

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EASTRY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30pm (8pm) VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
RESTRICTIONS via MS Teams.**

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

Joanna Jones Clerk to the Parish Council District Cllr Manion

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs P Bailey, M Kemp & County Cllr S Chandler

2. DECLARATIONS

None received.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Planning Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th January 2021 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 11th January 2021 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLVED the minutes of the Finance Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th January 2021 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**

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

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**

CORRESPONDENCE

Other – *Possible purchase of toilets & car park from DDC* – add to next agenda – added.

Action Discharged

ACCOUNTS

2020/21 Budget talks – *updated meeting schedule* – Finance Committee to meet on 18th Jan – Meeting held and draft budget approved by Finance Committee for presentation to full Council on 1st February 2021.

Action Discharged

PAYMENTS

Unity Trust - *Cllr Taylor to be added as an inputter of payments* – all paperwork submitted.

Action Discharged

LEISURE FIELDS

Gun Park - *Quotations for tree work* – Leaf Tree Services informed of acceptance and requirement for paperwork. **Action Discharged**

Centenary Gardens Play Area – *rusted broken sign poles x 2* – the sign poles were not DDC or KCC's responsibility, Clerk arranged for the handyman to remove the poles and dig out the rusty bases, the DDC signs forbidding dogs in this area are now positioned on the gates to the play area. **Action Discharged**

Play Area Improvements - *Quotations for refurbishment & proposal for the Play Area Improvements* – a specification has been drawn up, to be sent out for quotations.
Action Clerk & Cllrs Russell & Boughton on-going.

REPORTS

Parish Councillors – *Former Chair & Parish Councillor Iris Mollart passed away* - flowers sent to her family and a thank you received. **Action Discharged**

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

All emails received in connection with the Coronavirus and vaccination programme have 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

- i) Vision Zero – Road Safety Strategy Consultation – ends 15th March 2021, workshops 24 Feb & 3 March

Agreed that Cllr Hay will respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action Cllr Hay**

b) Newsletters and Circulars

- i) Neighbourhood Watch updates
- ii) KCC & DDC – HMRC Phishing Scam & Vaccine Fraud – Poster on website, noticeboard & social media
- iii) NALC Chief Execs Bulletins & Open Letter
- iv) KALC – Chief Execs Bulletin
- v) KALC - Local Government Bulletins & Call for Capital Project Ideas
- vi) Kent Resilience Forum – KCC HGV Clamping
- vii) Roger Gough & Michael Payne – Transition Updates
- viii) DDC – Community Impact Form

Noted by members.

b) Other

- i) Members Updates – Fire Service, Waste Services, Environment
- ii) SE Train Timetable Changes – From 1st Feb

Noted by members

- iii) Eastry Pharmacy – Vaccination hub - Request for buildings help & St John's trained vaccinators

The members were in agreement to support Eastry pharmacy to become a coronavirus vaccination hub and agreed that the Clerk should support by liaising with the Pharmacy, Village Hall and Parish Hall and help to publicise when required.

Action Clerk

7. HIGHWAYS

To discuss and agree actions relating to highways issues

- i) Speedwatch – No progress due to Coronavirus restrictions
- ii) Pothole data
- iii) A256 Eastry & Whitfield Bypass – 40mph limit certain sections, when required – up to 18 months
- iv) Easole Street, Nonington - Closed 13-20 Jan
- v) Dover Road, Sandwich - St Barts Rd to St Georges Rd – closed 1-5 Feb
- vi) Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich - St Barts Rd to Poulders Gardens – phased closures – 13 Feb to 17 April
- vii) Felderland Lane – closed 27 Jan – 2 Feb
- viii) Brook Street – closed 4 Feb
- ix) Trip hazard Mill Lane footpath to allotments - repaired
- x) Bridleway EE491 – Definitive Map Modification Order Confirmed – Route not available until works complete
- xi) Bridleway EE490 – Objection received so with Planning Inspectorate
- xii) Footpath EE487 – Definitive Map Modification Order Confirmed
- xiii) HIP Virtual Meeting – held, now awaiting KCC report
- xiv) UKPN replacing pole at Mill Lane end of footpath to Gun Park – date tbc – Clerk requested non-school day

Noted by members

- xv) Email requesting streetlights on footpath from Gun Park to Mill Lane

The members thought that this was a good idea, Cllr Kenton reported that neither DDC or KCC were putting any streetlights in at the moment, Cllr Manion suggested that it could be included in the HIP, the Clerk is to investigate and report back.

Action Clerk

8. ACCOUNTS

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

- i) To consider the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Council Tax be increased by 1.98% (£1.36 pa) for 21/22.

RESOLVED the precept for 21/22 should be set at £56,592.79, a 1.98% increase in the council tax. Clerk to submit Precept Demand to DDC.

Action Clerk

- ii) To consider the 21/22 Budget recommended for adoption by the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED the draft budget should be adopted by the Council.

- iv) Insurance LTA renewal - £2,032.86 last year, £2,069.73 this year for 5 year LTA with Zurich Municipal

RESOLVED renew with Zurich Municipal for a 5-year LTA.

Action Clerk

9. PAYMENTS

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

Payments February 2021				
Receipts				
Paid between meetings				
Card Payments				VAT
M&S Flowers – Sarah Wells		Card	35.00	

Buzz Networks – landline rental - Dec		Card	7.96	1.33
Buzz Networks – landline rental - Jan		Card	7.96	1.33
Unity Trust Payments		Cheque No		VAT
Clerks Salary Jan 2021		BP	930.31	
H M Revenue and Customs ER NI Jan	38.70			
H M Revenue and Customs EE NI Jan	26.45			
	65.15	BP	65.15	
Employers Pension Contribution Jan	246.02			
Employees Pension Contribution Jan	55.68			
	301.70	BP	301.70	
Caretakers Pay Jan 2021		BP	720.20	
Harmers – groundworks – January Invoice		SO	698.89	116.48
Everflow Allotment Water 18-02-21 to 17-03-21		DD	46.84	
To pay – Unity Trust				
Gary Boorman – Eastry Pond Picnic Bench Repairs		BP	198.00	
Parish Clerk expenses – Nov to Jan		BP	77.85	
British Gas - Electricity 19 Dec to 18 Jan Mtr 21610		DD	14.83	0.70
British Gas - Electricity 19 Dec to 18 Jan Mtr 21656		DD	11.70	0.55

10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

To discuss and agree actions relating to events

a) Council Events

None planned

a) Outside Events

b) KALC Training Events – GDPR, Web Accessibility, Introduction to Chairmanship

Cllr Jones to attend the Introduction to Chairmanship Course - Clerk to book.

Action Clerk

c) NHS Kent & Medway CCG Update – 20 Jan 2021

Noted by members

11. POND AND PARADE

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

i) Eastry Pond Picnic Bench – repaired

ii) Bench behind horse trough – installed

Noted by members

12. ALLOTMENTS

To discuss matters raised by the Allotments Management Committee.

i) Another plot let

Noted by members

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) Email re: Dog mess in play area – reported to DDC – random patrols to start, more signage to be installed & cleansing team due to visit village.

ii) Overgrown area behind goal update – email stating more will be cut back & signs will be installed when weather improves

Noted by members

b) Play Area Improvements

On-going plan.

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

- i) Parish Room Planning Permission granted - Archaeological watch brief pre-commencement condition

Noted by members

15. PURCHASE OF ASSETS

To discuss and agree action on the possibility of purchasing DDC assets located in the village

- a) **Toilets**
- b) **Car Park**

The toilets and car park were discussed together, members were concerned that there was a long-term liability with these type of assets and it took a lot of expense to maintain them, they would prefer to enhance neglected green sites within the village and a potential list of green sites to be maintained will be drawn up for discussion.

Action Cllr Boughton

RESOLVED not to purchase the toilets and car park from DDC.

16. REPORTS

To receive written or verbal reports from:-

- a) **County Cllr**
- b) **Dist Cllrs** – Dist Cllr Manion paid tribute to Iris Mollart who had been very active in the village and was a sad loss. He also reported on the Border Control Point at Whitfield, Electric Vehicle Charging points and gave a Covid and Brexit update. Dist. Cllr Kenton gave a short report on traffic between the A256 and Manston and the coronavirus vaccination programme.
- c) **Parish Councillors** – Cllr Jones reported that he had attended Iris Mollart's funeral and that it had been very moving and that many Parish Councillors had lined Church Street to pay tribute to her, he also reported that Floss Cork had passed away, a parishioner who had done a lot for the village, he offered his condolences to her family. Cllr Russell urged everyone to go for covid symptomless testing at Sandwich and expressed concern at the level of dog fouling. Cllr Hay will produce posters for dog fouling and asymptomatic testing.

Action Cllr Hay

Cllr Boughton asked the District Councillors how Section 106 agreements worked, Cllrs Kenton and Manion explained the process and that KCC decides where the money goes not DDC. Concern was expressed about the undesirable footpath at the back of the Etopia development on Gore Lane, Cllr Kenton said he would follow up options with Lois Jarrett at DDC.

Action Cllr Kenton

17. COMMUNICATION

To agree Council communication to the following media:-

a) Communication Strategy

Promote asymptomatic testing, the Local Plan consultation and highlight the problem of dog fouling using the website, notice board and social media. **Action Cllrs Hay & Boughton & Clerk**

b) Village News Letter

Promote asymptomatic testing and the problem of dog fouling in the next issue. **Action Clerk**

c) Mercury Report

A discussion was held on whether anyone writes a report for Eastry in the Mercury, it was suggested that a link is published to the Eastry Parish Council Website, Clerk to investigate. **Action Clerk**

d) Web Site

Nothing to discuss

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be 1st March 2021

Scheduled 12th April 2021 10th May 2021 7th June 2021

Closed 21.01