



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12 June 2024 at 6.30 pm, the Baptist Church Hall, Eythorne.

Present: Cllr A Whitehead (Chairman), Cllr Wright (Vice Chairman), Cllr Morgan-Lovette and Cllr Martin.

Also present: Six members of the public, which included Louise Sills, Stagecoach Operations Manager, Julliette West the Community Warden, Cllr Beaney, and the Parish Clerk.

06/20/24. Chairmans welcome and opening comments

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members of the public for their attendance

06/21/24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Pout, Cllr Hansell, Cllr French, and Cllr Luckhurst. Apologies received and accepted by all Cllrs present.

06/22/24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

06/23/24. MINUTES

The minutes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 08 May 2024 had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true record. **RESOLVED:** proposed by Cllr Morgan-Lovette and seconded by Cllr Wright and unanimously carried.

06/24/24. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE MAY MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The actions for May had been completed apart from the item to order the Speedwatch equipment which is now in hand thanks to Cllr Luckhurst.

06/25/24. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

The Community Warden explained that she did not have a formal report for this evening but proceeded to give an overview of the recent changes to the Community Wardens position following the recent consultation with regards to the service going forward. She explained that the service has lost 40% of the previous service and there are only 04 Community Wardens left in Dover, previously there were 12, and 04 in Folkestone. Juliette will continue to cover her old patch for the time being. KCC are currently assessing the areas with the most deprivation by looking at Government statistics, local need, food poverty and other resources, including public transport and health care.

The Community Warden is attending a meeting later in June to find out what the next steps are for the service but explained that the role had changed since the consultation started. She explained that going forward the remaining Community Wardens will be trained in Social Subscribing and Community projects. In the future Anti-Social Behaviour will be the responsibility of the Police. Housing and noise nuisance will be the responsibility of DDC. For issues relating to law and order the rural beat officers would deal with this. The Chairman asked if residents had queries with benefits who is the best person to contact? The Community Warden explained that if it was in relation to state benefits Citizen Advice Bureau would be the easiest option or Social Enterprise Kent for cost-of-living support. She also explained that

Cllrs could make a referral to the Community Warden with any concerns about residents. The Community Warden said that she was willing to do a presentation on fraud alerts either at another meeting or a separate meeting. **Action: the clerk to arrange a fraud presentation from the Community Warden.** The Chairman thanked the Community Warden for her input and noted that it was nice to see her back to work.

Cllr Beaney explained that due to Purdah he cannot be political at this time. The Chairman explained that the Public Rights of Way (PROW) in relation to the path running from Burgess Hill through to Pike Road (EE337), was becoming increasingly inaccessible due to overgrown vegetation and fencing that is in disrepair. A member of the public explained that a section of the path behind Cllr Beaney's boundary was very muddy and dangerous for less able-bodied people. Cllr Beaney explained that there is legislation that covers landowners' fences and hedges that are encroaching onto a public way or PROW, KCC will clear any issues and recover the costs from the landowner. **Action: Cllr Beaney will talk to Owendens about the condition of the footpath**

06/26/24. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed Louise Sills, from Stagecoach to the meeting and thanked her for her attendance this evening and explained that members of the public were frustrated with the lack of bus service provision in the villages. Louise recognised that the public were frustrated, but there was not much to update on in terms of service improvements and it was hard to not to give more positive news, this is due to financial constraints.

She explained that the Connect Service is expected to continue to run, but it is not currently financially viable and has a meeting tomorrow with Cllr Pout to discuss some of the issues. Recruiting new bus drivers continues to be a problem, with a shortfall of ten drivers. Stagecoach is currently looking at how they deliver the services, but only buses numbers 12 and 15 are profitable services. Since the merger of the two bus depots there is less money for school transportation and concessions.

A member of the public noted that there were often two Connect buses following each other, which does not appear to be logical. Louise explained that they only had one bus currently in service, so some bookings are being refused. The Company that supplied the software to enable members of the public to book a journey, is coming over from Germany soon, so she will ask the question as to why the system is not more logical to use.

Louise continued to explain that running a double decker bus was more cost effective than running the Connect service. The Sprinter minibus is currently out of service due to an issue with the door mechanism. Parts to replace this are not readily available and there is a two week wait for parts at a cost of £1,800. Cllr Martin enquired if there were journeys that were unable to be completed? Louise responded that a lot of journeys would require 'Solos,' this was due to the narrow roads that need to be risk assessed, she would ask the manufacture of the booking software to exercise a degree of common sense to the system. Cllr Beaney enquired if the Connect service could be run on a designated route service? Louise replied that this was not financially sustainable. Cllr Beaney offered to speak to the Cabinet Member of Highways Neil Baker, he will also contact Louise after the meeting to discuss the issues. **Action: Cllr Beaney to contact L Sills after the meeting**

A member of the public noted that people needed to get to work at a set time, could a bus not run to the Shepherdswell station during the early morning? They stated that the local community would continue to fight for a regular bus service. The Chairman noted that if members of the public cannot rely on the bus service, they will not support it. The Chairman also asked if the Connect service could be extended to Sandwich? Louise explained that this would not meet the criteria for the S106 funding.

The meeting reconvened to complete the remaining business on the agenda

06/27/24. PLANNING

Applications:

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 – No objections to be logged
24/00537 Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness (proposed) for the erection of a single storey rear extension Location: 38 Milner Road Elvington CT15 4EL – No objections to be logged
24/00570 Proposal: Erection of a detached annex/workshop with solar panels to the roof Location: 16 Green Lane, Eythorne, CT15 4DD – The Parish Council will log an objection based on overdevelopment of the site and not in keeping with neighbouring properties. One Cllr abstained from voting. The remaining Cllrs agreed to oppose, carried.
24/0550 Location: Proposal: Outline application for the erection of a dwelling (with all matters reserved) Location: 11 Sandwich Road, Eythorne, CT15 4AA The Chairman explained that this application was on the edge of the number 09 property and on the edge of the conservation area. It was carried that the Parish Council would log an objection on the planning portal

Decisions

23/01231 Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling Location: 8 Green Lane, Eythorne, Kent, CT15 4DD – Permission Granted 17 May 2024
24/00285 Proposal: Regulation 5 (The Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations 2017) notification for the installation of a substation less than 29 cubic metres – Location: Wigmore Lane, Eythorne, Kent. Decision - Prior Approval not required (28-day notification) 16 May 2024

Decisions noted.

06/28/24. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, the invoices detailed below were initialled for payment, proposed by Cllr Morgan-Lovette, and seconded by Cllr Martin, these were unanimously agreed by all Cllrs present.

Finance Report Payments	Items	Amounts
Jo Pannell	Salary (June)	
S Thomson	Salary (June)	
KCC LGPS	Pension (June)	£365.20
HMRC	National insurance (June)	£462.93
S Thomson	Expenses (May)	£30.77
Dynamix payroll	Quarter 1	£70.00
Clerks' expenses	Stationary & mouse	£49.70
Idverde	May grass cutting	£69.92
Baptist Church Hall	June meeting	£14.00
Hugo Fox	To note SO payment	£23.99

Jubilee Carriages	D-Day food and drink	£560.00
	Total	£3,376.25

- a) **TO RECEIVE** the bank reconciliation for May, **TO RESOLVE** the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon.
- b) **TO RECEIVE and RESOLVE** to accept the updated Financial Regulations published in April 2024 by NALC – **RESOLVED** by all Cllrs present. Action: the clerk will upload the new version to the website
- c) **TO DISCUSS and RESOLVE** to seek quotes for an additional notice board on the EK Railway fencing. **RESOLVED** by all Cllrs present

06/29/24. Allotments - Cllr Martin asked the clerk to nudge the fence contractor to clarify when works may be started. **Action: The clerk to ask the allotment fence contractor when the work to erect the fence may start.** Cllr Martin explained that some children had stolen some hand tools that they said they had found in a hedge, but these have since been returned.

06/30/24. Play Areas – Following a complaint from a member of the public whose son had had a fall whilst playing football on the MUGA court, it was requested that the Parish Council sought other options for playing football. At the May meeting a proposal was discussed about erecting a goal post on the Elvington green or painting a five aside football lines on the green. Cllr Wright thought that any work carried out may be vandalised. Cllr Martin explained that children regularly play football on the MUGA court. The Chairman explained that a lot of money had been spent on the MUGA court and further expense was not justified. **RESOLVED** not to carry out the proposed works - proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Morgan-Lovette, the remaining Cllrs unanimously carried this.

06/31/24 HIP – Cllr Martin explained that over the last couple of months Church Hill has seen an increase in the number of cars parking near the bend opposite the School to the resource centre. The Chairman explained that the proposed extended double yellow lines should extend past the School and cover the bend at the top of Church Hill. **Action: the clerk will contact Lezanne to update her and draft a consultation letter to residents in the vicinity.**

06/32/24 External organisations – Cllr Martin explained that he had not seen the Church clock working at all. The Chairman suggested inviting the Vicar to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the ongoing issues with the clock not working. **Action: the clerk to invite the Vicar to the next meeting to discuss the continued support to the Church clock maintenance and repairs.** If the Vicar is not available for the next meeting it will be deferred to a subsequent meeting. Cllr Morgan-Lovette noted that a full risk assessment was required to allow the Handyman into the Church. **Action: the clerk will organise this.**

06/33/24 New Parish Charter - Cllr Wright explained that Mr Gower had been trying to get this agreed with DDC for the last year. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Wright to adopt the Charter, unanimously agreed by the remaining Cllrs. **Action: the clerk will let the KALC area committee secretary know**

06/34/24 PROW consultation – The Chairman explained that the consultation affected Eastry, Tilmanstone, Nonnington and Elvington with changes to restricted bi ways, which means closed to motorised vehicles. This consultation was discussed but no representation was put forward by the Parish Council.

06/35/24 – Speedwatch – Cllr Wright explained that there was not a lot of enforcement available to the Police in terms of curtailing noisy exhausts. She also explained that the local Speedwatch team worked closely with the Dover Speedwatch Police. The Chairman thanked the Speedwatch team for their work. In Cllr Luckhurst’s absence he had provided the clerk with the following report.

Since our last council meeting Cllr Luckhurst is pleased to report that we have a new member of the team, Steven French. Steven will be taking part in his first SW campaign in the coming weeks.

New equipment has been ordered from Unipar, it is anticipated that delivery will be within 4 months. The team has been involved in 05 session this past month located at:

The Street 80 vehicles 16 speeders and top speed 45mph. This session was also attended by the Speedwatch constable PC J. Wright who left our team to follow up with a motorist travelling at 43 (blues and twos were used).

Chapel Hill, 49 vehicles 1 speeder and top speed 43 m

Adelaide Road (school) 20 mph zone, 64 vehicles 27 speeders and top speed 40 mph 2 separate vehicles

Wigmore Lane 157 vehicles, 3 speeders top speed 47 mph.

1 session was cancelled due to illness

Cllr Luckhurst will be contacting Alan Watson about siting a new post for the static SID to provide greater coverage of this important piece of equipment. Previously Wigmore and The Street had been suggested however AW does not favour these roads. More pressure needs to be brought in this matter. Since the signage for the 20-mph limit at Eythorne School was erected, we have lost a post on which to mount the SID equipment. It seems to Cllr Luckhurst that as KCC utilised a post that was paid for by us, KCC should at the least either reimburse us or pay for the erection of 1 post.

06/36/24. Councillors' items – The Government Prepare Campaign – to stockpile food, water, batteries for torches and other essential items in case of adverse weather causing hazardous conditions, with no power and disruption to essential services. The Chairman likened this to the Emergency Plan that is in place with the Parish Council. Cllr Wright suggested siting a small storage container somewhere to house such supplies. Cllr Morgan-Lovette suggested it may be sited at the Tilmanstone Welfare site. **Action: the clerk will investigate the cost of hiring or purchasing such a container and if it would require planning permission and add to the next agenda**

06/37/24. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 July 2024, 6.30pm at Eythorne Baptist Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed _____ Date: _____

The Chairman: Cllr

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