



## EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 11 January 2023 at 6.30 pm, Elvington Community Centre, Eythorne.

**Present:** Cllr M Ledger (Chair), Cllr C Ledger, Cllr Millard, Cllr Morgan-Lovett, and Cllr Wright. Cllr Whitehead (Vice Chair), Cllr Butcher and Cllr Hansell

**Also, present:** Jo Pannell (Clerk to EPC), 7 Members of the public

#### **01/1/23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Keen, no further updates available, Cllr Meehan, due to legal advice not to attend, Cllr Beaney and the Community Warden Juliet West due to other commitments. Apologies received and accepted.

#### **01/2/23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations under this item.

#### **01/3/23. MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 14 December Council meeting had been circulated to Councillors.

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

#### **01/4/23. COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING/MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk confirmed that all but one of the actions had been completed, this was to remind Cllrs about the Microsoft Teams call tomorrow morning which had been done today.

#### **01/5/23. KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS**

Apologies had been received from both DDC and KCC Councillors – no reports had been received.

##### **Report by Community Warden Juliet West:**

The Community Warden was not present at the meeting and apologies had been received.

#### **01/6/23. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

A member of the public explained that three dogs had recently been stolen from the village and requested that residents remain vigilant, the dogs had been found and returned to the owner.

#### **01/7/23. PLANNING**

##### **Applications:**

##### **22/01567 – Waldershare Park and Gardens**

Proposal - Erection of deer fencing

Cllr Wright explained that this application had been discussed at the previous meeting.

**Late Application:** None received

**Decisions:** None received

## 01/8/23. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, Cllr Morgan- Lovett read out the payments. The invoices detailed below were agreed for payment, proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Whitehead, unanimously carried.

<b>Finance Report Payments</b>		
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Payment Type</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Clerk and Handyman salaries for January – TO NOTE Mr Thomson under payment in December salary	BACS	
HMRC NI contributions for January for Clerk and Handyman	BACS	£265.69
Clerks' expenses - £74.60 & Handyman £13.45	BACS	£88.05
KCC Pension payments for January	BACS	£315.70
Sutcliffe Play failed to pay VAT amount not listed on the goods order – Invoice now received	BACS	£17.84
Idverde – December	BACS	£67.94

### **Precept 2023 – 2024**

The Clerk had prepared 4 scenarios – option one to keep the precept the same as the previous two years, option 2 Increasing Precept by 1.5% to £45,030 £0.80 annual increase in Council Tax approx. (1.5p per week), option 3 Increasing Precept by 3% to £45,696 £1.63 annual increase in Council Tax approx. (3p per week) or option 4 Increasing Precept by 5% to £46,583 £2.74 annual increase in Council Tax approx. (5p per week). The Clerk recommended option 3 with a slight uplift to an increase of 3p per week, which equates to an annual rise of £1.63 to a Council Tax D band property. Following a discussion in relation to the increase it was RESOLVED to accept option 3, proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Morgan-Lovett with five Councillors agreeing to this and two were against preferring to keep it the same as last year.

**Action: The Clerk will complete the Precept demand form and post to the Chairman for signing.**

### **01/9/23. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The Clerk explained that a member of the public living in Terrace Road had contacted her about the small layby and entrance to the footpath which is being used by nuisance bikes and larger vehicles, which had caused churned-up mud to transfer to the layby. The Clerk had reported this to the Public Rights of Way Team via the online portal.

### **01/10/23. Upgrading the Speed watch equipment**

The Clerk explained that Mr Watson had sent his apologies for this item as he was unwell. Mr Luckhurst the local Speedwatch operator was present at the meeting, he explained that there were two options: one to purchase a flimsy tripod and the other a handheld device. Mr Luckhurst explained that the tripod was not really an option given the wind that blows across Adelaide Road, so he favoured the handheld option. Cllr Millard asked if the device would record data and Cllr Butcher replied that the data still must be written down. Cllrs Whitehead and Millard asked if the device was more acceptable for the police to enforce fines? Mr Luckhurst replied that Mr Watson would know more about this and asked if anyone present at the meeting would like to join the Speedwatch team? It was agreed to defer this item until the

next meeting when hopefully Mr Watson can be in attendance. The Chairman thanked Mr Luckhurst and the Cllrs for their continued commitment to the Speedwatch project.

**Action: This DECISION was deferred to the next meeting and Mr Watson and Mr Luckhurst will be invited to the next meeting - Clerk**

### **01/11/23. ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk explained that there had been no issues reported during the last month. The Clerk also explained that after running the Quarter 3 finance report it showed that only £230 of the expected payments had been received, there are currently 4 allotments vacant. The Clerk was asked to write to the allotment holders to chase outstanding payments.

**Action: The Clerk to write to the allotment holders**

### **01/12/23. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)**

Cllr Whitehead had been annoyed that the Highways Officer denied knowledge that KCC would pay for the speed bumps, the current ones in Wigmore Lane do not slow traffic down at all. Cllr Whitehead explained that Shepherdswell had also had similar speed bumps instated at the same time as Eythorne. The Clerk was requested to contact the Shepherdswell Clerk to see if they had the same issues. Cllr Whitehead reiterated that the speed bumps need to be reinstated to the correct height.

**Action: The Clerk to contact the Shepherdswell Clerk**

A member of the public explained that potholes were beginning to appear in Wigmore Lane that need an eye to be kept on them.

The Clerk had circulated the new updated HIP document prior to the meeting. Cllr Butcher explained that the speed limit on Kennel Hill had been completed, it was requested that this item should be removed from the HIP. It was proposed by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Butcher that once Kennel Hill is removed the Clerk could send the HIP document to the KCC East Kent Highways team this was unanimously carried.

**Action: The Clerk to remove Kennel Hill from the HIP and then send to KCC East Kent Highways team.**

Cllr Butcher explained that people were still parking on the roundabout that has double yellow lines down, the parked vehicles are obscuring the site line at the roundabout. Cllr Wright explained that this was a relatively new scheme and did not think the police would put parking tickets onto offending vehicles until the scheme had been in place for three months. Cllr Whitehead explained that there is a Parking Services Team at Dover District Council.

**Action: The Clerk will contact the Parking Services Team to raise this issue.**

Cllr Millard explained that the garage is responsible for some of the vehicles that are parked in this vicinity, it was agreed that Cllrs would take photographs of the parked vehicles and send them to the Clerk.

**Action: Cllrs to take photographs of vehicles parked on the roundabout and forward them to the Clerk.**

Cllr Butcher explained that the service vehicles renovating a property in Coronation Villas is also responsible for the illegal parking.

**Action: The Clerk was requested to write to both the garage and the owner of the property requesting that they find alternative parking in the Village.**

Cllr Whitehead explained that on previous occasions the Community Warden Juliette West had provided the Parish Council with some postcard leaflets to place on offending vehicles windscreens.

**Action: The Clerk will ask the Community Warden if she has anymore of the postcards.**

### **01/13/23. Bus route cuts**

The Clerk informed the meeting that there was a Microsoft teams meeting to be held online with Stagecoach tomorrow morning at 10 30. Cllr Whitehead explained that the school bus service is due to finish in July 2023. Cllr Hansell explained that the lack of a current bus service stops residents being able to access GP services. Cllr Whitehead also explained that this also deters people coming into the village, not just out.

**01/14/23. Any other matters**

Cllr Hansell explained that she had not received any correspondence from Tilmanstone Welfare about being invited to a meeting. Cllr Whitehead requested that the email was sent out again to all Trustees and copy in the Development Manager at SISWO.

**Action: The Clerk to forward the original email sent to Tilmanstone Welfare to all Trustees and cc the SISWO Development Manager.**

Cllr Whitehead asked if it were worth reporting them to the Charity Commission, but Cllr Butcher explained that would be quite a serious action to take.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that on the Shepherdswell website it had a page that encouraged residents to contact the Fire Service for a free battery fire testing check and a general check in residents houses.

**Action: The Clerk to put the contact phone number of the Fire Service onto Facebook and the Website. The number to request a visit is: 0800 9237000.**

Cllr Wright asked Cllr M. Ledger if he had received the free Jubilee trees that the previous Clerk had ordered? Cllr M Ledger replied that they had been delivered during the hot, dry period in the Summer and had not survived.

**01/15/23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 11 February 2023, 6.30pm Elvington Community Centre.

**All agreed for the meeting to be held on Wednesday 08 February 2023.**

The meeting closed at 7.30 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.***