



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 11 September 2024 at 6.30 pm, Eythorne Baptist Church Hall.

Present: Cllr Wright (Vice Chair), Cllr Morgan-Lovett, Cllr Hansell, Cllr Martin, and Cllr Luckhurst

Also, present: KCC Cllr D Beaney, Jo Pannell (Clerk to EPC), and 7 Members of the public.

09/53/24. Chairmans welcome and opening comments

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that it was nice to see members of the public in attendance.

09/54/24. TO CONSIDER any applicants for Co-Option as a Parish Councillor

The Vice Chair invited the residents who had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor to fill the current vacancies to explain a little about themselves and what they felt that they could bring to the Parish Council.

Mr Wetz explained that he had lived in Barfreestone for over eight years and had previously been a Parish Councillor at Little Chart Parish Council for five to six years, so was aware of the role of the Council in the Villages and felt that the experience gained previously would be put to good use in the role. Cllr Morgan-Lovett enquired if Mr Wetz was prepared to undertake training to fulfil the role. Mr Wetz responded that he was happy to undertake any training offered. Mr Wetz duly signed the acceptance of office form, which was certified by the clerk, Cllr Wetz took his seat at the Council meeting.

Mrs Godfrey explained that she has resided at Elvington Court Nursery for over nine years, but did not have any experience of being a Parish Councillor but had previously attended several Council meetings as a member of the public. She is keen to ensure that the wellbeing of the local community is at the forefront of the Parish Council. Cllr Morgan-Lovett enquired if Mrs Godfrey was prepared to undertake training to fulfil the role. Mrs Godfrey responded that she was happy to undertake any training offered. Mrs Godfrey duly signed the acceptance of office form, which was certified by the clerk, Cllr Godfrey took her seat at the Council meeting. The clerk asked the new Cllrs to complete the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form within 28 days of the co-option so that it could be returned to Dover District Council.

The Vice Chair explained that there was a variety of training that Cllrs could attend such as Biodiversity and Planning to name a couple, which were mostly held online. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that she found the online training impersonal, and preferred face to face training, which other Cllrs agreed with as their preference.

09/55/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies had been received from Cllr French, Cllr Whitehead, DDC Cllr Mamjan, Louise Sills (Stagecoach) and Juliette West Community Support Officer due to other commitments. Apologies noted and accepted by all Cllrs present.

09/56/24. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest declared.

09/57/24. MINUTES

The minutes from the Council meeting held on the 10 July 2024 had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record proposed by Cllr Luckhurst and seconded Cllr Morgan-Lovett and unanimously carried. The minutes were duly signed by the Vice Chairman.

09/58/24. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE JULY MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that most actions had been completed, the only outstanding items were as follows: Cllr Beaney to contact Louise Sills re: Stagecoach bus service. Cllr Beaney explained that he had not received any correspondence from Louise Sills. Cllr Manjam to check if there will be any funding for a new waste bin for Adelaide Road in case further funding becomes available and pursue with DDC re: Cllrs having access to funds for community projects. Cllr Manjam had given her apologies for this evening, so no update was provided. Cllr Luckhurst has visited Tonbridge to meet the supplier of the new Speedwatch equipment. The clerk explained that she had had to source an alternative notice board for the railway station as the original one proposed at the last meeting was too large for the fencing that it would be fixed to. The clerk asked the Cllrs that as a decision was made at the last meeting to make this purchase were they happy for her to go ahead and order the smaller alternative? All Cllrs present unanimously agreed to this course of action. **Action: the clerk will order the new notice board from KBS Depot, for delivery to Cllr Luckhurst residence.**

09/59/24. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

Cllr Beaney asked if there were any questions from the public, a member of the public explained that the Unsuitable for HGV signage was not clear enough and often ignored by HGV drivers. Another member of the public noted that such signage was not enforceable and there was no Unsuitable for HGV signage from Tilmanstone to Eythorne.

Cllr Beaney provided the following update for KCC, the footpath at the rear of Pike Road will be reinstated in time. Operation Brock on the M20 will come back into use in October for some time due to the changes in the port of Dover new freight checking in system. Cllr Beaney was unsure if the port of Dover were ready for these changes, but this will put additional pressure on the Police to keep roads free from stationary traffic.

KCC has carried out a 'pothole blitz' in recent months and is currently working on next years budget. Cllr Beaney explained that due to the cut in fuel allowances for pensioners, KCC will have to pick up the cost of these cuts. KCC also now must finance overgrown hedgerows on the Counties lanes. Cllr Beaney asked members of the public to report any hedges online that the landowner has allowed to encroach onto the Highway causing damage to the verges.

Cllr Beaney explained that at a recent planning meeting in Aylesham, KCC did not ask for further funding for the community connect bus service for it to be continued beyond the current contract.

Cllr Beaney explained that the Dover Beacon project on the land adjacent to St James shopping mall has been granted planning permission. This will house a business startup hub, educational facilities, and a café, which will be completed in 2026. Cllr Beaney explained that whilst excavating the site an old Roman wall had been unearthed, so this has held the project up slightly. Rural England have granted Dover District Council £400,000 to support and develop assets in the local communities for residents.

Cllr Beaney explained that the Labour Government had committed to building 1.5 million homes over the next five years, but with DDC Local Plan almost secured this should not affect the District too much in terms of house building. Cllr Morgan-Lovett enquired about the number of private houses that were available in the District, which had remained empty for some time, and asked why DDC did not compulsory purchase such homes for families and residents to live in?

The Vice Chairman enquired when the timetable for the start of the new Fast Track bus service will be published? Cllr Beaney confirmed that this should be published in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Beaney explained that Pencester Road will become two way, rather than one way to accommodate the new buses.

Cllr Luckhurst asked who the Cabinet Member was for Planning Enforcement? Cllr Beaney explained that the head was Cllr Biggs and the KCC officers Mrs S Platt and Mrs C Deever.

09/60/24 PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

A member of the public explained that on the ITV new that came up on his phone showing an article about a resolution for local authorities to take over bus services. **Action: This will be added to the October agenda.**

The Vice Chair invited the Reverend Sean to address the meeting with regards to ongoing maintenance payments for the Church clock. The Reverend explained that the history behind the Parish Council paying for the maintenance of the church clock was that there were two plaques in the Church which were erected from the contributions of Parishioners and the other was restored in the Millenium. Cllr Morgan-Lovett agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the annual maintenance cost but explained that eight years ago a new modern component timer was installed. However, every time there is an electrical storm the clock stops working. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the annual service, but for nothing else.

The Reverend explained that the Professional Company would shortly be doing the annual inspection of the clock and would be asked to provide a diagnosis as to why this happens. Once the inspection has taken place the Reverend will present the written diagnosis to be shared with the Parish Council.

The meeting reconvened

09/61/24. PLANNING

Applications:

24/00892 Proposal: Outline application for residential development of up to 24 dwellings with landscaping and infrastructure (all matters reserved except for access Location: Monkton Court Lane, Eythorne, Kent – Closing date – Friday 20 September 2024 – Resolved to Object to this application – will reference SP4 in response
24/00907 Proposal: Roof structure repairs Location: Wigmore Court, Wigmore Lane, Eythorne, CT15 4AW – Closing date – Friday 20 September 2024 – No comments
CON/21/01736/A Proposal: Description Discharge of conditions 3 - Foul water design, 4 - Surface water design, 5 - Site levels, 6 - Materials and 7 - Landscaping pursuant to application 21/01736 Erection of a detached dwelling Location: West View Chapel Hill Eythorne Dover Kent CT15 4BA – Closing date – 24 July 2024

Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation - None

Decisions:

24/00570 Proposal: Erection of a detached annexe / workshop with solar panels to the roof Location: 16 Green Lane, Eythorne CT15 4DD - Planning Permission Granted 29 August 2024
24/00509 Proposal: Replace roof to single storey rear addition and Insert internal partition to form W.C.

Location: Copley House The Street Eythorne CT15 4BG – Grant Listed Building Consent - 18 July 2024

The decisions above were noted.

The Planning Committee had met prior to this evenings meeting to discuss the Monkton Court Lane application.

09/62/24. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, the invoices detailed below were agreed for payment, by all Cllrs present.

Finance Report		
Payments		
Jo Pannell	Salary (September)	
S Thomson	Salary (September)	
KCC LGPS	Pension	£364.90
HMRC	National insurance	£0.00
S Thomson	Expenses	£6.66
Idverde	August grass cutting	£69.92
Baptist Church Hall	Meeting hall hire	£14.00
Hugo Fox	Monthly DD	£23.99
Dynamix	Payroll Q 2	£72.00
	Total	£3,442.34

- b) The bank reconciliation for July and August were **RECEIVED** and **RESOLVED** and duly signed by Cllrs Wright and Luckhurst
- c) **NOTED** a payment to Elvington Community Centre for agenda setting meetings room hire of £25.00 had been authorised.
- d) **TO RESOLVE** to purchase keys for the allotment padlock. **Action: This was not agreed at the meeting so will need to go onto the October agenda.**
- e) **RESOLVED** to approach arboriculture contractors to ask for quotes for a tree survey to be carried out on Parish land and for the removal of the overgrown hedge in the entrance to Eythorne play park. **Action: the clerk will approach contractors for quotes.** Cllr Morgan-Lovett asked for the two trees on the Eythorne roundabout to be included in the survey. **Action: the clerk will request that these are included in the survey**
- f) **COMPLETED** to post the AGAR completion certificate on to the website & notice boards. **Action: the clerk has posted the completion certificate.**
- g) **RESOLVED** to purchase a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday. **Action: The clerk will order this from RBLI**
- h) To start to think about Capital projects to be undertaken during 2025 – 2026 for next year's budget. **Action: All Cllrs**

All Cllrs present **RESOLVED** to accept the above payments unanimously, carried.

09/63/24. Allotments – RESOLVED Action: the clerk will write to the plot holders who have not paid their rent explaining that they have until the end of September to pay the rent and tidy their plot. If this does not happen a letter to quit will be sent to them. If they do not leave the plot free of weeds and rubbish, they will lose their £50.00 deposit

09/64/2024 HIP – Action: the clerk to contact Lezanne re: extending the double yellow lines in Barfrestone Road. Action: The Vice Chair asked members of the public to photograph or record the registration number of any vehicle turning right at the Eythorne Post Office junction

09/65/2024 PROW – There were no updates at this time.

09/66/24 – Play Areas – Action: the clerk will discuss with Stuart alternative signage for the play areas so that they are not so easily removed.

09/67/24. Speedwatch – Cllr Luckhurst explained that he has collected the new SID equipment from Unipar Services in Tonbridge. It was used for the first time yesterday on Chapel Hill. The question now is what we do with the old equipment. Speedwatch have informed us that they could take the equipment and enable it to be used by other groups in the event of equipment failure, or for the use of new groups starting up. They have informed us that there is no second-hand market for old units.

In total the team were involved in 7 sessions this past 2 months located at

- Chapel Hill 68 vehicles of which 1 was speeding, top speed 38mph Eythorne School (20mph limit) 81 vehicles 27 speeders and the top speed of 36, 12 letters sent by Kent Police.
- Eythorne School (20mph limit) 104 vehicles, 37 speeders and the top speed of 40 mph, 1 letter being hand delivered by Kent police.
- Sandwich Road 53 vehicles of which 19 speeding, top speed of 53 mph, 6 letters sent by Kent police.
- Eythorne School (20mph limit) 94 vehicles observed of which 54 speeding, multiple letters sent top speed 34mph.
- Sandwich Road 17 vehicles observed, 2 speeding, top speed being 41 and a letter was hand delivered
- Chapel Hill 35 vehicles observed, 1 speeding with a letter being hand delivered.

The new equipment now being used is more user friendly, and in its separate parts makes transport much easier. Furthermore, it seems to me steadier than the old unit having a tripod base as opposed to 2 flat legs. In all other respects it is similar, but lighter.

09/68/24. Councillors' items. It was **RESOLVED** by all Cllrs present to supply Cllr Morgan-Lovett with a list of items that could be purchased and stored in the Village as part of the Prepare Campaign. **Action: All Cllrs.**

Action: the clerk to book Cllrs Martin, Wetz and Godfrey onto the Nuts and Bolts of Parish Councils training.

Action the clerk to forward Cllr Wetz a copy of the Biodiversity Policy

09/69/24. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 09 October 2024 at 18.30 in Eythorne Baptist Church Hall

The meeting closed at 8.21 pm.

Signed _____ Date: _____

The Chairman: Cllr A Whitehead

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until the parish council approves them at their next parish council meeting.