

**MINUTES OF EASTRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7th MAY
2024 AT 7.30pm AT EASTRY VILLAGE ROOM**

Present: Councillors: M Jones (Chair) A Barwick K Bell M Gourlay N Kenton D Russell L Wood
Joanna Jones - Clerk 22 Members of the Public

Cllr Jones opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. A member of the public wished to record the meeting as a video made by a member of the public from the public gallery, this was explained to all, speakers had the opportunity to say if they did not wish to be recorded. The video was to be sent to the Clerk and the Parish Councillors, who would be able to decide how it could be accessed.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Hay, McDonnell, Smith, Rollins-Gaughran, County Cllr Chandler, District Cllr Manion

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual meeting were available in the Annual Meeting report pack, copies were available for all present and had been on the Parish Council web site for the pasted 12 months.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from last year's meeting.

4. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

a) Chairman's Report

Welcome and Intro – see agenda

Introduce councillors and new ones

Co-opted Kirsty Bell & Georgie Rollins-Gaughran – second half of last year

What does EPC do?

Meet once a month – 1st Monday – 11 councillors (in total)

Planning Applications – comments as consultee

Parishioner issues – via councillors or clerk

Public rights of way

Traffic issues and concerns

Complaints

30mph banners

20mph bin stickers and posters and banners

Speeding, volume & use – HIP colleagues

Speedwatch – no volunteers

Church St – double yellows

Construction in village

Manage Grounds Maintenance – existing and new

Manage village caretaker (Richard Ginn)–

Eyes and ears, toilets, litter, contact with community

Manage Allotments

SID – 7 locations around village - Chairman

Manage Parish Room – free to user

Bowling Club

Website and social media (Martyn Hay)

Litter picks

Coffee morning – 2 per month

Age Concern – Meet, Eat & Greet - 1 per month.

Community Groups

Eastry CAN

Christmas tree supply erect and manage

“Asset rich – cash poor” £70k income (including precept) for 23-24 – exceptional for us, plus unusually large VAT reclaim of nearly £15K

Gun Park – pitches, grass, trees and pavilion

Recreation Ground

Churchyard & cemetery

Allotments

Parade

Pond

3 x Play areas (Skate, New one & wooden one)

What we have done in the last year?

Memorial Bench for Najam Hafeez

Bench refurbished and re-located in Gun Park

Kissing gate refurbishment

Banner building and erections around village

Vandalism at Gun Park – teen shelter, new equipment, goal posts

Cypress trees cut around allotment

Water supply repaired to allotment

Street name consultation for Hospital site

Flower troughs

Trees managed

Double yellows O/S shop repainted

Kerb dropped

Tamara Barwick – East Kent Mind Award – Highly Commended

Duke of Gloucester visit to Eastry PO

Delayed parking charges to village car park.

Gate to Bowling Club – not feasible at this time

What you, the parishioners, can do to make Eastry and better place to live and work?

Report Fly-tipping – Country Eye, DDC or KCC

PROW issues - KCC

Email clerk or speak to councillor

Potholes, road damage - KCC

Comment on Planning Applications - DDC portal

Volunteer

Support Parish Council and Village groups and businesses – use it or lose it

Why am I the Chair of EPC?

I genuinely love the village, its’ diversity and variation, its’ open spaces, facilities for all, sports and clubs, businesses, shops and pub.

People make a village and I just want to make this village and great place to live and relax, work from, commute to and from and to support parishioners and businesses to help the village thrive and grow for the benefit of all.

Any questions!

Please contact the Clerk, Jo Jones, clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk, 07903 739792 if you have any concerns or

issues within the parish.

Thank you very much for coming, please do stay for drinks and nibbles afterwards.

b) Finance Report

Eastry Parish Council – Finance Report – Annual Parish Meeting

Unaudited Accounts – 2023/24

	Actual to 31-03-2023	Budget April - 2023/24	Actual to 31-03-2024	Note
RECEIPTS				
Precept	58,991.79	62,167.44	62,167.44	
Allotments	1,391.65	1,400.00	1,428.59	
Burials	4,116.00	2,440.00	2,755.50	
Grants	10,000.00	-	1,000.00	1
Section 106/Sale of strimmers	4,612.00	-	220.00	2
Bank Account Interest	1,028.30	500.00	3,276.42	3
VAT	2,667.94	14,258.11	14,258.11	4
Other	66.45	66.45	66.45	
	82,874.13	80,832.00	85,172.51	
Current Account Funds B/F	37,649.92	15,104.78	15,104.78	
Capital/Deposit Carry Forward	173,101.05	144,129.35	144,129.35	
	293,625.10	240,066.13	244,406.64	
PAYMENTS - CURRENT A/C	Actual to 31-03-2023	Budget April - 2023/24	Actual to 31-03-2024	
Salaries	18,061.24	18,420.00	19,883.65	5
Administration Costs	5,033.08	6,727.00	5,099.97	
Parish Room & Pavilion	1,586.94	2,650.00	1,465.54	
Ground Works	13,950.61	14,830.00	12,411.74	6
Allotments	1,179.69	1,600.00	885.27	7
Leisure Fields	6,145.69	9,716.40	6,217.80	8
Community Services	10,105.38	21,000.00	13,146.68	9
Grants & Coffee Break	2,374.96	2,500.00	2,641.87	10
Church Yard Maintenance	110.00	3,000.00	670.00	11
Membership and Publications	882.82	910.00	910.13	
Events & Communication	507.83	3,150.00	651.53	12
Contingency	125.00	7,610.71		
Street Furniture - Memorial bench The Cross	28.25	1,100.00	1,159.00	13
New Parish Room Funds		2,000.00		
New Parish Room Capital		69,052.02		
New Parish Room Revenue		62,000.00		
Play equipment Gun Park	60,041.37			
VAT	14,258.11	-	1,113.95	
Reserves		13,800.00		
Total	134,390.97	240,066.13	66,257.13	

Notes

Note 1 - KALC Grant for Cost of Living Crisis for Eastry CAN

Note 2 - Sale of two old strimmers

Note 3 - Interest rates increased

Note 4 - Large VAT reclaim from new Play Area purchase

Note 5 - Backdated Government payrise higher than budgeted for

Note 6 - Treeworks started but not yet finished and paid for

Note 7 - Water leak & fence repairs, new fence panels budgeted for but not yet installed or paid for

Note 8 - Includes cost of new litter bins on Gore Lane & Peak Drive

Note 9 - Includes Caretakers, new defibrillator case & 20mph banners & bin stickers, unable to install budgeted for 20mph zone

Note 10 - Grants - Eastry CAN & Rainbows & Coffee Morning funding

Note 11 - Adapted Kissing Gate & Extra Fence

Note 12 - Village Litterpick refreshments

Note 13 - Memorial bench at The Cross

Eastry Parish Council Financial Year Ending 31st March 2023
Bank Reconciliation

Balances per Bank Statements as at 31st March 2024

	£	£
NW Current Account	100.00	
NW Debit Card A/c	600.80	
NW Reserve Account	125,273.09	
Unity Trust Bank	6,049.79	
Unity Trust Deposit Account	<u>46,132.68</u>	
		178,156.36
Outstanding debit card transaction 214		<u>7.15</u>
Net balances as at 31st March 2023		<u>178,149.21</u>

The net balances reconcile to the receipts and payments book as at 31st March 2024

Opening balance	159,234.13
Add: Receipts in the year	85,172.51
Less: Payments in the year	- <u>66,257.43</u>
Closing balance at 31st March 2024	<u>178,149.21</u>

c) Highway Improvement Plan/Speed Campaign

Cllrs Russell and Gourlay gave a report on the 'Slow Down for Eastry 20mph Campaign', explaining the system for getting a 20mph zone in the middle of the village and the actions that the Parish Council have taken and intend to take as well as letting residents know what they could do. Cllr Bell then gave a short report about Speedwatch and asked for volunteers to get in contact.

5. QUESTIONS

District Cllr Kenton took questions on a variety of issues, including: the old Hospital site, potential building sites in Eastry, Dover Fasttrack.

KCC Cllr Sue Chandler

Had been unable to attend but sent her report afterwards, which is on the website with reports from other

Village Organisations.

Neighbourhood Watch

Simon Dundas, Chair of Eastry Neighbourhood Watch gave a plea for more volunteers to improve communication, a volunteer is usually at the Parish Council Coffee Mornings. The main report is on the Parish Council website.

Eastry CAN

Nick Lawrance-Ellis, the Chair of Eastry CAN gave a short report about Eastry CAN, acknowledging Eastry Parish Council's £1,000 donation and thanks for printing, he also thanked Geoff & Kate Gibson for all of their hard work.

Eastry Village Hall

Alan Wheatley reminded everyone that the AGM is on 21st May at 7pm, there are three Executive Members standing down, a Treasurer, Secretary and volunteers are all required.

The Parish Councillors and Clerk also responded to questions about Capital funding and the 20mph speed campaign.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Reports available on Eastry Parish Council Website:

Eastry Neighbourhood Watch

Eastry Bowls Club

Eastry C of E School

Greville Almshouse Charity

County Councillor Sue Chandler KCC Report