



EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held

on 08 January 2025 at 6.30 pm, Eythorne Baptist Church Hall

Present: Cllr Whitehead (Chair), Cllr Luckhurst, Cllr Wetz, Cllr Morgan-Lovett, Cllr Godfrey, and Cllr French.

Also, present: DDC Cllrs Woodgate and Mamjan (for part of the meeting), Jo Pannell (Clerk to EPC), and 09 Members of the public.

01/119/25. Chairmans welcome and opening comments

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that it was nice to see members of the public present on this cold evening. The clerk informed the meeting that it was being recorded, for minuting purposes.

01/120/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies had been received from Cllr Wright (Vice Chair) and Cllr Martin due to ill health. Cllr Beaney and Julliette West the KCC Community Warden. Apologies were noted and accepted by all Cllrs present.

01/121/25. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest declared.

01/122/25. MINUTES

The minutes from the Council meeting held on the 11 December 2024 had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: The minutes were agreed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Luckhurst, and seconded Cllr Wetz and unanimously carried. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

01/123/25 COMPLETED ACTIONS FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The clerk explained that the only remaining action was to speak to ST about new signage for the play areas, call the resident about a proposed disabled bay near Tilmanstone Welfare, and awaiting a contact re: residents parking permits in Chapel Hill. **Action: The Chairman will forward a contact to the clerk**

01/124/25 KCC AND DDC COUNCILLOR AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

The Chairman invited Cllr Mamjan to address the meeting. Cllr Mamjan went on to explain that she had fought hard against the decision to grant planning permission for the change of use of land and the siting of 2no. storage containers and erection of 1no. double garage, in Milner Road public car park. Her efforts failed and planning permission was granted. She explained that UKPN may become involved so the decision may be challenged. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council did object to the proposal, but we were not invited to speak at the planning committee that took place, this has now happened a few times. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that at the recent DDC planning meeting that she and the Chairman attended the Head of the Planning department admitted that between 90 or 95% of all applications received were granted despite the objections raised. She asked why the planning department are so dysfunctional? Cllr Mamjan responded that she carries lots of research into proposed planning applications, but her objections are ignored by the officers.

Cllr Morgan-Lovett noted that planning officers' salaries are paid for by the residents to do a job, which they are not doing. The Chairman explained that at the recent DDC planning meeting a lot of Town and Parish Cllrs were not happy with the current planning department, and another DDC meeting to discuss this will be held in the New Year. Cllr Woodgate explained that the planning officers were employees of the DDC planning department. A member of the public stated that the new Government will remove certain areas that currently affect planning applications, such as environmental assessments, but we need to be clear what the tools are to object against applications going forward. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mamjan for the updates and invited Cllr Woodgate to address the meeting. Cllr Woodgate explained that he had received many emails against the planning application for the proposed Solar Farm in Nonington, as had Cllr Mamjan. He thanked the meeting for their time and both he and Cllr Mamjan left the meeting.

Cllr Beaney provided the following email update with regards to Barfrestone Church Wall and Barville Road in his absence.

I met with Lezanne and Thomas and a Highways agent at Barfrestone Church. The officers are fully aware of the issues. The problem is, the road is so narrow there, that any form of road narrowing will affect the usage for all Vehicles. Including tractors

They are looking at better signage coming down the road to make better awareness. I am happy to meet with the P.C to discuss more.

Secondly, we met a Barfrestone Road.

The site needs a new soakaway. To undertake this work, it would involve either the farmer allowing this to be carried out on his land, or a Road closure for up to a week. Which will cause absolute chaos.

01/125/25 PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no public contributions under this item.

The meeting reconvened

01/126/25. PLANNING

Applications:

24/01302

Proposal: Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, extension to drop kerb and extended off street parking

Location: 19 Chaucer Road, Elvington CT15 4ER – Closing date – 17 January 2025.

Action: It was agreed that the clerk will post No Objections on the planning portal

24/0247

Proposal: Installation of a sub station

Location: Pike Road, Industrial Estate, Eythorne – No formal application form so unknown closing date, but suggest 03 January 2025

22/00717

Location: Falconsview Meadows, Barville Road, Waldershare CT15 5BQ

Proposal: Change of use of land to VH Gypsy/Traveller's site for 4no. additional pitches, each containing 1no. mobile home, 2no. touring caravan, erection of 2no. amenity buildings, associated parking, hard surfacing, and alterations to existing vehicular access – Permission Granted – 20 March 2024

Proposal to erect a Solar Farm that crosses 2 PROW and runs alongside a Bridle Way – fencing could be an issue – there is still no planning application submitted.

Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation - None.

Decisions:

24/00179

Proposal: Siting of 2 containers and erection of a canopy roof over

Location: Residential Car Park And Garages, Milner Close, Elvington, Kent – closing date 11 March - GTD Permission Granted - 23 December 2024

CON/23/00679/F

<p>Proposal: Discharge of condition 13 (programme of archaeological work) pursuant to application 23/00679 Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) for amendments to DOV/17/00246 relating to pedestrian access, creation of opening in listed wall and repositioning of plots 1, 2 and 3 (S73) (Erection of 9 detached dwellings, landscaping, creation of vehicular access and parking)</p> <p>Location: Site Of The Old Rectory, Church Hill, Eythorne, Kent – COAP – Condition approved – 17 December 2024</p>
<p>CON/23/00679/DD</p> <p>Proposal: Discharge of condition 18 (off-site highways works) pursuant to application 23/00679 Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) for amendments to DOV/17/00246 relating to pedestrian access, creation of opening in listed wall and repositioning of plots 1, 2 and 3 (S73) (Erection of 9 detached dwellings, landscaping, creation of vehicular access and parking)</p> <p>Location: Site Of The Old Rectory, Church Hill, Eythorne, Kent – COPART – Condition part approved -13 December 2024</p>
<p>24/01130</p> <p>Proposal: Regulation 5 (The Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations 2017) notification for the installation of a pole</p> <p>Location: Street Record, Eythorne Road, Shepherdswell, Kent – PAN - Prior Approval not required (28-day notification) – 11 December 2024</p>

As requested at the meeting, here is the link to the Nonington Residents Solar Farm website: <https://www.save-rural-eastkent.org/>

Cllr French explained that the Falconsview Meadows, Barville Road – Ref: ENF/24/00318 has still not been dealt with, which gave three months to submit further conditions, despite the conditions to remove the caravans in situ at the site by the 20 December 2024. Cllr French explained that this is now seven months out of date. The Chairman requested that Cllr French note some points about this case to forward to the clerk – **Action: Cllr French. Action: the clerk will draft a letter to DDC planning enforcement to ask what is being done about this enforcement case. This will be added to the February agenda.**

Cllr Luckhurst explained that application no: 24/00591 for the Erection of 2 dwellings – self build at 06 Sandwich Road, work had already begun in clearing the site. This had caused the road to be blocked today by lorries to take the soil away. **Action: it was agreed that the clerk would contact the case officer to explain that the excavation had started, but no planning permission had been granted.** A member of the public explained that they are planning to remove two parking spaces as part of the works, this will cause more issues for parking on Sandwich Road. **Action: Cllr Luckhurst would have another look tomorrow to see if the situation had improved, if not he will inform the Rural Police Officer.**

Applications commented on under the scheme of delegation - None

01/127/25. FINANCE MATTERS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- a) Authorisation of payments/bank reconciliation, the invoices detailed below were agreed for payment, by all Cllrs present.

Finance Report Payments		
Jo Pannell	Salary (January)	
S Thomson	Salary (January)	
KCC LGPS	Pension	£380.60
HMRC	National insurance	£292.99
Clerk	Fastmail subs & voice recorder	£80.73

Idverde	January grass cutting	£69.92
Hugo Fox	Website	£23.99
Eythorne Baptist Church Hall	January meeting	£17.50
	Total	£2,846.35

All Cllrs present **RESOLVED** to accept the above payments unanimously carried.
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- b) The bank reconciliation for December were **RECEIVED** and **RESOLVED** and duly signed by Cllrs.
- c) It was agreed that the clerk would add the VE and VJ day events to the February agenda for a resolution. (The clerk advised that the total amount in EMR for these events is £1,200.)

A further discussion took place about these events. A member of the public noted that VE day was on the 08 May 2025 and not the 06 May. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council need to involve the residents in the planning of the events, which should include all three villages. Cllr Morgan-Lovett suggested getting the silver band involved to provide music. Cllr Morgan-Lovett requested a resolution on the next agenda to decide what events would be taking place. Cllr Morgan-Lovett would like to hear any comments or ideas from the members of the public. A member of the public asked for a definition of what exactly is being celebrated to be noted at the next meeting.

- d) The clerk advised the Parish Councillors that she believed they should consider options 5 or 6 on the precept options paper, which would include the money for Elvington Community Centre. If option 5 was chosen to increase the precept by 10% this would be an increase of £2,311.50, (an annual increase on a band D property would be £5.19) and the remaining £3,000.00 could come from the ear marked reserves table.

Or option 6 would mean a rise of 15% and increase of £4,594.75 (an annual increase of £7.98 on a band D property.) The Chairman explained that going forward the Community Centre needs to look at other sources of funding.

Action: It was proposed to accept option 5 by Cllr Morgan-Lovett and seconded by Cllr French all remaining Cllrs unanimously agreed to this option, RESOLVED. The precept forms were duly signed by the Chairman and the clerk.

- e) It was **RESOLVED** to pay approximately £110.00 for the replacement of the SID battery to include carriage. Proposed by Cllr Luckhurst and seconded by Cllr French and agreed unanimously by the remaining Cllrs, carried.
- f) The two quotes from Country Cutters for the removal of the hedge in Green Lane for £600.00 and £650.00 were discussed. It was agreed to investigate further as to whether the bushes are on Parish land.
- g) It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Godfrey to accept the quote provided by M Jones to carry out a tree survey of the Parish Trees this was agreed unanimously by the remaining Cllrs, **RESOLVED**. Action: the clerk will notify M Jones he has been awarded the contract; she will also let the unsuccessful contractor know.

01/128/25. Allotments – The clerk informed the meeting that there was a prospective new tenant for the vacant plots.

01/129/2025 HIP – A discussion took place about the deterioration of Barville Road surface and the flooding issues. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that the original KCC agreement twenty-five years ago was they were going to strengthen the road and widen it, but this did not happen. The Pike Road businesses also met with the Parish Council last year to discuss the issues and find a way forward, but after writing to the Head of Transportation at KCC about the issues, they said that not much could be done. The Chairman suggested talking to Cllr Beaney.

Action: It was agreed that Cllr French and Cllr Luckhurst would arrange to meet with Cllr Beaney. Action: It was also agreed that the clerk would find the original letter sent to Cllr Baker and re-draft for sending a follow up letter.

The Chairman noted that the Parish Council had agreed to a site meeting with regards to the damage to Barfrestone Church Wall, but this had not been acted on. Instead, Cllr Beaney had met two Highways officers on site, where they discussed increasing signage stating unsuitable for HGVs. A Cllr asked where abouts will the signs be placed? Cllr Wetz noted this was especially bad when the A2 was closed, he suggested the signage should go near the primary school and near Envirograf with a 7.5 tonne weight limit. **Action: Cllr Wetz will put some proposals together for the Parish Council's consideration.**

01/130/2025 PROW – There were no updates noted

01/131/25 – Play Areas – There were no updates noted

01/132/25. Speedwatch – Cllr Luckhurst explained that they had only been out recently on three occasions and the traffic had been light. He also explained that they had one recruit to the team and another waiting for training. Action: Cllr Luckhurst to request speed strip data from Alan Watson, with regards to Barville Road.

01/133/25. Councillors' items. A discussion took place about the issue of residents applying for parking permits in Chapel Hill. A member of the public noted that this would push more cars to park on Sandwich Road, which already has its own parking issues. Cllr Morgan-Lovett explained that at the recent Winter Wonderland event in December at Woodpecker Court, this caused gridlock and questioned the need for traffic management to be in place for such an event. The event also took place on the day when the School also had an event on, which increased the volume of traffic. **Action: The clerk will contact the owner of Woodpecker Court to ask why there was no traffic management in place and ask PC Bowler the maximum number of attendees at an event did it need before traffic management is required.**

Cllr Wetz requested that L Sills from Stagecoach is invited to the next meeting. **Action: the clerk to email her.** The Chairman explained that she had received a comment from a member of the public regarding a path near to Coldred Road and the Alpaca field that had become hazardous due to the muddy conditions and asked if the Parish Council could do anything? However, this is not a Public Right of Way footpath (PROW), but they were concerned that if someone slipped, they would have to grab the barbed wire fence to stop themselves from falling. But due to it not being a PROW there is little the Parish Council are able to do.

01/134/25. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 11 February 2025 at 18.30 in Eythorne Baptist Church Hall

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Signed _____ Date: _____

The Chairman: Cllr A Whitehead

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until the parish council approves them at their next parish council meeting.