



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 08 March 2023 at 6.30 pm, Elvington Community Centre, Eythorne.

Present: Cllr Millard, Cllr Morgan-Lovett, Cllr Wright. Cllr Whitehead (Vice Chair), and Cllr Hansell

Also, present: Cllr D Beaney, KCC Community Warden J West, Jo Pannell (Clerk to EPC), and 2 Members of the public.

03/1/23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr M Ledger (Chair), Cllr C Ledger, Cllr Butcher, Cllr Keen due to other commitments and Cllr Meehan due to legal advice not to attend the meeting. Apologies received and accepted.

03/2/23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

03/3/23. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on the 08 February Council meeting had been circulated to Councillors.

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

03/4/23. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that most actions had been completed. Outstanding actions: **Action: Cllr Millard will speak to David and come back to the Council.** Cllr Millard confirmed that he had spoken to David, but the issue is still the amount of pigeon excrement on the stairs leading up to the clock, until this is cleared it is not possible to re-set the clock. **Action: The Clerk was asked to write to the vicar to enquire when this may be cleaned up. Other actions will be completed by the Clerk.**

03/5/23. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

Report by Community Warden Juliet West:

Julliette explained that the Community Warden's can no longer refer to specific cases due to the General data Protection Act, to protect peoples identity. She summarised the following general points that had been raised during the last month:

Complaints raised ref increasing litter on pike road

Nuisance motorbikes

Nuisance noise bikes

Nuisance noise dog barking

Nuisance/ dogs straying

Nuisance smoke/bonfires

Parking on yellow lines Eythorne roundabout

Concerns raised about not observing the 20 mph zone on Church Hill

Parking issues sandwich road

Multiple scams circulating

Individual cases

Individual welfare issues

KCC still have a number of schemes running to help with cost of living
Household support fund
Home essentials in a crisis

Cllr Millard explained that the speed sign on The Street was no longer working, it was suggested that it may need to be recalibrated. **Action: The Clerk will raise this with S Thompson to see if this can be done.**

Cllr Hansell asked the Community Warden if it was permissible for Cllrs to take photographs of parked cars on double yellow lines at the roundabout in Eythorne? The Community Warden agreed that photographs could be taken.

Cllr Whitehead explained that door to door sales men where in the area selling t towels and household cleaning products, when she questioned a gentleman recently he told Cllr Whitehead that he had a license to do this from DDC. The Community Warden explained that this was not true, the Police used to issue a peddlers license to enable people to do this, but this was no longer the case. **Action: The Clerk was requested to upload this issue to Facebook to make members of the public aware and provide posters to go to the shops and onto notice boards.**

The Community Warden would be happy to provide a talk to a meeting to explain what is permitted re: door-to-door salesman

Verbal report by KCC & DDC Cllr D Beaney

Cllr Beaney explained that he had commented on the proposed closure of The Sunflower Childrens Centre, opposing to the proposed closure. He explained that the bus fare cap had been extended to June 2023. The KCC Highways manager S Wadham's has been replaced by T Williams.

KCC Finance – £61million had been paid from the Governments Levelling up Fund to make Dover Docks more capable of dealing with the lorries at the port. The KCC budget has been over spent by £67million this financial year, so there is a lot of work going on at KCC to see what they can claw back. Cllr Beaney explained that KCC is just too much of a beast and predicted that within the next eight years it is likely to become a Unity Authority. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that whilst some potholes are repaired in the area, the tarmac comes out within a week or so, therefore needing to be repaired again, so it was a complete waste of money. Cllr Whitehead requested that Cllr Beaney passed back to KCC the Parish Councils displeasure about how they had managed their finances.

Cllr Beaney explained that Kent Fire and Rescue had sent a crew out to Turkey to assist with the rescue effort following the earthquake in the region. An award of £80million had been made to regenerate Bench Street in Dover. Cllr Millard questioned if people were able to use their concessionary bus pass on the dial a ride service as they did when Stagecoach ran the buses? Cllr Beaney replied that the concessionary pass could be used on the new service and that the Fast Track scheme should also assist with travel in Dover.

Cllr Whitehead asked Cllr Beaney how students will get to school in September as the bus service will cease? Cllr Whitehead noted that Britannia coaches maybe able to assist. Cllr Morgan-Lovett queried whether the Bakkavor bus used to collect staff to the site could be used to collect and drop off the children? Cllr Whitehead explained that one parent had a child at Sandwich and another at a Dover school, how would it be possible to get them both to school with no bus service? Cllr Beaney explained that he was happy to be involved in any discussions with Bayliss and the Parish Council. **Action: The Clerk to invite them to a PC meeting and discuss with Shepherdswell PC what they are doing about the situation.**

Cllr Morgan-Lovett asked Cllr Beaney what his stance was on the proposal to remove the miner statue at the entrance to Betteshanger Park? Cllr Beaney was not aware of any plans

to re-site the statue, but would not support such a move, but explained that it was really down to planning with regards to the officers' decisions and material objections.

03/6/23. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no comments or questions from the public present

03/7/23. PLANNING

No Applications had been received.

Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation - None

Decisions: None received

02/8/23. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) & b) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, the invoices detailed below were agreed for payment, proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Hansell, and unanimously carried.

Finance Report Payments		
Payee	Payment Type	Amount £
Clerk and Handyman salaries for March	BACS	
HMRC NI contributions for March for Clerk and Handyman	BACS	£432.31
Clerks' expenses - £66.92 & Handyman £7.65 mileage	BACS	£74.57
KCC Pension payments for March	BACS	£315.70
Smith of Derby Clockmakers	BACS	£306.00
Idverde – February	BACS	£67.94
Elvington Community Hall	BACS	£115.00

- c) Cllr Millard requested that a separate agenda item should be given to Playgrounds and requested that this came back to the next meeting for discussion. **Action: The Clerk will add this on to the agenda, the Clerk will forward the fencing quotes to Cllr Millard for follow up.**
- d) To appoint Mr Kilby as the internal auditor proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Hansell all Cllrs present unanimously agreed.
- e) The bank balance was noted.
- f) The ordering of the Speedwatch equipment was deferred to the April meeting.

03/9/23. CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors by the Clerk.

Action: The Clerk to write to the Head Teacher of the local school to offer congratulations on receiving an Outstanding OFSTED inspection.

Cllr Hansell gave a verbal update on the Tilmanstone Welfare meetings as follows: the meetings are rather uncomfortable, but she will persevere with attending. Cllr Hansell will provide a regular update on these meetings each month. **Action: The Clerk will add this to future agendas.**

Cllr Whitehead noted the email received from Dover Rotary Club offering the Cllrs to attend an open day on 16 March from 12.00 to 9.00pm at the Ramada Hotel in Whitfield where they are offering to help local communities. **Action: The Clerk to reply to the email to say thank you for the invite and hopefully a Cllr will be able to attend.**

03/10/23. Barcombe project

Cllr Morgan-Lovett asked Cllrs if they had carried out any research on this project and what were their thoughts about it? Cllr Wright did not think that it was viable due to Barcombe having only one power source with no gas and some oil unlike this Parish. She explained that the project had been running since 2020 and little progress has been made to date. Cllr Wright explained that heat pumps are noisy and prone to breaking down and often they do not make enough heat, so secondary source is often needed. Cllr Millard explained that a lot of these type of projects only have a few houses to serve, but over a hundred houses would be difficult to heat using this method, he questioned whether solar panels could be installed?

Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that UKPN were involved in the initial project with the local communities. Cllr Whitehead explained about the local opposition when it was proposed to erect a wind turbine in Barville Road. Cllr Whitehead recalled the solar panel proposal for Pike and Barville Road some time ago which would have benefitted local people, but this proposal had since disappeared. Cllr Millard explained that such a project would have to feed into the National Grid, which may have caused a problem. Cllr Wright explained that there had been issues with solar panels due to them failing and deteriorating quickly. There have also been issues with cowboy roofers damaging roofs. Cllr Millard explained that it would require an AC and DC convertor to work. Cllr Hansell explained that she had glass test tubes for heating & hot water which have lasted for over forty years.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett noted that as a Parish Council we should assist people in the Village and questioned whether it would be advantageous to invite UKPN to a meeting? Cllr Whitehead queried whether they were the right people to invite? **Action: The Clerk will contact UKPN and ask the question.**

03/11/23. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk explained that the gate had been broken recently, leaving the lock intact. S Thompson had repaired the gate the best he could. The Parish Council offered thanks to S Thompson's tenacity.

03/12/23. HIP

The Clerk summarised the outcome of the meeting earlier with KCC Highways. The Clerk will forward the notes that she had made at the meeting. Cllr Wright explained that the lolly pop lady is retiring soon, a zebra crossing would be ideal, but with access lines at the crossroad this would not be possible.

03/13/23. Bus route cuts

Covered under item 5.

Cllr Hansell will talk to the light railway to see if they could assist with school transport.

03/14/23. Any other matters

Action: The Clerk will change the Annual Parish Assembly from May to April and invite speakers.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett had attended the Countryside Protection Charity meeting recently, where the Betteshanger plans were discussed. Quinn Estates are proposing a water park, a lagoon with two layers and a hotel to accommodate up to five hundred people, objections to these proposals are mounting and KCC Highways objected due to the traffic issues. The proposals note that they are hopeful of attracting 700,000 visitors to the park. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that increased traffic would have a knock on effect on the A2, Dover and the surrounding villages. They are also proposing to build 155,000 homes between Sholden and Deal, which will increase the traffic on the 258, plans will also affect electricity, water supplies and sewage. This will also impact on the environment and local wildlife, including bats and nesting birds. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that the Government are planning to plant over 30,000 miles of hedgerow, but a lot of existing hedgerows had been lost due to development. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that if this development goes ahead, it will impact the villages.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that a new entrance to Betteshanger Park is being planned, such plans will destroy the Country Park that has been a free facility for local people to walk and ride bikes with no vehicles.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that in the Parish of Ash a local farmer is planning to instal 106 acres of solar panels. Ash Parish Council and the residents are not happy about the proposal.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with Ash Parish Council about these plans.

03/15/23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 12 April 2023, 6.30pm Elvington Community Centre.

All agreed for the meeting to be held on Wednesday 12 April 2023.

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.