEETING/MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk confirmed that all the actions had been completed.

#### **04/5/23. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS**

There were no reports available, and no one present to provide any verbal updates. Late apologies had been received from Cllr Beaney. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that all too frequently no apologies are sent by the District and KCC Cllrs.

## 04/6/23. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were not comments or questions under this item.

The meeting reconvened

## 04/7/23. PLANNING

### Applications:

23/00432

Proposal: Extension to vehicular access

Location: 2 Hillside Villas, Church Hill, Eythorne, CT15 4AG – comments close – 20 April 2023

23/00234

Proposal: Conversion, increased roof height and extension of outbuilding for additional accommodation

Location: April Cottage, Back Road, Barfrestone, CT15 7JH – Comments close 06 April

**Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation - None**

### Decisions:

CON/22/00262/B

Forest School Activities and Education Centre, Woodpecker Court, 45 Wigmore Lane - CO App

Eythorne, Kent CT15 4BF

11 - Community Inclusivity Plan - Condition Approved

CON/22/00262/C

5 - Details of the car park surfacing materials - Condition Approved

23/00091

16 Green Lane, Eythorne, CT15 4DD

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

22/01614

Barfrestone Court Farm, Barfrestone Road, Barfrestone, CT15 7JJ

Change of use to include drinking establishment - Permission Granted

Cllr Whitehead explained that a retrospective planning application had been seen for the following permission:

23/00451

Proposal: Change of use of Land for the erection of two buildings for manufacturing and assembly purposes

Location: Land North of Birchfield and Woodfield Cottage, Pie Factory Road, Barfrestone.  
Comments close 08 May

23/00432 - Cllr Wright could not see any issues with this application. However, Cllr Whitehead explained that KCC Highways were not happy with the visibility splays and noted that there was already a dropped kerb in situ. Cllr Whitehead also noted that KCC had incorrectly said that the speed limit was 30mph when it is in fact 20mph on this road. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to the application.

Cllr Whitehead explained that the Land North of Birchfield & Woodfield Cottages, this application is for Envirograf as it is the owner who has submitted the application form and the address is Pie Factory Rd, Barfrestone. It's not on their main site but across the road on land that also belongs to them. Because the application doesn't mention Envirograf it hasn't been linked to previous applications, some of which are retrospective like this one. This application

should be linked to DOV/19/00514, DOV/20/01518 & DOV/21/01761. This is where DDC should update the portal, hence the request that the officer is notified to correct the issue. We have been Consultees for all the previous applications, but not this one.

**Action: The Clerk will raise the speed limit issue with the case officer at DDC.**

23/00451 - Cllr Whitehead explained that this application was effectively in Nonnington Parish, but very close to the Eythorne Boundary, and although it is apparently nothing to do with Envirograf, this is the fourth retrospective planning application. Apparently, the neighbour to the site objects, Cllr Whitehead explained that a large trench had been dug out in the woodland and left uncovered across a PROW, this had been raised with the PROW team, but no action was taken. Cllr Whitehead continued that there were other properties in the vicinity.

**Action: The Clerk was asked to raise this with the planning officer. and contact the Clerk at Nonnington Parish Council to ask if they are planning to support or oppose this application.**

#### 04/8/23. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, the invoices detailed below were agreed for payment, by all Cllrs present.

Finance Report Payments		
Payee	Payment Type	Amount £
Clerk and Handyman salaries for April	BACS	
HMRC NI contributions for April for Clerk and Handyman	BACS	£434.91
Clerks' expenses - £122.70 & Handyman £24.45 mileage & expenses	BACS	£147.15
KCC Pension payments for April	BACS	£315.70
KALC annual subscription	BACS	£828.88
Idverde – March	BACS	£67.94

- b) The bank reconciliation for March was RECEIVED and RESOLVED and duly signed by Cllrs Whitehead and Morgan-Lovett.
- c) The RESOLUTION to appoint a contractor for the installation of the fencing at Eythorne playground was deferred to the May meeting.
- d) The RESOLUTION to purchase the Speedwatch equipment was deferred to the May meeting.
- e) Once the Clerk has received the insurance quote from Zurich, she will email the Cllrs to accept one of the quotes.
- f) It was RESOLVED to accept Idverde quote for the annual cutting of the grass.
- g) It was RESOLVED that the Handyman could carry over 5 days annual leave.

Cllr Millard had talked to Jacksons about the fencing in Eythorne play area and this would have been his preferred contractor of choice and noted that they installed the fencing at Whitfield play area. Cllr Ledger however preferred the local steel worker Mr Charlton. **Action: Cllr Millard will contact all three contractors to perform a site visit, to measure up and provide updated quotes if required.** Once arranged Cllr Millard will email Cllrs the dates of the site visits so that they can attend.

Cllr M. Ledger explained that all the old wooden fencing needed to be removed. Cllr Millard suggested that the Parish Council could save some money by removing the current fencing with Stuart and other volunteers.

A member of the public voiced his concerns about the speeding traffic in the village.

Cllr M. Ledger asked if ST was still storing the Parish equipment in the shed belonging to another organisation. **Action: the Clerk will check this with ST**

#### **04/09/23. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

#### **04/10/23. Balcombe project**

Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that not all Cllrs had carried out research on this project. Cllr Whitehead suggested forming a working group to look at this after the May elections. Cllr Whitehead explained that she had received a flyer from DDC re: solar power being installed in the local area. Cllr Whitehead noted that the scheme gets groups of residents together in local areas and register their interest on the DDC website, then the companies will provide quotes for the installation onto roofs. A member of the public explained that some companies look at the house remotely and will know if the roof is suitable for solar panels. Cllr Morgan-Lovett again asked if all Cllrs could do some research on this project, explaining that there are several villages off grid in the Midlands and coastal areas in the North and these have been supported by UKPN. Cllr Morgan-Lovett continued that the Parish Council should investigate this further. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **04/11/23. Kings Coronation**

Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that this was a historic event and the first Coronation in over 70 years, the village could join in and celebrate. Mr Boiston had purchased a flag for the occasion, to be flown in Eythorne. Cllr Whitehead explained that some streets were holding street parties. Cllr Morgan-Lovett asked if the Parish Council were going to put up some balloons or bunting? But there did not appear to be any appetite for this. Cllr Morgan-Lovett thought it a shame that nothing was being done on such an historic occasion.

#### **04/12/23. Allotments**

Cllr Hansell is organising a meeting with the Shepherdsweil allotments, to investigate how they have managed to source rainwater for use at their allotments, this is likely to be one day next week, and ST has agreed to go. Cllrs were asked to liaise with Cllr Hansell about the visit. A member of the public who had just signed up to rent an allotment noted his disappointment with the plot available. He asked if a fence was likely to be erected on site in the future and the lack of storage for accessing rainwater. He explained that the current ICV tanks are situated on the ground so you cannot place a watering can underneath it, they need to be raised off the ground. The member of the public also enquired who looked after the hedging on site, because it is blocking out the sun. Cllr M Ledger explained that the hedges were all cut when the Parish Council took over the plot some years ago. Cllr Millard noted that ST was going to keep it trimmed to 6ft, but now it sounds as though a contractor needs to do this work. Cllr M. Ledger explained that the hedge could not be cut back until the autumn, due to nesting birds. The gentleman explained that he also had an allotment in Dover.

Cllr Whitehead explained that the water tanks were supposed to have been put on pallets and a nearby neighbour had said that he would supply the water, but he has since moved. The member of the public did not think that the vacant allotments were advertised enough. The gentleman would like to go to the Shepherdsweil visit, but it would need to be early evening or at the weekend. **Action: The Clerk will ask Cllr Hansell if this is possible**

The member of the public queried the allotment rents. **Action: The Clerk will check the paperwork in the old files.**

Cllr Wright noted that there were some lovely gardens in the Village and asked if the Parish Council had ever thought about offering a plot to grow flowers? Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that previously the concrete planters had been maintained by school children.

#### **04/13/23. Play Areas**

Covered under item 8.

#### **04/14/23. Tilmanstone Welfare update**

Cllr Whitehead provided an update in the absence of Cllr Hansell, she explained that regular meetings were taking place with the Trustees. Progress is being made with the land registry re: boundaries.

#### **04/15/23. HIP**

Cllr Millard was uncomfortable agreeing to the new gates and signs to be installed at Elvington and Barfrestone, leaving Eythorne without any improvements. Cllr Whitehead proposed that the HIP project should go ahead, seconded by Cllr Wright. The majority of remaining Cllrs agreed to RESOLVE that the scheme should go ahead, with one abstention.

#### **04/16/23. New Bus route**

Cllr Whitehead explained that Cllr Beaney had mentioned a meeting in June re: some possible funding for a new service. A member of the public explained that 70% of the children's bus fares goes to the bus company with the remaining 30% going to KCC. Cllr Millard suggested that with no buses to the school's parents may be forced to keep their children at home rather than them going to school. Cllr Morgan-Lovett had asked the local train station if they could help the children travelling to Shepherdswell station, but they were currently short of drivers. Cllr Beaney has said that he is happy to have a meeting with Bayliss coaches. **Action: The Clerk to ask Bakkavor if they could assist by using some of the buses that carry employees to the site and return them home.**

#### **03/17/23. Any other matters**

It was agreed by all Cllr present that the Clerk will request that the office phone line is disconnected.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett asked how long the trial period was for the double yellow lines painted in the autumn of 2022 in Pike Road? She had visited the area over the Weekend and there were lorries parked everywhere, there was also mud covering some of the yellow lines, so that they were not clearly visible. Cllr Wright explained it was three months. **Action: The clerk to notify DDC enforcement team and request the road cleansing team attend the site to clear the mud covering the yellow lines.**

Cllr M. Ledger explained that this was Cllr Millard's last Parish Council meeting due to him not standing at the May elections. He gave thanks to Cllr Millard's support and hard work during his term in office as a Cllr and wished him all the best for the future.

#### **04/18/23. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday 17 May 2023, 6.30pm Elvington Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.00 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.***