

Eastling Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Eastling Parish Council held on Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 6.30pm in Eastling Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Jimmy West (Chairman), Cllr Julia Bailey, Cllr Nigel Bickerdike, Cllr Helen Higgs and Cllr John Payne and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).
Also present was Mr Paul Ainsworth, Village website.

1. Apologies

Cllr West welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Andrew Bowles (at another meeting) and from Ward Member Cllr Colin Prescott (at another meeting); apologies accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 28 September 2017.

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2017 and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept them as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by Cllr West.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Blocked gully on the Z bend going towards Faversham - currently under investigation by Kent Highways.

Website details- the details of the village website and the Parish Council website has been published in the Good News magazine.

5. Correspondence

Ideas Test brochures and leaflets have been received and will be left in the Village Hall for residents.

6. Report from Village Warden

Mr Willson was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted a Neighbourhood Watch Report:

A burglary occurred during which saddles and other riding accessories were stolen, even the rugs were taken off of the backs of horses. The thieves climbed over the fence at the corner of the field via the road and left the same way. Substantial damage was caused to the stables. Police did not attend.

Illegal entry into a bungalow in Eastling during daylight hours whilst the owner was in the property. A rosewood mahogany writing casket was stolen. Police informed and attended twice.

Late night call to a house in Eastling concerning a person suspected of having a heart attack and an ambulance been called. It was later ascertained that patient had had an epileptic attack and was taken off to hospital and released the next day.

Called out late one evening to Newnham Lane by an elderly person that someone was knocking on their door and was worried. I attended and found no one and made sure all was well before I left.

Advised by residents that various strange things were happening in Newnham Lane. I toured the area for a few days and was able to ascertain that there were persons driving around in vehicles. Police were informed and the appropriate action has been taken.

There were many other various phone calls made to me and dealt with, a couple of alarm calls being resolved.

Cllr West thanked Mr Willson for his report.

Cllr Higgs said it is important for residents to know of the incidents.

7. Websites

Mr Ainsworth reported the number of visitors to the Village Website has increased. The software has been updated and the site is more stable. It will now be possible to give administration rights to other people, such as the Church, to manage their sections; this will reduce the cost of hosting the website. Most of the information comes from the Good News magazine and the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator also submits information. There is the facility to add a questionnaire on the website.

Cllr West said it is an excellent website and the news section is very good. It would be good to have more pictures on the website, especially new photographs.

Cllr West said the Parish Council website is up to date with the relevant information on it.

8. Farm Manager's Report

Mr Binder, the Farm Manager was unable to attend the meeting and sent a report:

Another busy harvest and drilling (planting) season draws to a close and we can draw breath again. We have some footpaths to spray out and many hedges yet to cut which will happen in the fullness of time.

This autumn has been the worst year I can remember for hare coursing activities. We have had new gates broken open and three locks cut off all by vehicle ramming and this now means we are going to have to put barrier type gates up rather than traditional five bar design.

The road at the bottom of Haywards Hill (probably Throwley Parish) has been resurfaced. The other issue particularly at this time of year has to be drains; they are full of silt and leaves (North Eastling corner/ Hockley Bottoms) and one good storm away from a flood. We have been fortunate this year in that we have had roughly half our annual rainfall.

If you see something the estate should know about please let me know and I will endeavour to get things moving.

Cllr West thanked Mr Binder for his report and for all he does within the Parish.

9. Public Time

Mr Ainsworth said the parking near the Carpenters Arms is an issue, and it has been suggested the staff could park at the Village Hall.

10. Chairman's Report

Cllr West expressed concern that the farm gates were being damaged, by the hare coursers Cllr West said he had seen council officers in Prospect Place and they were assessing whether resurfacing is needed. The drains continue to be a problem, the road on the Z bend on the way to Faversham, just outside Eastling, floods on the bend and cars have to pull out onto the opposite side of the road and this is very dangerous.

ACTION: Clerk to contact KCC Highways for a report on the Z bend on the way to Faversham, just outside Eastling.

11. Finance

i) Finance Report

Cllr Payne reported there is potentially a £1,000 underspend on the budget for the year. £452.30 has been received from the Transparency Fund and this will cover time spent on the website. The Council will have to change insurers as the current insurer will be pulling out of the Parish Council market. When the Council is no longer subject to an external auditor it will be important to have a qualified auditor with an understanding of Local Government finances. Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to appoint Mr David Buckett as internal auditor for the forthcoming year.

ii) To consider invoices and cheques raised

Cllr Payne said Mr Swatland had been paid £210.00 by BACS for open spaces maintenance. Cllr Bailey said the area around the village sign is in need of maintenance.

It was **AGREED** to pay Tunstall Parish Council £24.00 (cheque no 15) being share of Clerks' Conference and Finance Conference.

ACTION: Cllr West to ask Mr Willson if he still wishes to maintain the garden around the village sign.

Cllr Higgs said that if the area were strimmed, she would prune the roses.

12. To consider quotation for notice board

Cllr West said the quotation was for a notice board situated at the start of the church path on "The Street" was the same size as the existing one. The cost of the notice board is £781, the name board £70 and delivery is a further £85.00 making a total of £936.00.

Councillors **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the quotation from Arien Signs.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** for Mr Swatland to be asked to install the notice board.

13. Planning Matters

Ref: 17/504236/FULL

Address: Cheriton Otterden Road Eastling Faversham Kent

Proposal: Erection of a conservatory to side

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

14. KALC Community Awards 2018

Councillors suggested a candidate for the KALC Community Award and agreed to nominate the person for the award. Cllr Bailey will ask the recipient if she would be will to receive it at the Annual Meeting.

15. Any Other Business

Cllr Bailey reported she had attended the Kent Highways Parish Seminar at Ashford. KCC are having to make huge cuts to their budget and rural transport might have to be reduced. The Parish Council could hire a minibus for Eastling for residents.

Cllr Payne said that Parish Councils in the Weald have collaborated to provide a company called Wealden Wheels.

Cllr Bailey said the village cider making group is producing cider under the label of Old Chums. It has been made with Eastling apples with a local press and will be used for an event in the village next year.

16. Date of next meeting: 10 January 2018

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.36pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman
10 January 2018