

# Eastling Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Eastling Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 13 January 2021

Present: Cllr Jimmy West (Chairman), Cllr Paul Adams, Cllr Paul Ainsworth, Cllr Julia Bailey and Cllr John Payne; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present was County Councillor Andrew Bowles, Ward Member David Simmons and three members of the public.

Cllr West welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

All Members were present.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

None were declared.

### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 25 November 2020**

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 November 2020 and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept them as a true record of the meeting. The minutes will be signed by Cllr West at the next physical meeting of the Council.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

#### Cleve Hill Solar Park

KCCllr Bowles said that there was no further news, the reserved matters need to work their way through. It has been reported that construction works are due to start in a week or two.

#### Website

Cllr West said that it had been mentioned that there will be a website to help with fund raising. Cllr Ainsworth said the matter has gone into abeyance due to the current pandemic, it might be progressed in the Spring or Summer.

#### KALC Community Award

Cllr Bailey said that she will circulate the citation to all Councillors for comment, the application needs to be submitted by 12 February. If the Annual Parish Meeting is held it will be appropriate to make the award at that meeting. The photo has been taken and the draft is awaited.

Cllr West thanked Cllr Bailey for her work.

### **5. Public Time**

No matters were raised.

### **6. Village Warden's Report**

Cllr West said a report has been received. The Police has carried out a lot of work in controlling hare coursing. Residents are urged to stick to the COVID-19 rules.

## 7. Website

Cllr West said the Parish Council website is in order and the village website looks good.  
Cllr Ainsworth said it was up to date.

## 8. Chairman's Report

Matters covered on the agenda.

## 9. Finance

### i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported that there is £8,622 in the bank accounts.

### ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

- a) It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Eastling Village Hall £10.00 for room hire in 2020.
- b) It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Tunstall Parish Council £25.00 being a share of Local Council Administration publication.

### iii. To consider budget and set precept for 2021-22

Cllr Payne said the draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr West said the forecasts were reasonable and includes possible grants to be made, there may also be a cost for the Parish Highways Improvement Plan. It is sensible to keep the precept the same.

Cllr West **PROPOSED** to set a budget and precept of £5,155, the precept for Band D property will remain at £35.00: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

### iv. To consider insurance renewal

Councillors considered the quotations.

Cllr Payne **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation from BHIB Councils Insurance for £312.02 for a three-year long-term agreement: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

### v. To consider request for a grant from Eastling Village Hall Committee

*Cllr Ainsworth left the meeting during the discussion of this item and did not take part in the discussion.*

Councillors considered the request from the Village Hall Committee for a grant of £2,500 towards the new kitchen in the hall and noted that this and a grant already given, exceeds the amount the Council can give. The accounts submitted with the application were for 2019 as the 2020 accounts had not been completed. It was noted that the Village Hall had received significant COVID-19 grants which were in excess of their income and that the KCC car park fee of £1,500 would still have been payable.

Councillors also noted that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has directed that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for parish and town councils in England for 2020-21 is £8.32 per elector and the maximum grant funding permitted is £2.396. The Parish Council has already made a donation to Swale CAB.

It was agreed that while the Council is very supportive of the Village Hall, Councillors needed to have the 2020 accounts and the matter would be deferred to the next meeting.

## 10. Planning Matters

There were none.

## 11. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr West said the Parish Highways Improvement Plan centres around the desire to get the speed in Newnham Lane reduced and this cannot be achieved without a Plan. A Traffic Regulations Order is required and this costs £2,385.

KCCllr Bowles said there are set fees to cover the costs of a consultation, advertising and Officer time. KCC Highways tries to wait until there are three or four schemes in the save area to aggregate the costs. Traffic Regulations Orders have not changed but KCC is unable to pick up the costs now. There may be grant funding available from the County Member after the May elections, if held, depending on the KCC budget which is currently out for consultation. Cllr Bailey said Sarah-Jayne Ellcock, KCC Highways should see the Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr West said a petition was raised regarding the Newnham Lane speed limit, the Council has been working on this for two years. The suggestion of a mirror for the blind bend in The Street, KCC Highways have problems with mirrors and do not install them as they can make it more dangerous because drivers look at the mirror rather than the road. The parking issue is people parking on the pavement rather than the road in Kettle Hill Road, double yellow lines may not help. The flooding at the z-bend is dealt with by KCC Drainage and it is best to include everything in the plan.

*ACTION: Cllr Adams to amend and circulate the plan.*

Cllr West thanked Cllr Adams for his work on the Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

## **12. Correspondence**

1. 27.11.20- KCC: Kent Local Tracing Partnership media release
2. 27.11.20- KCC: Media Statement Regarding Kent 'Tier 3' Announcement
3. 01.12.20- Police & Crime Commissioner: annual policing survey
4. 03.12.20- Swale Area Committee: funding for brown tourism signs
5. 03.12.20- KALC Swale Area Committee: papers for meeting
6. 07.12.20- National Institute for Health Research: COVID-19 survey
7. 10.12.20- Faversham and District Engagement Forum: meeting papers 12 January 2021
8. 10.12.20- Kent County Council: Climate Change Adaptation Survey for Kent and Medway
9. 12.10.20- Swale Eastern Area Committee information
10. 14.12.20- KALC SAC: minutes and papers from meeting
11. 15.12.20- KCC media release: Asymptomatic testing sites in Kent
12. 17.12.20- NALC CEO bulletin
13. 17.12.20- KALC training events
14. 17.12.20- Kent Resilience Forum: newsletter
15. 17.12.20- NALC: COVID-19 update
16. 21.12.20- NALC CEO bulletin
17. 21.12.20- KALC CEO bulletin
18. 22.12.20- KALC Newsletter
19. 04.01.21- Local Government bulletin
20. 04.01.21- KCC HGV consultation
21. 04.01.21- Kent Police rural crime report
22. 05.01.21- Government CODID-19 update
23. 11.01.21- NALC CEO bulletin
24. 11.01.21- Action Fraud: Coronavirus Scams Warning
25. 12.01.21- Swale Borough Council: information regarding volunteering and CODID-19 restrictions
26. 12.01.21- Local Government bulletin

## **13. Any Other Business**

Cllr Payne informed Members that residents in Stalisfield and Otterden have signed a petition to BT Openreach regarding Broad Band, if enough people are interested they will have an upgrade. Should Eastling join this?

KCCllr Bowles said that there are two grant schemes available, one through central government and a top-up from Kent County Council. The grant is £1,500 per subscriber and £4,500 if a substantial business is at that address. This is consolidated and if there is enough

interest, BT Openreach will conduct a survey. Most schemes which are progressing further are resident led rather than by the Parish Council. The problem is that the grant money is exhausted and hopefully there will be a second tranche in the new financial year. The funding only applies to people who have below 30 megabytes and the upgrade is to ultra fast Broad Band which requires fibre to the house rather than to the cabinet.

Cllr Payne said the scheme had been initiated by residents.

*ACTION: Cllr Payne to ascertain further details.*

KCCllr Bowles reported that the Kent County Council budget is out for consultation, there is a 1.99% increase plus 3% ring-fenced for adult social services. KCC now has authority from Government to issue penalty notices and clamp HGVs illegally parking in seven boroughs including Swale. During the first week warnings were issued but now fines will be imposed.

#### **14. Dates for meetings**

Date of next meeting 24 March at 6.30pm.

*ACTION: Clerk to circulate further dates to Councillors for agreement.*

Cllr West thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 3 March 2021