

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Eastling Parish Council held on Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 6.30pm in Eastling Village Hall.

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.

1. Councillor Vacancy

Cllr West said there had been an application for co-option and **PROPOSED** to co-opt Mr Paul Adams onto the Parish Council; **SECONDED** by Cllr Payne: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Mr Adams signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

2. Apologies

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from Ward Member Colin Prescott (unwell): apology accepted.

3. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 7 November 2018

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 November 2018 and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept them as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr West.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Notices and fencing along footpath

Cllr West said the shooting season will soon be over.

ACTION: Cllr Payne and Cllr Adams to speak to the Captain of The Belmont Shoot about the notices and fencing along the footpath

Cleve Hill Solar Park in Graveney

KCCllr Bowles informed Councillors that the proposal has been deemed a scheme of national importance and will not be decided by Swale Borough Council or Kent County Council. It has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate and is out for consultation.

Newnham Lane- 30mph speed limit

KCCllr Bowles reported the issue is on a list of schemes put forward to KCC Highways for consideration.

KALC Award

Cllr Bailey said the award was given in 2018 to a very worthy recipient and should only be given sparingly.

Councillors agreed unanimously that it would not be awarded every year.

Cllr West said the Council will give the award consideration each year.

Memorial Garden

Cllr Payne said the land belongs to the Belmont Estate and a local contractor strims the area. Cllr West said the Parish Council erected the village sign with permission from the estate. The Council agreed to pay for more roses and other plantings if necessary.

Cllr Bailey said some of the roses were bought by residents as a memorial.
Cllr Ainsworth said he hopes to be able to rejuvenate the roses.

Z-bend

KCCllr Bowles said he has spent a considerable amount of time on flooding issues in the Division since the storm on 29 May 2018 and the z-bend in Eastling is also on the list of matters for KCC Highways to consider.

6. Public Time

No members of the public were present.

7. Village Warden's Report

Although Mr Willson had not submitted a Parish Warden's Report he had submitted a report summarising his role with Neighbourhood Watch which members found most informative.

8. Website

Cllr Ainsworth reported the website was fine and news and events from the Good News magazine are added to the website. There are a steady number of visitors to the site.
The Clerk reported there were no issues with the Parish Council website.

9. Chairman's Report

Cllr West said he had received a road naming request for Mill Lane and also for the road between Arnolds Oak and Pett Dane.

ACTION: Clerk to send KCCllr Bowles details of the roads.

Cllr West thanked KCCllr Bowles for his assistance.

Concerning "The Street" Cllr West said KCC Highways have stated the repair to The Street will be carried out with the same surfacing as was used on the Otterden Road Cottages. It is anticipated it will be done by the end of the year. Before that, there is white painting in The Street, so potholes are to be repaired soon

KCCllr Bowles said he will get an updated schedule from the Swale Joint Transportation Board at the end of February. There is a substantial increase in the budget for KCC Highways following lobbying.

Cllr Bailey said a member of the public had mentioned the Sky dish on a house in the Conservation Area. Legislation states that it could require planning permission.

Cllr West said all the houses in The Street have television aerials.

Councillors considered the matter and agreed the dish was not an eyesore. The resident could seek advice from the Planning Department or the Conservation Officer if he so wished.

ACTION: Chairman to respond to the resident.

10. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne said there is still money left in the budget, a grant could be made to the Village Hall.
Cllr West said a resident has offered to make a notice board for the church. The Church may well ask the Council again for a new Notice Board, but this will be next financial year, when their plans are clearer. The Council would like to support the Village Hall.

Cllr Ainsworth said the priority for the Village Hall is the enhancement of the heating system, to remove the existing fan blower and replace with new electric heaters.

It was agreed to pay for the enhancement of the heating system, £1250, and for the erection of a permanent mounting infrastructure for stage lighting for attaching the stage lighting, £500.
Cllr West said the Village Hall Committee could also apply for a grant from KCCllr Bowles's Funding event or from the Co-op Community Fund.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was agreed to pay Mr Swatland £220 for footpath maintenance and strimming around the sign.

iii. To consider budget 2019-20

Cllr Bailey said it is difficult to make significant reductions in the precept one year and then increase it the next.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to set the precept at £5116, being £35 per band D property the same for residents as in 2018/19.

iv. To consider insurance renewal

Cllr Payne said the Council has a three-year Long-Term Agreement, the cost of renewal is £330.00.

11. Planning Matters

Ref: 18/506263/FULL

Address: 5 Kettle Hill Eastling Faversham Kent ME13 0BB

Proposal: Proposed upper ground floor rear extension

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.

12. Correspondence

1. 21.11.18- Cllr Bowles: Newsletter
2. 21.11.18- KALC Agenda for the Swale Area Committee meeting
3. 23.11.18- Police & Crime Commissioner: Restorative Justice newsletter
4. 23.11.18- Kent County Council: consultation on draft Libraries, Registration and Archives strategy for the next three years
5. 14.12.18- Leader Swale Borough Council: Christmas greetings
6. 14.12.18- Kent Police: Rural Matters magazine – Winter 2018 issue and Kent Police Rural Liaison Team report
7. 14.12.18- KALC draft minutes of the Swale Area Committee meeting
8. 17.12.18- Cllr Bowles: Newsletter
9. 19.12.18- KALC: Newsletter
10. 21.12.18- Police & Crime Commissioner: Newsletter
11. 21.12.18- KCC: Cllr Bowles's funding event
12. 10.01.19- KALC: Draft minutes of AGM

13. Any Other Business

Cllr Bailey reported she had attended the KALC AGM. There was a resolution to have 20mph zones for village streets and also one for KALC to lobby Kent Police to delegate enforcement powers to local authorities and/or trained civilians to deliver more frequent and less costly enforcement of speed limits, both motions were passed.

Cllr West thanked Cllr Bailey for attending the KALC AGM on behalf of the Parish Council.

KCCllr Bowles reported Kent County Council is considering its budget which will be put to Members in February. There will be cuts in library services and Members' Grant Funds. Social Services is under pressure at present. Swale Borough Council has been prudent.

Cllr West asked for an update on housing in the area.

KCCllr Bowles said the Borough Council has to comply with the independently assessed need. People are moving out of London into the area. London Boroughs are buying housing stock in Kent to meet their demand and this, in turn, puts a strain on KCC Social Services. The London Boroughs do not contribute to the cost and the influx puts a burden on the cost of home to school transport. Some of the housing developments in the Local Plan have started however Swale's housing figure will increase 36% so the Local Plan will be revised. Swale has to meet its five-year rolling target and is currently looking at the concept of a garden village. Cllr West thanked KCCllr West for attending the meeting and for his report.

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April subject to agreement with the Village Hall Committee. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on 15 May.

Date of next meeting- 13 March 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Dated this 11th day of March 2019