

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held in Eastling Village Hall on 16 January 2023

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

Also present was Ward Member David Simmons.

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from KCCllr Rich Lehmann (at another meeting): apology noted.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 7 November 2022

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr Bailey.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Payne reported that Mr Dawson will refurbish the notice board in the Spring.

Cllr Bailey said Mr Bell helped to put the Christmas tree in the phone box and he removed it on the Twelfth Night. The Council is grateful to Mr Bell for his help.

ACTION: Clerk to write a letter of thanks.

5. Public Time

No matters were raised.

6. Website

Cllr Gilbert asked if the website is monitored.

Cllr West said the Village Website is not up to date.

ACTION 1: Clerk to inform webmaster of updates.

ACTION 2: Cllr Gilbert to look at the website and liaise with the webmaster.

7. Chairman's Report

Cllr Bailey asked how will residents know about the elections in May. The Council has been quoted £800 for a contested election.

The Clerk reported that Swale Borough Council will send details of the election and this will be posted on the notice board and on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Bailey reported that she had attended the KALC AGM in November, the event was sponsored by CCLA. Roger Gough, Leader of Kent County Council, spoke on the cost-of-living crisis, there will be large cuts to KCC's budget in the region of £60,000,000. Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, gave a presentation. There was a vote to recommend to Government that it adopts a policy of 100% water neutrality on future developments. All communications will be addressed to Kent County Council and Medway Council.

Cllr Bailey reported that she had attended (virtually) the meeting of the Local Councils' Liaison Forum in November. There was a discussion regarding the difficulties some Parish Councils have in filling vacancies. There is also a GP provision issue in Swale. There is currently a Police initiative in Swale *“Can't be everywhere, but we could be anywhere”*.

8. King's Coronation

Cllr Bailey said consideration needs to be given as to whether to hold an event for the King's coronation.

Cllr Adams said the Jubilee celebrations were a success.

Cllr West said that an event would depend on volunteers to run it.

Cllr Adams said the Jubilee event had a committee and it was easy to organise as the pub agreed to host it. The grant paid for the hog roast and band and the raffle paid for everything else. The Post-Covid party was held at the hall and was a lot of work.

Cllr West said a group might come forward to run an event, the Council could have a budget for this.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to have a budget of £800.

9. Community Transport Service

Cllr Bailey said Faversham Town Council is investigating whether there is a need for a community transport service in Faversham and the surrounding parishes. This must not compete with the existing service.

Cllr Payne said the current service does not have wheelchair accessible buses.

Cllr Gilbert said Kent Karriers runs a service for wheelchair users.

Cllr Bailey said the village has a service so would be unable to participate in another scheme.

10. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported that the Council has £10,946 in the bank.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Cllr Bailey £40.00 being reimbursement of the Christmas tree.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay CPRE £60.00 subscription.

Cllr Payne said the insurance renewal had been received and is being challenged.

The Clerk reported that the Council is in a Long-Term Agreement and the insurer has increased the premium by £10.50 citing that it was because either the cover had changed or there had been a claim, neither of which has happened. They have also suggested it is indexed-linked but there are no assets to base an increase on. They are also charging an administration fee of £25.00 and this had not been charged last year. They are looking into the matter.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay up to £348.78 for the insurance policy.

Cllr Payne said no payments have been made for use of the Village Hall.

Cllr Adams said the charges have been reviewed and the Committee has reviewed the fees and the Committee Room will cost £7 per session.

iii. To consider budget and set precept for 2023-24

Cllr Payne **PROPOSED** a budget of £6,203; **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Payne said if the precept for Band D property was kept the same at £35, £1,007 would need to be taken from reserves. Cllr Payne **PROPOSED** to set a precept of £5,196: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Bailey thanked Cllr Payne for his report.

SBCllr Simmons offered a grant of £50.00 towards the refurbishment of the notice board.

ACTION: Clerk to submit application.

11. Planning Matters

There had been no new applications.

12. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Bailey said KCCllr Lehmann is assisting in trying to have SLOW markings in Newnham Lane, unfortunately KCC's highways budget is very tight.

13. Telephone Box

Cllr Bailey said the phone box had the Christmas tree in it but it is now empty. Ideas for its use are now needed.

14. Defibrillator

Cllr Gilbert reported that at the fireworks display, residents expressed their concern about the list of names of people able to use the defibrillator. There is currently no list. Anyone can use the defibrillator; it gives verbal instructions for use and cannot be used on someone with a heartbeat so there is no danger of shocking someone accidentally. The defibrillator is registered with SECamb so callers will be informed of the address; it is also registered with Community Heartbeat. Mr Willson also checks, maintains and reports the defibrillator. There is no key code needed and no locks, there is an AED sign on the door. Mr Willson is doing a good job.

ACTION: Cllr Gilbert to write article for The Good News.

15. Correspondence

1. 11.11.22- Swale Borough Council: Area Committee Meeting 15 December
2. 16.11.22- Swale Borough Council: Local Council's Liaison Forum on Tuesday 22 November
3. 16.11.22- Swale Borough Council: Household Support Fund for Swale
4. 17.11.22- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Kettle Hill Road, Eastling - 15th November
5. 18.11.22- Civility and Respect newsletter
6. 18.11.22- NALC: response to the Autumn Statement
7. 25.11.22- KCC: Community Transport grant scheme 2022-23
8. 28.11.22- Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited: notice of appointment of Mazar LLP 2022-23 to 2026-2027
9. 30.11.22- NALC: Newsletter
10. 30.11.22- NALC: CEO bulletin
11. 01.12.22- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - Eastling Road, Painters Forstal - 1st December 2022
12. 02.12.22- KALC: Newsletter
13. 14.12.22- NALC: Newsletter
14. 14.12.22- NALC: legal update
15. 15.12.22- KCC Highways: Emergency Road Closure - The Street, Eastling - 14th December 2022
16. 15.12.22- KALC: Community Awards Scheme
17. 15.12.22- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Bunce Court Road, Otterden - 19th January 2023
18. 16.12.22- NALC: Newsletter
19. 03.01.23- Faversham Town Council: Community Transport Service
20. 04.01.23- KALC: elections bulletin
21. 04.01.23- KALC: training events
22. 04.01.23- Briefing Note from KCC- Public Transport Department
23. 10.01.22- KCC Highways: Urgent Road Closure - Newnham Lane, Newnham - 10 January 2023
24. 03.01.23- KALC: January events
25. 12.01.23- KALC SAC: Kent Police- Can't be everywhere, but could be anywhere!

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Adams asked for the date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was agreed to hold it on Tuesday 11 April and that the Council will arrange the nibbles.

Cllr West asked if there was anything which could be done about road closure signs being left behind, they are causing confusion for motorists.

The Clerk said they must be reported on the KCC portal.

ACTION: Clerk to send link to all Councillors.

Cllr Gilbert asked if the Road Closure notices could be shared on the village WhatsApp group.

It was agreed that Cllr Gilbert publish the notices to the group.

Date of next Meeting: 20 March 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Date: 20 March 2023