



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held
on 11 October 2023 at 6.30 pm, Elvington Community Centre, Elvington.**

Present: Cllr M Ledger (Chair), Cllr A Whitehead (Vice Chair), Cllr C Ledger, Cllr Martin, Cllr Wright, Cllr Morgan-Lovett Cllr Luckhurst, Cllr French, and Cllr Hansell.

Also, present: Community Support Officer Juliette West, Jo Pannell (Clerk to EPC), and 5 Members of the public.

10/74/23. Chairmans welcome and opening comments

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked residents for their attendance. The Chairman explained that the bus to Sandwich schools did not appear to be running for some reason. This related to the Woodledge Green school bus, which was not calling at Sandwich.

10/75/23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Beaney, and Cllr Pout. Apologies received and accepted by all Cllrs present.

10/76/23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared. Cllrs M and C Ledger declared a OSI (Other Significant Interest) in the planning item - 23/01163 Proposal: Erection of detached plant room. Location: Bromley Wood, Long Lane, Shepherdswell, CT15 7LX.

10/77/23. MINUTES

The minutes from the Council meeting held on the 13 September 2023 had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true record. **RESOLVED:** proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr R Luckhurst, and unanimously carried. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

10/78/23. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The clerk explained that all the actions from the September meeting had been addressed, apart from the exact location of new waste bins along Adelaide Road, measuring the swing seats at the Eythorne play park for replacements and pursuing further quotes for the repair to the safety matting also in Eythorne play park.

10/79/23. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

The Community Wardens issues reported during the month:

Fuel thefts

Theft of vehicles

Dogs off lead/out of control in designated dog control areas

Damage to property

Noise nuisance

Motorbike nuisance

Speeding nuisance

Dog fouling/litter

Pot holes

Overgrown vegetation footpaths

Majority of caseload recently relates to individual welfare cases
Social prescribing
Positive wellbeing
Welfare checks/concerns
Multiple agency referrals
Multiple Agency partnership working
Community/District events

Please contact me directly on 07969584174 for further enquires or log on to [Kent.gov.uk/positive](https://www.kent.gov.uk/positive) wellbeing for further information.

10/80/23. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no question from members of the public.

The meeting reconvened to complete the remaining business on the agenda

10/81/23. PLANNING

Cllr Morgan-Lovett enquired what were the material planning considerations that DDC used. Cllr Whitehead provided Cllr Morgan-Lovett with a copy of the considerations. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that the wars in Russia and the Middle East will influence to the Worlds energy sources in time and suggested that efforts should be made in future planning application to detail efforts made to ensure new sustainability in terms of energy. Cllr Whitehead explained that this could be noted, but the material decisions are made by DDC. A member of the public explained that such decisions are made at a national level, so this could prove difficult. Cllr Wright explained that alternative energy sustainability has not been discussed at the DDC planning committee to date. Cllr French explained that the installation of solar panels required connection to the mains electricity. Cllr Morgan-Lovett also noted that the installation of new gas boilers will be phased out over the next ten years.

Cllr French explained that two mobile homes have been sited, opposite the entrance to Elmton Lane off Wigmore wood. People have been seen carrying barrels of water across the road from the opposite property. He continued to explain that there had been no planning application to site these homes, there is no safe access to the site, with no sewage disposal and a vast amount of litter can be seen in the vicinity of the site. Cllr Whitehead explained that they were renovating the house opposite, so perhaps they had moved into the field in question? Cllr French disagreed explaining that these were two new mobile homes. **Action: It was agreed that the clerk will bring this to the attention of planning enforcement**
Cllr Whitehead explained that the Parish Council needed to know what the outcome of an enforcement visit to a site was.

Applications:

22/00717

Location: Falconsview Meadows, Barville Road, Waldershare CT15 5BQ

Proposal: Change of use of land to VH Gypsy/Travellers site for 4no. additional pitches, each containing 1no. mobile home, 2no. touring caravan, erection of 2no. amenity buildings, associated parking, hard surfacing, and alterations to existing vehicular access – Comments close 30 October 2023

Cllr Whitehead explained that KCC Highways had agreed with the visibility splays at this site, however, Cllr Whitehead disagreed with this suggestion. She suggested that the Parish Council should strongly object on the ground of the following points:

- There is no form of built in sewage disposal
- No fresh water supply on site
- The site entrance and exit are on to a road that has a 60-mph speed limit, which is already a dangerous road. This point negates the data that has been given by the applicants & supports our concerns that the entrance is on a dangerous point on the road

- There had been two serious accidents and three less serious accidents along Barville Road close to the exit of this site due to the blind bend just past the exit.
- The limited entrance to the site is very unsafe when vehicles are making entry or exit in either direction cannot be mitigated given the sites location
- The current sited caravans on the plot are overbearing and can be seen from the public footpath, Sandwich Road and Barville Road which is becoming busier with HGV's
- DDC Local Plan clearly states that there is already enough provision of gypsy sites in the district
- This proposal is outside of the confine settlements of the village
- It was clearly thought that this was an overdevelopment of the plot
- The issue of litter in the vicinity of the site is creating an eyesore and a danger to local wildlife.

23/01147

Location: 96 Sandwich Road, Eythorne, CT15 4DQ

Proposal: Erection of 2 dwellings, parking, and vehicular accesses – Comments close 25 October 2023 - The Councillors agreed to post a neutral stance to this application

23/01027

Location: Birchfield, The Wrong Turn, Pie Factory Road, Barfreestone, Kent CT15 7JG –

Proposal: Change of use from micro pub to dwelling

Comments close 13 October 2023

It was noted that the house in question was in keeping with the local area. The Councillors agreed to post a neutral stance to this application

23/01187

Location: 7 Sun Valley Way, Eythorne, CT15 4HL

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and alterations to

garage (existing conservatory demolished) – Comments close 30 October 2023 – The Councillors agreed to post a neutral stance to this application

23/01163

Proposal: Erection of detached plant room

Location: Bromley Wood, Long Lane Shepherdswell CT15 7LX – Comments close 24 October 2023

Cllrs M and C Ledger left the meeting whilst this application was discussed in line with their Other Significant Interest declared.

The meeting agreed to ask for more information about what was to be housed in the plant room and post a neutral stance from the Parish Council requesting a more detailed application to be provided. Proposed by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Wright, unanimously carried by all Cllrs

Action – the clerk will upload the Parish Council's comments and stance to the above applications prior to the closing date.

Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation – None.

Decisions:

23/01060

8 Green Lane, Eythorne, CT15 4DD

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension, replacement roof, 2 side dormer windows and 4 rooflights to facilitate a loft conversion – Permission granted 03 October 2023

Decisions noted.

10/82/23. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, the invoices detailed below were initialled for payment, proposed by Cllr C. Ledger, and seconded by Cllr Wright, agreed by all Cllrs present.

Finance Report Payments		
Jo Pannell	Salary (September)	
S Thomson	Salary (September)	
KCC LGPS	Pension	£329.02
HMRC	National insurance	£431.31
S Thomson	Expenses	£59.17
Iverde	September grass cutting	£69.92
Elvington Community Centre	Meeting hall hire	£95.00
Elvington Community Centre	Contribution to Electricity Account for MUGA lights	£500.00
Elvington Community Centre	Annual Office Rent	£948.96
	Total	£4,091.42

- b) The bank reconciliation for September was RECEIVED and RESOLVED and duly signed by Cllrs Whitehead and Morgan-Lovett.
- c) New Capital projects for 2024 – 2025 – The Cllrs agreed that £3,000 should be allocated to speed watch to purchase new equipment and £4,000 for the village gates installation.
- d) The hire of speed strips for the village, Cllr Luckhurst explained that the hire cost appears to be rising since he last looked at the prices. **Action: the clerk will go onto the company’s website to obtain current costs. Action: Cllr Luckhurst will forward the clerk the sites with what three words for the siting of the strips.**
- e) CCTV equipment two quotes had been received JS Security = £534.00 and KW Fire & Security = £526.44. It was proposed by Cllr Luckhurst and seconded by Cllr Wright and the majority of Cllrs agreed carried to REOLVE to accept JS security’s quote. Cllr Whitehead explained that if a person views the CCTV footage without a police officer present this could not be used in evidence for a prosecution.
- f) The clerk talked through the amounts that should be placed into earmarked reserves on Scribe, noting the only addition to the paper previously circulated should make provision for a replacement laptop, given the existing one is four years old. This was proposed RESOLVED by Cllr C Ledger and seconded by Cllr Wright all other Cllrs present unanimously agreed this course of action. **Action: the clerk will add these amounts to Scribe.**
- g) The Cllrs noted the bank balances as of 30 September
- h) The conclusion of the External Auditor for 2022 – 2023 by Mazars was noted.
- i) It was unanimously RESOLVED to approach Mr Kilby as the internal auditor for year end 2023 – 2024
- j) Cllr Hansell will check that Mr P Boiston is purchasing the poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday
- k) **Action – it was agreed by the Cllrs that the clerk would transfer another £20,000 into the instant access reserve account**

10/83/23. Allotments

Cllr Martin explained that there had been some vandalism at the allotments and some produce had been taken. Cllr M Ledger suggested putting up a sign to deter such vandalism. provided an update on the allotments in Eythorne. Cllr Martin informed the meeting that there had been a lot of activity during the summer months. Cllr Martin asked the clerk if plot 06 was still vacant? The clerk explained that an existing allotment tenant had asked to take this plot so now all plots are tenanted. **Action - the clerk will complete the tenancy agreement and the invoice for plot 06.**

10/84/23. Play Areas

Action: clerk is working with two other companies to see if the repairs can be done by purchasing a kit from them. Measure swing seats in Eythorne play area to go out for replacements and bring back to the next meeting.

10/85/23. Tilmanstone Welfare update

Cllr Hansell explained that the secretary had recently resigned. She also noted that a temporary stand in secretary was in place, so hopefully things will move on soon. Cllr Ledger noted that this property was on is listed land.

10/85/23. PROW

Cllrs Whitehead and Wright explained that no action had yet been taken to replace the missing PROW signage that the clerk had reported. **Action: the clerk to chase the PROW team**

10/86/23. Alternative energy project

Cllr Morgan- Lovett had no further update on this item.

10/87/23. Updated Emergency plan

Action: the clerk was asked to summarise the plan with key contact information for circulation to the village.

10/88/23. HIP

Following recent communication with the KCC HIP officer offering to put speed strips down should the Parish Council ask for all roads to be covered? **Action: Cllr Whitehead will contact the KCC officer about this.**

10/89/23. Litter bins

Action. the clerk will check the original email sent by Cllr Manjam and report back to the Parish Council.

10/90/23. Councillors' items

Cllr Luckhurst explained that PC Jason Wright had recently visited the village to join the Speedwatch session, he hopes to visit all speed watches in East Kent.

Cllr French asked if it would be possible to organise a community litter pick in the villages and asked if the remaining businesses on Pike Road could be asked to clear litter from their sites.

Action: The clerk will update and re-send the original letter.

Action: add the proposed community litter pick to the November agenda to resolve to ask the school if they would like to run a competition with the children for a poster focusing on wildlife issues and the effects of litter on the animals.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett reminded the meeting that there were three companies that visit the Village to collect small and large electrical items that are broken and need removing rather than dumping them in the Village.

10/91/23. Any other matters

Action: The clerk will inform the manager at Lady's Flats that placing a mirror on the pole opposite the exit from the site to Church Lane is not possible because it would impede access to the pole required by the fibre company.

10/92/23. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 08 November 2023, 6.30pm at Elvington Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed _____ Date: _____

The Chairman: Cllr M Ledger

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