

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Eastling Parish Council held remotely on Tuesday 4 January 2022

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 were Ward Member David Simmons and two members of the public.

Cllr West welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

All Members were present.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Rich Lehmann (unwell); apologies noted

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 15 November 2021

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 November 2021 and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr West.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Barbed wired along footpath

Cllr Adams reported it was still there. The footpath is quite slippery and the barbed wire is dangerous.

Cllr Payne said the Farm Manager respectfully declined to do anything as the fence has been there for twenty years and it keeps the sheep in the field.

Cllr Ainsworth said the fence is high and would keep the sheep in without the barbed wire.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Belmont Estate and to clarify that it is the only removal of the barbed wire that the Council is concerned about.

Salt bin

Cllr West reported that Kent County Council has refused to install a salt bin at the z-bend.

Flower bed around village sign

Cllr Ainsworth reported that the contractor has been contacted to remove the weeds.

School memorial garden

Cllr Payne reported that he had received a letter of thanks from the school for the contribution of a Gruffalo; he had also seen Joey's mum who expressed her thanks to the Parish Council.

Litter bin

Cllr Ainsworth informed Members that the village hall committee will meet on 10 January and will discuss this matter.

Pot holes in Newnham Lane

Cllr Payne reported that he had reported this on the KCC Highways portal.

ACTION: SBCllr Simmons to chase.

5. Public Time

No matters were raised.

6. Village Warden's Report

No report had been sent.

7. Website

Cllr Ainsworth informed Members that he had put the link to the History of Eastling on the village website.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr West said the gas pipes will be replaced in Kettle Hill Road, there will be a six-week closure starting at Hockley Bottom. The metal pipes will be replaced with plastic ones. The hedges have not been cut.

Cllr Payne said the farm manager has promised to do this.

9. Finance

i. Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported that there is £9988 in the bank.

ii. To consider invoices and cheques raised

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to pay Mr C Bell £297.54 for the materials used to renovate the phone box.

Cllr Bailey said an excellent job had been done.

iii. To consider budget and set precept for 2022-23

Councillors considered the budget and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to a budget of £5277 and a precept of £5223 which keeps the precept for a band D property the same £35.

10. Review of Risk Assessment

Councillors amended the Risk Assessment to reflect payments made by BACS and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to adopt the revised document.

11. Planning Matters

Lenham Heathlands

Cllr West said this proposed development is a concern to Eastling.

Cllr Bailey said the Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan Review Regulation 19 is out for consultation. The Inter Parish Group will draft a response and circulate it to the parishes.

12. Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr West said Sarah-Jayne Ellcock has moved departments. A speed survey has been carried out and the data is being interpreted.

Cllr Bailey said KCC Highways will put forward a recommendation and the Traffic Regulation Order will be shared with other parishes.

ACTION: Clerk to request update from Jenny Watson, KCC Highways.

13. Telephone Box

Cllr West said an application to adopt the phone box has been submitted and the consultation ends on 6 January.

Cllr Bailey said that when the telephony equipment has been removed, the space will be looked at; it could be a library or floral display.

Cllr Adams said if the phone box is to be used for books it will need looking after. It would be ideal for a defibrillator as it has power and is easily accessible.

14. Correspondence

1. 18.11.21- Swale Eastern Area Committee meeting flyer
2. 18.11.21- NALC CEO bulletin
3. 18.11.21- KALC Community Award Scheme 2022
4. 19.11.21- Civility and Respect Newsletter
5. 22.11.21- KALC Swale Area Committee meeting with George Myneham and James Freeman
6. 22.11.21- KALC CEO newsletter
7. 22.11.21- KALC events flyer
8. 22.11.21- KCC: Adult Carers Strategy - pre-consultation engagement workshops
9. 29.11.21- SBC: Agenda - Swale Joint Transportation Board (06.12.21)
10. 01.12.21- SGN: notice of work to upgrade our gas network in Kettle Hill, Eastling
11. 01.12.21- Swale Community Safety Unit: My Community Voice
12. 06.12.21- KCC Highways: Temporary Road Closure - Kettle Hill Road- 3rd January 2022
13. 07.12.21- PCSO report
14. 07.12.21- Maidstone Borough Council: Local Plan Review Regulation 19 Consultation
15. 09.12.21- SBC: Eastern Area Committee Meeting agenda Thursday 16 December
16. 13.12.21- Helen Whately MP: Parish update
17. 16.12.21- KCC: Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 Full Review 2021
18. 17.12.21- KALC newsletter
19. 20.12.21- KALC Carbon Footprint Calculator
20. 20.12.21- NALC CEO bulletin
21. 21.12.21- KALC bulletin e-scams

15. Any Other Business

SBCllr Simmons reported there had not been any meetings at Swale Borough Council.

Cllr West said the Carol Service was attended by approximately sixty people which, although was about half the normal number, was good under the circumstances.

Date of next meeting: Clerk to circulate dates to Members with Cllr Ainsworth checking the hall availability.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.16pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
Date: 28 March 2022