

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EASTRY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30pm VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
RESTRICTIONS via MS Teams.**

Present: Councillors M Jones (Chair) N Kenton M Smith A Barwick C Boughton
D Russell L. Taylor M Kemp

Joanna Jones Clerk to the Parish Council

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs P Bailey, M Hay and District Cllr Manion & County Cllr S Chandler

2. DECLARATIONS

Cllr Kenton declared a significant other interest in the grant payment to Eastry Cricket Club as he is a club member.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Finance Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th December 2020 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLVED the minutes of the Planning Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th December 2020 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLVED the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th December 2020 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

Longterm Outstanding items

Cemetery Extension - Email from Land Agent – Cllrs Jones and Kenton to meet and discuss with the land agent at the same time as the Pond discussions.

Action Cllr Kenton ongoing

Bench by the horse trough

Clerk has ordered the bench and the date for installation is booked with KCC & handyman.

Action Discharged

Pond Licence

Cllrs Jones and Kenton to meet and draw up a tree management plan to be sent to the Church Commissioners land agent for discussion before the Licence is discussed.

Action Cllrs M Jones and N Kenton ongoing

Accounts

Items to add to next year's budget – Members requested Highways Improvement Plan to be included in the draft budget – Clerk has added to draft budget.

Action Discharged

Natwest Bank Accounts – change of signatories & address complete & new debit card received.

Action Discharged

Gun Park

Safepay Inspections Reports – Cllrs Boughton & Russell reviewed the reports and checked the play areas – no urgent work was identified.

Action Discharged

Parish Councillors – *Sarah Wells retirement thank you*- Cllr Jones reported that the card and collection had been presented to Sarah before Christmas.

Action Discharged

HIGHWAYS

Broken steps & streetlight at Gore Road/Mill Lane Junction – email

DDC have stated that the light repairs are scheduled but may take some months and that the repair to the steps will be completed in the next day or so.

Action Discharged

ACCOUNTS

2020/21 Budget talks – Clerk has prepared the draft budget for the Finance Committee meeting on 18th January 2021.

Action Discharged

POND AND PARADE

Broken picnic bench at pond – Clerk has booked repairs with Handyman.

Action Discharged.

CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

Yew tree split – Tree work booked with Contractor

Action Discharged

CORRESPONDENCE

PSPO relating to dogs – Clerk reported wishes to DDC and met with Enforcement Officer on site, now going to Consultation.

Action Discharged

HIGHWAYS

Speedwatch – *Sharing SID data with Speedwatch group* - Due to Coronavirus restrictions the SID handover has not taken place so currently unable to share data with Speedwatch group

Action Clerk On-going

New SID operator - Due to Coronavirus restrictions the SID handover has not taken place, Cllr Bailey to continue as SID operator.

Action Clerk & Cllr Bailey On-going

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Council Events – Christmas Tree – lights were added and bulbs replaced by Cllr Boughton.

Action Discharged

ALLOTMENTS

Handover – A partial handover has taken place with Cllr Taylor & Bailey & the Clerk due to current Coronavirus restrictions.

Action Discharged

CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

Bowling Green – *Registering for rates without permission* – the Clerk wrote to the Bowling Club expressing the Council's views, a letter of apology was received from the Bowling Club which was circulated to members.

Action Discharged

COMMUNICATION

Strategy – Supporting local businesses – promoted on the noticeboard, website and on social media before Christmas.

Action Discharged

5. CORONAVIRUS**a) Information from DDC, KCC and Central Government**

All emails received in connection with the Coronavirus had been forwarded to Council members as received. The situation changes frequently and the information is fluid in nature. NALC and SLCC continue to strongly advise local councils to continue to meet remotely, without the need for face-to-face contact. The Village Caretaker is continuing to work through the lockdown with an updated risk assessment and following all Government guidance.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

To discuss and agree actions relating to correspondence received by the Council.

a) Consultation Documents

None received

b) Newsletters and Circulars

- i) Neighbourhood Watch updates
- ii) Police – Fraud updates & Rural Task Force Report
- iii) NALC Chief Execs Bulletins
- iv) KALC – Chief Execs Bulletin & KALC News December
- v) KALC - Local Government Bulletins
- vi) Roger Gough Updates
- vii) Kent Resilience Team – Newsletter 2
- viii) NALC – Community Business guide
- ix) DDC – Christmas Support
- x) KCC & Affinity Water & UK Power Networks – Preparing for Bad Weather
- xi) Adult Social Care Briefing – Clair Bell
- xii) EU Transition Press Releases & Weekly Updates

Noted by members.

b) Other

- i) KALC – Climate Adaptation Survey – Completed by Cllr Hay
- ii) Proposed Inland Border Freight Facility – Email from Guston Parish Council

Noted by members

- iii) DDC Parking Email – Members felt more people were parking in the village during the day as more people are working from home. Cllr Kenton stated that the car park and Toilets could be purchased from DDC, this is to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Action Clerk

7. HIGHWAYS

To discuss and agree actions relating to highways issues

- i) Speedwatch – No progress due to Coronavirus restrictions
- ii) KCC Pot hole weekly updates
- iii) A256 Sandwich Bypass & A258 Deal Road - Closed 15 Dec – 1 night
- iv) Northbourne Rd, Betteshanger - Closed 21-23 Dec
- v) KCC – New powers for illegally parked HGVs
- vi) KCC - Temporary HGV Lane Restrictions – max 18 months
- vii) KALC/KCC – emails re: cross-channel disruption
- viii) Community Impact Report
- ix) HIP – Virtual meeting booked with Highways
- x) Trip hazard Mill Lane footpath – reported
- xi) Sandwich Rd/Boystown Place – Wet leaves hazard reported to DDC

Noted by members

8. ACCOUNTS

To discuss and agree actions relating to any financial correspondence presented to the council.

- i) 2020/21 Budget talks – Discuss updated meeting schedule

It was agreed the Finance Committee will meet to discuss next year's precept on 18th January, this would allow the full Council to decide on the precept at the February meeting, in time for the precept demand to be submitted to DDC by February 12th.

Action Clerk

9. PAYMENTS

RESOLVED the following payments should be made, proposed by Cllr Barwick and seconded by Cllr Kemp.

| Payments January 2021 | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|------------|
| Receipts | | | | |
| Business Reserve A/c Int – Nov | 1.05 | | | |
| Paid between meetings | | | | |
| Card Payments | | | | |
| | | | | VAT |
| Unity Trust Payments | | | | |
| | | Cheque No | | VAT |
| Clerks Salary Dec 2020 | | BP | 930.31 | |
| H M Revenue and Customs ER NI Dec | 38.70 | | | |
| H M Revenue and Customs EE NI Dec | 26.45 | | | |
| | 65.15 | BP | 65.15 | |
| Employers Pension Contribution Dec | 246.02 | | | |
| Employees Pension Contribution Dec | 55.68 | | | |
| | 301.70 | BP | 301.70 | |
| Caretakers Pay Dec 2020 | | BP | 720.20 | |
| Opus Energy - Parish Rm Gas 5 Oct to 6 Dec 20 | | DD | 15.13 | 0.72 |
| Everflow Allotment water 18-01-21 to 17-02-21 | | DD | 146.56 | |
| British Gas - Electricity 19 Oct to 18 Nov Mtr 21610 | | DD | 13.84 | 0.65 |
| British Gas - Electricity 19 Oct to 18 Nov Mtr 21656 | | DD | 13.27 | 0.63 |
| Transfer to Natwest card Account | | Trf | 1,000.00 | |
| Harmers – groundworks – December Invoice | | SO | 698.89 | 116.48 |
| Unity Trust – Service charge | | BP | 18.00 | |
| To pay – Unity Trust | | | | |
| EE Ltd – Dec via J. Jones | | BP | 13.20 | 2.20 |
| SLCC – Membership Fees | | BP | 103.00 | |
| Colin Boughton – Christmas Tree Lights – Euro Carparts | | BP | 28.67 | 4.78 |
| Eastry Cricket Club - Grant | | BP | 325.00 | |
| British Gas - Electricity 19 Nov to 18 Dec Mtr 21610 | | DD | 13.68 | 0.65 |
| British Gas - Electricity 19 Nov to 18 Dec Mtr 21656 | | DD | 11.14 | 0.53 |
| Opus Energy - Parish Rm Gas 5 Dec to 4 Jan 21 | | DD | 54.38 | 2.59 |
| To Pay – Natwest | | | | |
| EE Ltd – Jan | | BP | 14.32 | 2.39 |

RESOLVED that Cllr Taylor be added to Unity Trust Bank as an inputter of payments, Clerk to complete paperwork and submit to Unity Trust.

Action Clerk & Cllr Taylor

10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

To discuss and agree actions relating to events

a) Council Events

None planned

a) Outside Events

i) SLCC – Branch Event – Attended by Clerk – 17 Dec

ii) KALC Training Events

Noted by members

11. POND AND PARADE

To discuss matters relating to the Pond, Parade and area behind the bus shelter.

Nothing to discuss

12. ALLOTMENTS

To discuss matters raised by the Allotments Management Committee.

Four more plots have been rented and there has been a big increase in the latest water bill as the previous bills had been based on estimated usage.

13. LEISURE FIELDS

To discuss matters relating to the Councils leisure fields and amenities, to receive correspondence relating to leisure fields.

a) Gun Park

- i) Quotations for tree work

RESOLVED the quote from Leaf Tree Services for £560 + VAT should be accepted, contractor to supply copies of relevant Insurances and Risk Assessment & Method Statement prior to work starting.

Action Clerk

- ii) Centenary Gardens Play Area – rusted broken sign poles x 2

The caretaker had reported that dogs were being exercised in the play area as the sign poles forbidding this had rusted through and fallen over, Clerk to report to DDC the need for new signs and poles and that the old poles need to be removed. Cllr Jones will arrange for the poles to be removed and stored if DDC do not respond in a timely manner.

Action Clerk

b) Play Area Improvements

- i) Quotations

Three quotations had been received for providing new equipment, removing the roundabout and replacing the wetpour surfacing, none of the play equipment companies were willing to quote for the refurbishments that were required. The Clerk, Cllr Russell & Cllr Boughton will work together to source quotes for the refurbishments and to produce a proposal for the Play Area Improvements.

Action Clerk & Cllrs Russell & Boughton

c) Correspondence

None received

14. CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY

To discuss and agree action on matters relating to land controlled by the Council in and around Church Street.

a. Churchyard & Cemetery

Nothing to discuss

b. Recreation Ground

Nothing to discuss

c. Bowling Green & Parish Room

Nothing to discuss

15. REPORTS

To receive written or verbal reports from:-

- a) **County Cllr** Chandler's report had been emailed

- b) **Dist Cllrs** - Dist. Cllr Kenton gave a short report on traffic between the A256 and Manston, litter, waste management, dog fouling enforcement and flytipping and took questions.

- c) **Parish Councillors** – Cllr Kemp reported the sad news that Iris Mollart, a former Chair and Parish Councillor had died, the Clerk to send flowers to her family.

Action Clerk

16. COMMUNICATION

To agree Council communication to the following media:-

a) Communication Strategy

Members felt the use of the website, noticeboard and social media as communication tools was working well.

- b) **Village News Letter** - Deadline 18th January 2021

c) Mercury Report

No report

d) Web Site

Nothing to discuss

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Finance Meeting of the Council will be 18th January 2021, the next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be 1st February 2021

Scheduled 1st March 2021 12th April 2021 10th May 2021

Closed 20.49