

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EASTRY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 4th MARCH 2024 AT 7.30pm AT THE PARISH ROOM**

Present: Councillors: Cllrs: Jones (Chair) Barwick Bell Gourlay Kenton(part) Russell Smith
Cty Cllr Chandler (part) Joanna Jones - Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs Hay, McDonnell, Wood and Dist Cllr Manion.

2. DECLARATIONS

No declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- a) RESOLVED the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2024 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.
- b) RESOLVED the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 5th February 2024 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

Finance Meeting Actions

Allotment Charges – Clerk to include the income and expenditure figures for the allotments in the October letter that goes to allotment holders with the invoices. **Action Clerk On-going**

Financial and Property risks - The brush cutter equipment has been professionally assessed, the newer brush cutter was estimated to be worth £200, it was agreed to offer to sell it to the current grounds maintenance contractors for that price, Trevor Laker Engineering had offered £20 for the older brush cutter that was no longer working, agreed to accept this offer, Cllr Jones to organize. **Action Clerk and Cllr Jones On-going**

Ordinary Meeting Actions

HIGHWAYS

HIP – Submitted to Highways, Cty Cllr Chandler had asked KCC to look at the Sandwich Road junction onto the bypass, no response yet, she will chase. **Action Cty Cllr Chandler On-going**

REPORTS

County Cllr –Cty Cllr Chandler had forwarded concerns about flooding near Whitfield roundabout to National Highways, she will follow up. **Action Cty Cllr Chandler On-going**

HIGHWAYS

Thornton Lane flytipping – Cllr Hay to design a poster to promote Country Eye which will go out on social media, Clerk to put on the noticeboard. **Action Cllr Hay & Clerk On-going**

Communication Strategy – Policies are being reviewed and updated ready for presentation to the full Council at future meetings. **Action Cllrs Hay, Gourlay, Jones & Clerk On-going**

Speed Indicator Device – Additional pole no longer being considered. **Action Discharged**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Trees - Cllr Barwick to research new LED Christmas lights. **Action Cllr Barwick On-going**

Bowling Green & Parish Room

Bowling Club email re: handrail and path – Cllr Jones in discussions with Bowling Club about possible joint project to clean the path and install a handrail. **Cllr Jones On-going**

CORRESPONDENCE

Other

Parishioner email – Litter- agreed to promote Litter Lotto on social media. **Action Cllr Hay On-going**

Parishioner email- Public Spaces Provision in Eastry – Clerk responded. **Action Discharged**

HIGHWAYS

Speed Campaign & Speedwatch– 20mph Banners & Bin stickers – Cllr Kenton to hang banner at the end of Felderland Lane, banner is up outside the school, Cllr Russell and Cllr Gourley will put one up on Sandwich Road, Cllr Hay will put out on social media that 20mph bin stickers are available for Lower Street, Mill Lane, Sandwich Road & Cooks Lea and Clerk and Cllr Gourlay will start to hand deliver to those streets. Cllr McDonnell has repaired the damaged 30mph banners, Cllr Bell has looked into re-establishing Speedwatch.

Action Cllrs Kenton, Russell, Hay, Bell, Gourlay & Clerk On-going

Street Consultation – land at Former Poison Cross Nursery – Kings Oak Drive – Clerk responded to consultation.

Action Discharged

Parishioner email – Parked cars in Orchard Road - Request sent to PC Bowler and Parishioner updated.

Action Discharged

A256 Eastry Bypass – Proposed 50mph limit Roundabout to Venson Road – Clerk responded to consultation.

Action Discharged

FINANCE

New defibrillator box – arrived.

Action Discharged

Precept – Form submitted to DDC.

Action Discharged

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Litterpick - DDC pop-up event 23rd March from Gun Park - Clerk to produce route maps for pickers, event confirmed event with DDC, publicity material received, Cllr Hay to put out on social media.

Action Clerk & Cllr Hay On-going

POND AND PARADE

Parade – blocked drainpipe/ soakaway – Drains power washed and blockage removed, the take-away have made some repairs to gutters and downpipe and have agreed to remove T spur.

Action Discharged

High Street Parade loose paving slabs re-bedded –Handyman instructed to re-bed in any loose slabs and additional ones that have been identified.

Action Discharged

Public toilets – weekend opening – Confirmed to start from first weekend in April.

Action Discharged

ALLOTMENTS

Neighbour concerns about fence line boundary – Quotes sourced.

Action Discharged

LEISURE FIELDS

Safeplay Inspection Report – January - Handyman to cover the protruding hinges on the gate post at the skate park and Cllr Jones has replaced the missing fixing on the gate at the Gun Park Play Area.

Action Discharged

CHURCHYARD AND CEMETERY**Bowling Green & Parish Room**

Bowling Club – Cracked breeze block wall – Clerk written to neighbour.

Action Discharged

5. 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 & Fraud Alerts

Noted by members.

ii) KALC & NALC – News & CEO Bulletins – Free portrait of the King

Agreed that Clerk is to apply for free portrait of the King.

Action Clerk

iii) Kent Mental Wellbeing Awards 2024

Discussions were held, it was agreed that Cllr Russell will follow up on this.

Action Cllr Russell

c) **Other**

i) Greville Homes – Re-appointment of Mr Peter Bailey as a Trustee

RESOLVED Parish Council to nominate Mr Peter Bailey as a Greville Home Trustee.

Action Clerk

ii) Community Asset request – Five Bells

Discussions were held, RESOLVED to apply to DDC for The Five Bells to be classed as a Community Asset.

Action Clerk

6. HIGHWAYS

To discuss and agree actions relating to highways issues

a) HIP – KCC Update & Informal Engagement & Eastry Primary request

Discussions were held it was agreed to wait for Planning & Advice's feedback before undertaking a consultation and to add Eastry Primary's request for double yellow lines opposite the school entrance to the HIP.

Action Clerk

b) Parishioner email request – Horse Signs – all evidence forwarded to KCC for HIP

Noted by members

c) Speed Campaign – Banners & Bin stickers

Cllr Gourlay offered to assist with the banner at the end of Felderland Lane.

d) Speedwatch – 1 volunteer

Discussions were held, it was agreed to ask for Speedwatch volunteers on social media and in the next edition of EVN. Clerk to ask PC Bowler to perform speed checks on Lower Street.

Action Cllr Gourlay & Clerk

e) KCC - Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way – Upgrade Footpaths EE264, EE307A & EE307B to Restricted Byway status

f) Parishioner email re: Speed limit on Sandwich Road from Eastry bypass – Clerk responded

g) DDC – Street light to be removed junction of Woodnesborough Lane and Gore Road

h) Parishioner email re: Diverted traffic from Gore Lane – Clerk responded

i) Parishioner complaint – Mud on Mill Lane from construction traffic

j) Monkeys Hill – closed outside Heronden Farm – 8-12th Aprilk) Heronden Road - closed 15th Aprill) Drainless Road – closed 8th February – up to 5 daysm) Gore Lane – closed 20th Feb – up to 5 days

n) Tree down across High Street, outside Noyna – reported to KCC Highways

All of the above noted by members.

o) Parishioner concerns – SGN Notice of more road closures

Discussions were held and Cty Cllr Chandler advised that the SGN and Highways are requested to supply 'Businesses open as usual signs' and to be very specific on the signs with which roads are actually closed.

Action Clerk

p) Footpath Strimming

Cllr Kenton reported that PROW footpaths are already being strimmed, Cty Cllr Chandler to report to KCC.

Action Cty Cllr Chandler

7. FINANCE

To discuss financial matters affecting the council.

a) Natwest deposit account interest – January £163.64

b) Everflow – allotment water credit £98.90

Both of the above noted by members.

c) Zurich Insurance Renewal – 5yrs LTA £2,695.82, 23/24 £2,547.06

RESOLVED to renew the LTA agreement with Zurich insurance for £2,547.06, to be added to the April payments list.

Action Clerk

d) Grant Application – Dover & District Beekeepers Association - £50

Discussions were held, RESOLVED to not pay the grant as it does not meet the criteria, Clerk to inform applicant.

Action Clerk

8. PAYMENTS

- a) RESOLVED the following payments should be made, proposed by Cllr Barwick and seconded by Cllr Gourlay.

Payments March 2024				
Receipts		£	£	
Savings Interest – Natwest to 31 st Jan		163.64		
Paid between meetings				
Card Payments				
Virtual Landline - Feb		Card	8.75	1.46
Bickers News – Coffee morning sugar		Card	1.35	
Bickers News – Coffee morning/lunches milk		Card	4.00	
The Village Shop – Fruit for coffee morning/ lunch		Card	1.79	
Defib Warehouse – AED Cabinet		Card	558.00	93.00
Lidl – Coffee morning coffee		Card	5.49	
Tesco – Coffee morning coffee		Card	6.25	
Bickers News – Coffee morning milk		Card	4.00	
EE – Mobile phone - March		Card	15.76	2.63
Unity Trust				
British Gas – Gas – 19 Jan-19 Feb Meter 3101		DD	184.95	8.81
To pay – Unity Trust				
Clerk’s Expenses – 1 Dec to 29 th Feb		BP	87.45	
Dyno-rod - Messenger Mobile Services Ltd – Parade drain unblock		BP	192.00	32.00
AJL Garden Services - February		BP	812.83	
Clerk – Net Salary - March		BP	1,134.27	
Caretaker – Net Salary - March		BP	908.05	
Employee’s Pension Contribution - March	68.73			
Employer’s Pension Contribution - March	303.64			
		BP	372.37	
HM Revenue & Customs – Clerk - PAYE - March	26.40			
HM Revenue & Customs – ER NI- Caretaker - March	20.71			
HM Revenue & Customs – ER NI- Clerk - March	67.83			
HM Revenue & Customs – EE NI- Clerk - March	20.16	BP	135.10	
Transfer from Unity Trust Current account to Natwest debit card account		Trf	500.00	
Transfer from Unity Trust Deposit account to Unity Trust Current Account		Trf	5000.00	

9. REPORTS

To receive written or verbal reports from:-

- a) **County Cllr** – Cty Cllr Chandler gave a report on the challenges with the KCC budget, more than ever is being spent on the adult and children’s social care budget and school travel. In order to balance the budget, reserves have been used, cuts made and the council tax increased by £1.47 per week per Band D property. The report also covered the Bio-diversity net gain scheme, A299 Thanet Way intensive reconstruction works, Social Care consultations and predicted travel delay problems from October from the Electronic Entry system at the Port of Dover.

- b) **Dist. Cllrs** – Dist. Cllr Kenton gave a report on Port of Dover Issues, Dover District Council's budget and the Local Plan.
- c) **Parish Councillors** – Cllr Russell reported on Eastry Young People's Club, the closed Nursery and Greville Homes, Cty Cllr Chandler to forward information about KCC Nursery funding to Cllr Russell. **Action Cllr Chandler**
Cllr Bell reported on the Save Ash Levels Campaign, discussions were held, Eastry Parish Council is not a statutory consultee and it was decided that members will respond as individuals if they wish too. Cllr Gourlay reported that EVN is always looking for articles.
- d) **PCSO** – PC Jon Bowler – Didn't attend

10. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

To discuss and agree actions relating to events

a) Council Events

- i) Coffee Mornings – March 1 & 15
- ii) Greet Eat Meet Age Concern lunch – 15 March
- iii) Litterpick - DDC pop-up event 23rd March from Gun Park – 10am-11.30am
- iv) Royal Visit to Bickers – 8th March 12.15pm – Chairman to attend

All of the above noted by members.

- v) Annual Parish Meeting – date & speaker

Discussions were held, agreed to hold on Tuesday 7th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Clerk to organise agenda and distribution by Guides and inclusion in EVN, approach possible guest speakers and organise refreshments with Cllr Russell for a similar budget to last year. Cllr Gourlay to promote on social media.

Action Clerk, Cllrs Russell & Gourlay

b) Outside Events

- i) KALC Training events

11. POND AND PARADE

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

- a) Parade – blocked drainpipe/ soakaway – Dyno-Rod cost £160 plus VAT
RESOLVED to pay £160 plus VAT to DynoRod.

- b) Public toilets – parishioner requested key & earlier opening at 7.15am

Discussions were held, agreed that toilets need to be open during daylight and any key requests are to go to DDC who own the building, Clerk to update Parishioner. **Action Clerk**

- c) New flower trough – Car Park

Members were pleased with the new flower trough and looking forward to the additional planting in the other troughs.

12. ALLOTMENTS

To discuss matters raised about the Allotments

- a) Allotment fence quotes

RESOLVED to award the fencing contract to Vurley Fencing for £268.60 plus VAT.

Action Clerk

11. LEISURE FIELDS

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

a) Gun Park

- i) Roundabout – Kompan to repair 11th March
- ii) Treeworks Contract to start in March

Noted by Members.

b) Centenary Gardens Play Area

- i) Playdale advice on split timber – Sand down, do not treat, guaranteed for 20 years

Clerk to instruct the handyman to sand down the split timber.

Action Clerk

12. 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

i) Cemetery extension – nothing to discuss.

b) Recreation Ground

Nothing to discuss

c) Bowling Green & Parish Room

i) Stratton Land Quote – Parish Room re-build

Nothing to discuss

ii) Bowling Club – Cracked breeze block wall – response received

Discussions were held, it was agreed to ask Owendens to re-quote for rebuilding the wall if the footings are sound and to request that the neighbour reduces the soil level in preparation for the wall re-build.

Action Clerk

13. COMMUNICATION

To agree Council communication to the following media:-

a) EVN - Deadline 14th March for April/May edition

Cllr Gourlay to write an article including Speedwatch, road safety, the Royal visit, Cllr Mike Smith.

b) Web Site & Emails

Nothing to discuss

c) Communication Strategy – Complaints Policy

Discussions were held, Clerk to add link to the Local Authority Code of Conduct to the policy, ready for adoption in May.

Action Clerk

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next proposed meeting of the Council will be the Ordinary Meeting on 8th April at 7.30pm in the Parish Room

Scheduled 7th May – Annual Parish Meeting – Village Hall 13th May 3rd June 1st July

The meeting closed at 9.50pm