

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Eastling Village Hall
on 18 March 2024

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

Also present were PC Gary Morris and twelve members of the public.

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was agreed to move agenda items around to accommodate members of the public.

1. Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time.

PC Garry Morris reported there were few calls relating to the village, one resident from Eastling and one from another village had been in contact regarding courier fraud. Courier fraud is a growing issue.

Cllr Bailey said there are concerns regarding inconsiderate parking at the Kettle Hill/ Eastling Road junction.

PC Morris said he will monitor the situation.

Cllr Bailey thanked PC Morris for attending the meeting and for his assistance.

Cllr Bailey reported that the composition of the Village Green Working Group has been queried, there is diverse representation from the village.

Cllr Adams reported that there was little to update at present, there has been a meeting and the group is liaising with the Belmont Estate through the agents.

#- Could it be sublet as a car park?

Cllr Adams said the land will not be a car park or garden.

#- A group of residents are looking at the capacity of the three car parks in the village.

#- There is someone on the Working Group who does not live in the village.

Cllr Bailey said the person is interested has offered to help with finances and manpower to maintain the area.

#- The Parish Council needs to consider if it has the ability to manage a community space regarding the financial and manpower commitment needed.

Cllr Bailey said the Council will not be able to consult without knowing the financial implication on the Council Tax.

#- The Council needs a contingency in case the funding stops.

Cllr Adams said the Council will not be reliant on individuals for funding. The Council has to be certain that the funds are there.

Cllr Bailey said the project would not happen quickly, the Estate will be winter sowing at the end of the summer and will grass the area next spring.

#- What will be the nature of the consultation? How will the Working Group engage with the village to ensure that all views are heard?

There will be a consultation and the Council will also take the views of residents into account. The format of the consultation is yet to be decided.

#- What is the ability of the Working Group and how much knowledge do they have regarding managing grasslands and hedges?

Cllr Adams said the Working Group is a project delivery group and will not necessarily manage the area afterwards. It is hoped there will be a proper update in the May Good News.

Cllr Bailey said the consultation is unlikely to be carried out before the summer.

Cllr Bailey thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting moved back to the Committee Room.

The applicant addressed the Council on the planning applications for Divan Court Kettle Hill Road.

The meeting was reconvened.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr John Payne; apology accepted.

Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (at another meeting: apology noted.

3. Declarations of interest

Cllr Neaves declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.iv, as a Trustee of Swale Citizens Advice.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 15 January 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting on 15 February 2024

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 15 January 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting on 15 February 2024 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Bailey.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Adams said consideration has been given by the Village Green Working Group as to whether information should be put on the Village WhatsApp, it was agreed that it should as it was not political and it affects everyone in the village.

ACTION: Cllr Bailey to liaise with the Administrator.

6. Website

Cllr Adams informed Members she had made a final check of the websites, two documents are to be added to the website.

The Clerk said that some tabs only permit a limited number of photos.

7. Chairman's Report

Cllr Bailey thanked Bay Lees for her help in maintaining the memorial garden. Cllr Bailey has responded to emails regarding the Village Green consultation.

8. Finance

i. Finance Report

The Clerk reported that there is £11,192 in the bank.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

There were none.

iii. To consider membership renewal of CPRE

Cllr Bailey **PROPOSED** to renew the CPRE subscription £60.00; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

iv. To consider request for a donation from Swale Citizens Advice

Item deferred to May meeting.

10. Planning Matters

i. Ref: 24/500797/FULL

Address: Divan Court Kettle Hill Road Eastling Faversham Kent ME13 0BA

Proposal: Internal and external alterations to main house, annexe and existing conservatory. Enclosing, converting and extending the barn for ancillary use. Installation of solar panels and erection of greenhouse.

ii. Ref: 24/500798/LBC

Address: Divan Court Kettle Hill Road Eastling Kent ME13 0BA

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations to main house, annexe and existing conservatory. Enclosing, converting and extending the barn for ancillary use. Installation of solar panels and erection of greenhouse.

Councillors considered the applications and the comments from the applicant. It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that there were no objections to the proposal

11. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Bailey said there are two drain issues, one near Prospect Place which has been reported, and one on the z-bends.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

12. Village Green

Cllr Adams reported that the Working Group is going. Council meetings will be changed to enable meetings to take place in the main hall.

13. Public House Parking

Cllr Bailey said there will be Police intervention to help with the problem.

14. Defibrillator

All fine- remove from agenda.

15. Correspondence

1. 18.01.24- NALC CEO bulletin
2. 24.01.24- KCC Highways: SGN - Emergency Road Closure - Otterden Road, Stalisfield - 22nd January 2024
3. 24.01.24- NALC CEO bulletin
4. 02.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin
5. 02.02.24- KALC Newsletter
6. 09.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin
7. 09.02.24- KALC Training bulletin
8. 09.02.24- KALC bulletin
9. 15.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin
10. 19.02.24- KALC bulletin
11. 01.03.24- NALC CEO bulletin
12. 04.03.24- KALC bulletin
13. 07.03.24- NALC CEO bulletin
14. 14.02.24- NALC CEO bulletin

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Neaves asked for dog bins to be a future agenda item.

Date of next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting- Thursday 11 April 2024
Annual Parish Council Meeting- Tuesday 14 May 2024

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

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman
Date: 14 May 2024

DRAFT