



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 12 February 2025 at 6.30 pm, Eythorne Baptist Church Hall

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

Also, present: DDC Cllrs Woodgate, Mamjan and KCC Cllr Beaney (for part of the meeting) and 09 members of the public.

02/135/25. Chairmans welcome and opening comments

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that it was nice to see a nice crowd of members of the public present.

02/136/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies had been received from the clerk, due to a family bereavement, Cllrs Luckhurst and French, due to other commitments. Apologies were noted and accepted by all Cllrs present.

02/137/25. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest declared.

02/138/25. MINUTES

The minutes from the Council meeting held on the 08 January 2025 had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **RESOLVED:** The minutes were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Morgan-Lovett and seconded Cllr Wetz, and unanimously carried. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

02/139/25 COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE JANUARY MEETING/OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Chairman explained that the remaining actions outstanding were to speak to ST about new signage for the play areas, notifying the PROW team re: EE335B about the electric cable crossing the footpath and the rubbish in the vicinity, draft a letter to Cllr Baker re: Barville Road and Cllrs Luckhurst and French were due to meet with Cllr Beaney re: Barville road issues, but as the Chairman explained, there had been no feedback from either Cllrs, so it does not appear to have happened.

02/140/25 KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

The Chairman invited the DDC and KCC Cllrs to provide updates. Cllr Beaney explained that there had been a meeting with himself, KCC Highways officer Lezanne and other KCC Highways officers to discuss Barville Road and the Church Wall at Barfrestone, due to several HGVs damaging the wall. The Church Wall could be a difficult task to do. It was suggested to move signage further up the road at the Junction before the Church, Cllr Wetz asked what Cllr Beaney's thoughts were on the weight restriction? Cllr Beaney explained that he would support anything that Highways and the Parish Council would like to pursue.

Cllr Wetz thought that there is really nothing that can be done, but if HGV drivers used the correct Satnav, there could be some recourse. Cllr Wetz explained that all the incidents of damage to the wall were due to foreign HGV's. Cllr Beaney explained that it would take a long period of time to get signage changed and a weight restriction is not feasible due to there is

no bridge or other structure near the Church. Cllr Wetz explained that the insurance company was not willing to push the wall back slightly to install barriers as they were too costly and widening of the road was not feasible either. Cllr Manjam agreed the costs were too expensive to install bollards.

A member of the public asked if a width restriction could be imposed? They noted further signage is worth considering. Cllr Beaney explained that further signage will be installed at the junction with Pie Factory Road, but this may take time to realise. A member of the public explained that there was not signage coming out of the Pike Road Industrial Estate. The Chairman noted there was signage at the Bakkavor site.

Cllr Beaney explained that the soak away in Barville Road was blocked and ideally, they would need to make it bigger, but they would have to close the road, which would cause traffic chaos. This would take a week to carry out the repairs, that is if the farmer is willing to allow this to happen on his land. The Chairman asked Cllr Beaney to confirm that he was willing to support the Parish Council on this issue, he agreed that he was willing to do this. A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could be put signage onto private land? The Chairman thought this could be a good idea but would need further investigation.

Cllr Beaney explained that the bid to apply for Devolution with KCC, Medway and the other Authorities had been rejected, by the Government. Cllr Beaney explained that in May the period of Purdah comes into force prior to the May elections.

A member of the public explained that the proposed solar farm site in Nonnington, sits on a flood plan, which could cause further flooding issues in the vicinity. This had been mooted some time ago. The Chairman invited Cllrs Manjam and Woodgate to provide any updates. Cllr Manjam explained that there is a petition currently out for signing to reinstate the Stagecoach bus services.

A member of the public talked about the decision to cut a hole in the listed wall at the Old Rectory. Cllr Manjam has raised this with DDC, but there has been no outcome yet. A member of the public complained about the lorries coming out of this site covered in mud, which had spread all over the road and onto the pavements in Adelaide Road. The Chairman explained that she thought that a wheel wash was to be used to prevent this from happening. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that the lorries were also mounting the grass verges, churning them up, causing significant damage to the verge and kerb. **Action – The clerk will write a letter to the contractor / case officer at planning enforcement about this issue.** The PC has written to DDC enforcement about the issues raised. (The three KCC and District Cllrs left the meeting at this point.)

02/141/25 PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

There is a ridge on a PROW, near the Crown pub, this needs to be reported to the PROW team. **ACTION - The clerk will report this on the PROW portal.** The recent contractor working on Barville road has left a lot of rubbish following the works being carried out. There is also a lot of rubbish falling from the skips. **Action - The clerk will report this to East Kent Recycling and to the original contractor.**

The meeting reconvened

02/142/25. PLANNING

Applications:

22/00717

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

Proposal: Change of use of land to VH Gypsy/Traveller's 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 – Permission Granted – 20 March 2024

Proposal to erect a Solar Farm that crosses 2 PROW and runs alongside a Bridle Way – fencing could be an issue – there is still no planning application submitted.

Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation - None.

Decisions:

24/01302 Location: 19 Chaucer Road, Elvington, CT15 4ER Proposal: Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, extension to drop kerb and extended parking – Planning Permission Granted – 10 February 2025
24/01020 Location: The Old Rectory Barfreestone Road Barfreestone Dover Kent CT15 7JJ Proposal: Change of use of stable to 2 holiday lets – Decision - Listed Building Consent Granted 04 February
24/01021 Location: The Old Rectory Barfreestone Road Barfreestone Dover Kent CT15 7JJ Proposal: Conversion of stable to form 2no holiday lets. Works include remove and insert new partitions and wall linings. Replacement windows and doors to external envelope. Replacement 6no rooflights. Insert 1no new rooflight. Replace glazing with timber weatherboarding and 1no window to side NE elevation. Decision – Planning Consent Granted - 04 February

The Chairman explained that there had been no new planning applications received. Planning permission for change of use for holiday lets at the Rectory in Barfreestone had been agreed as had the conversion of the garage to habitable accommodation at 19 Chaucer Road.

The Planning Committee will meet soon to discuss the proposal for the erection of a dwelling at 11, Sandwich Road, Eythorne, CT15 4AA. TO NOTE - this is an outline application, but it does seem likely that this application will be approved. A financial contribution attached to this application has been earmarked for improvements to the Whitfield and Duke of York roundabouts. The Chairman commented that the money would be better spent in the village for the benefit of residents. A member of the public asked if the application for 2 houses in Green Lane and the Monkton Court Lane development has been approved. The Chair responded that the PC is not aware of any decision for either application.

One member of the public explained that parking on Chapel Hill had improved recently, but another resident explained that it had become problematic recently, due to the new build houses further down the hill. Another member of the public enquired if EPC had a plan for future planning applications, given the changes to the planning system by the new Government? This will be kept under review by the Parish Council.

Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation - None

02/143/25. 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 (February)	
S Thomson	Salary (February)	
KCC LGPS	Pension	£380.12
HMRC	National insurance	£292.18
Clerk	2 x KALC Cllr training	£120.00
Idverde	February grass cutting	£69.92
Hugo Fox	Website	£23.99
Eythorne Baptist Church Hall	February meeting	£14.00
Scribe	Quarter 3 payment	£70.80

Scribe	Annual Subscription	£393.44
Wicksteed	Playground inspections	£356.40
Elvington Comm Centre	Final office hire payment	£735.21
Elvington Comm Centre	Meeting hire	£ 75.00
Westcotec	Replacement SID battery	£129.00
	Total	£4,635.24

Proposed by Cllr Godfrey and seconded by the Chairman. All Cllrs present **RESOLVED** to accept the above payments; this was unanimously carried.

The Chairman explained that the clerk had sent out an updated payment sheet to Cllrs, prior to the meeting. The Chairman queried the cost of the two play inspections, which are expensive, but the equipment needs to be maintained on Health and Safety grounds.

A discussion took place about the proposal to change from Hugo Fox as the Website provider and to change the email addresses to a.gov.uk account. **ACTION – this will be added to the March agenda for a DISCUSSION and RESOLUTION.**

- b) The bank reconciliation for January were **RECEIVED** and **RESOLVED** and duly signed by Cllrs.
- c) **TO DISCUSS and to RESOLVE** any celebrations to mark VE Day on Thursday 08 May 2025 & VJ day on 15 August 2025. A discussion took place about the plans for VE day and whether to hold it on the Bank Holiday Monday 05 May or stick to the 08 May with the beacon lighting at 21.00. Several ideas for the event were mooted, such as Bell ringing, the provision of fish and chips by the East Kent Railway, (a member of the public requested a vegetarian option to be included.) The lighting of the beacon, bunting, a silver band to play, and invite the school to contribute to the event. The Chairman explained that the bells in the Church are no longer able to be rung due to Health & Safety issues. A member of the public knew of a resident that plays the trumpet, he will ask him is he would be available to play, and Cllr Morgan-Lovett also knew of a resident that could play music at the event. **ACTION the member of the public and Cllr Morgan-Lovett to ask the residents if they would be available for the event.**

A member of the public representing the History Society explained that they had drafted a brochure for the occasion, with recipes and other items of interest, and asked if the Parish Council would like to be involved with this. The Parish Council agreed to be involved. **ACTION – the clerk will contact the EKR to request fish and chips for the evening.**

- d) It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Country Cutters quote for the removal of two hedges in Green Lane £600.00 & £650.00. It was noted this was a gesture of good will from the Parish Council. **ACTION – the clerk will notify to contractor to go ahead.**
- e) The Chairman explained that alternatives to carry out the clock maintenance was to either find a volunteer to maintain it or seek quotes from another company. **ACTION - It was discussed and decided that the clerk would write to the Rev S Sheffield to ask for a detailed report to explain why the Church Clock is not working again.**
- f) A discussion to place about the recent request for funding from the Citizens Advice Bureau. It was decided to decline the request at this time.
- g) **ACTION – the clerk will write a thank you letter to East Kent Railway for installing the new notice board at the railway**

02/144/25. Allotments – It was noted that there were 02 vacant plots available, with one prospective tenant who had emailed their interest. **ACTION – the clerk will arrange Cllr Martin to meet the prospective tenant to show them the vacant plots.**

02/145/2025. HIP – It was agreed that the clerk would update the document and add any outstanding items such as kerbing around the roundabout in Eythorne and the proposed weight limit in Barfrestone near the church.

02/146/2025. PROW – There were no updates noted

02/147/25. – Play Areas – There was a discussion about the recent play inspection reports. **ACTION** – Cllr Martin will check the play areas where the basket swings are to assess the level of rot in the posts and will check the bearings in the air walker are fit for purpose. Replacement signage is still required. This item will come back to the next meeting.

02/148/25. Speedwatch – Cllr Wright explained that the battery change in the Big Sid equipment had been replaced and returned to the Parish Council. **ACTION** – Cllr Luckhurst to ask Mr A Watson for the recent Adelaide Road speed results.

02/149/25. Councillors' items. ACTION - The Chairman asked any Cllrs who would like to undertake training to contact the clerk for securing a place.

02/150/25. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 18.30 in Eythorne Baptist Church Hall

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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.