

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EASTRY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT
THE PARISH ROOM AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2015**

Present: Councillors A Wiles (Chairman) B Read A Barwick
 L Bevan-Powell P Bailey N Wickham

Sarah Wells Clerk to the Parish Council Dist Cllr Manion

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs N Kenton, M Pemble, S Hooper & M Kemp
PCSO Tony Edwards. R Priestley Community Warden

2. DECLARATIONS

None received

3. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The vacancy on the Council had been advertised for the statutory amount of time and the Parish Council were now able to Co-opt to fill the vacancy.

Ms Bonnie Ledner had indicated their willingness to fill the position.

RESOLVED Ms Bonnie Ledner should be co-opted onto Eastry Parish Council with immediate effect.

4. POLICE LIASION

PCSO Tony Edwards had sent a comprehensive written report which was discussed with the members.

The Community Warden had also sent a brief report.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 12th Jan 2015 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLVED the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 19th Jan 2015 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLVED the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 19th Jan 2015 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

6. ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

Allotments

Use of area behind Mill Green - It was suggested the area could be used as a wild flower meadow and opened to the public. The Clerk had contacted the DDC safety unit she was waiting for a response.

Action Sarah Wells ongoing

The Committee would like to purchase wooden marker posts to allow plots to be marked out more clearly. The exact number and cost of posts was not clear. The Members asked that the Allotment Committee quantify exactly how many posts were required and how much they would cost for consideration at the next meeting.

Action Allotments Committee ongoing

She had asked the allotment committee for the details of the property in May Mills that had a tree overhanging the allotments. Cllr Kemp said he knows the address and was willing to speak to the owner.

Action Cllr Kemp Ongoing

02-02-15

New Strimmer - The possibility of storing the new strimmer in a tin box/cupboard in the parish room, provided it was drained of all fuel and no fuel was stored in the building. The Allotment management committee to discuss this suggestion and inform the clerk if they felt it would be a practical solution. The Committee had not met yet to discuss this issue.

Action Allotments Committee & Sarah Wells ongoing

Pond

Parrot Weed - Finding a licensed operator was proving difficult. The Clerk had contacted the Environment Agency, however they do not hold a list of licensed contractors. Cllr Hooper had contacted Hadlow College and was waiting for a response.

Action Cllr Hooper ongoing

Leisure Fields

Cllr Kenton suggested that the gravestones be weed killed around instead of trimmed in future to reduce costs. The Clerk to contact the contractor to discuss.

Action Sarah Wells ongoing

New benches - The Clerk identified a supplier and will order the benches as soon as the contractor was ready to install them.

Action Sarah Wells ongoing

Church Yard & Cemetery

The Clerk had not contacted Strutt and Parker to make an offer for the land as after examination of the site plan it had been ascertained that the area was much larger than estimated. The entire field was approximately 5 acres, 2.5 each side of the footpath. This would make the initial purchase more expensive than discussed.

It was agreed Cllr Kenton should go back to the local resident and discuss the matter in more detail.

Action Cllr Kenton ongoing

Correspondence

Consultation on Parish Polls – response by 30th Jan 2015 – The Clerk had responded as agreed.

Action Discharged

Forthcoming Events

Lord Lieutenant of Kent Civic Service – Tue 10th Mar 2015, 11am Rochester Cathedral – The Clerk had RSVP on behalf of Cllr Hooper.

Action Discharged

Churchyard & Cemetery

Bowling Green & Parish Room

Lease – The Clerk had informed the Bowling Club that the Council was happy for a lease of a longer length.

Action Discharged

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

a) Consultation Documents

None received.

b) News letters and Circulars

- i) Clerks and Council Direct
- ii) Rural Housing Alliance – Affordable Housing Guide for Parish Councils

Noted by the members

c) Other

None received.

02-02-15

8. FLOODING

The Clerk had met with a drainage engineer from KHS and a resident of Brook Street to discuss the flooding in Brook Street in Feb 2014. The KHS officer had explained that a plan to prevent flooding in the future was being formulated by KHS and they hoped to implement it during the coming 2015/16 financial year.

9. HIGHWAYS

To discuss and agree actions relating to highways issues

- a) Traffic Order – Felderland Lane – Response by 16th Feb 2015

A copy of the order had been included with the Feb issue of the Village News.

RESOLVED this proposal should be objected too on the following grounds:- This will move vehicles that currently use Felderland Lane to and from Deal onto the A258 – A256 route. This route is already extremely congested at peak periods and additional vehicle numbers will exacerbate the problem.

Concerns that it will make the Felderland Lane, A258 junction dangerous as traffic travelling from Deal will go up to the roundabout and come back, (or do a u-turn into the lay-by in front of the houses. This is more likely at peak times when trying to avoid the congestion at the roundabouts) and then turn right into Felderland Lane, crossing the oncoming traffic which will no longer be slowed down by those turning left into Felderland Lane.

The U-turn in the lay-by could also be an option for those wishing to go to Deal avoiding the roundabouts. Speeding on the A258 at this point is already a problem, vehicles slowing down to turn left into Felderland Lane currently slow this traffic intermittently.

Finally who is going to police this junction, as part of the problems experienced in Felderland Lane at the moment that has lead to this proposal is that the speed limit and width restrictions are not policed, is this turning ban going to be any different.

10. FINANCE

- a) Precept setting 2015/16

RESOLVED the 2015/16 Precept be set at £46,910. This added to the Revenue Support Grant will give a total resource of £49,180. A reduction in actual funds of £69 on last year, however an increase in Council tax of 1.99% or £1.22 pa for a Band D property.

- b) Budget 2015/16

RESOLVED the 2015/16 Budget recommended for adoption by the Finance Committee by adopted

- c) Local Government Pension Scheme.

At the moment the resolution passed by Eastry Parish Council only covers Mrs Sarah Wells. It was felt to prevent the Council becoming an exiting member of the pension scheme should Mrs Wells, leave or retire that a further resolution should be passed giving all employees the option to join the scheme. The Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Action Sarah Wells

The members were also interested in the possibility of pooling pension's funds with other Town and Parish Council in Kent to reduce possible future liabilities.

11. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED the following payments should be made. Proposed by Cllr Read, seconded by Cllr Barwick, Cllr Wiles was the third signatory.

Receipts Jan

None

0.00**Petty Cash expenditure Jan**

None

0.00**Jan Payments**

		Cheque No	Amount	VAT
Environmental Engineer - Jan 2015		STO	398.75	
Toilet Cleaning Contract Jan	165.00			
Toilet Cleaning Supplies allowance Jan	8.00			
	173.00	STO	173.00	
AJL garden Services - Jan		STO	638.82	
Clerks Salary Jan 2014		STO	814.33	
H M Revenue and Customs Income Tax	13.20			
Employees NI	22.52			
Employers NI	18.41			
	54.13	STO	54.13	
Employers Pension Contribution	140.33			
Employees Pension Contribution	49.47			
	189.80	STO	189.80	
Clerks Reimbursement/Expenses				
Telephone - 5 Feb to 4 Mar 2015	11.11			
	11.11	4760	11.11	
Souther Water - Allotments		4761	69.93	
KCC Supplies - Stationery		4762	80.63	13.44
Safeplay Playfround safety inspections - jan		4763	72.00	12.00
British Gas - Parish Room Electricity	54.97			2.61
	36.57			1.74
	91.54	4764	91.54	

12. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

To discuss and agree actions relating to events

a) Council Events

i) Annual Parish Meeting Wed 18th March 2015

The agenda had been published in the Feb Village News.

b) Outside Events

None to discuss.

13. ALLOTMENTS

Nothing to discuss at this time as the allotments committee had not meet recently.

02-02-15

14. LEISURE FIELDS

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

a) Gun Park

i) Report from School ref Tree root damage to playground

The Clerk had received a report from the school ref the tree roots from the tree in Gun Park that was lifting the tarmac in the playground. The report had been written in June 2014 but no action had been taken by the school at that time and the Parish Council had not been made aware of the report. The Clerk had met with the tree surgeon and a representative at the school to discuss this matter in May 2014, at that time it had been agreed that when the repairs to the tarmac were undertaken the Tree surgeon would remove the tree roots to prevent further damage. Once the roots were removed he would be able to judge if the tree needed to be removed or reduced in height.

It was agreed that Cllr Wiles would speak to the Head teacher about the report and what action was expected from the Parish Council. The Clerk to copy the report to Cllr Wiles.

Action Sarah Wells & Cllr Wiles

ii) Play area safety inspections

No immediate action required.

iii) Cllr Read had been to a Youth Club meeting and been asked if the tree root by the club was to be removed. The Clerk explained that she could not get a contractor to cut and grind the stump out as they were concerned for their equipment, it was suggested it should be drilled and poisoned. The Clerk to investigate. **Action Sarah Wells****b) Pond**

The contractor had completed the work at the pond. Cllr Hooper had emailed the Clerk saying that she was happy that all the work had been completed as agreed. The contractor had commented that he had been helped by Mr Swain with the bonfire and wished to thank him. The Clerk also reported that Mr Swain had undertaken a lot of work at the pond on a voluntary basis and he was currently trying out various ways of tackling the parrot weed.

RESOLVED the Clerk should write to Mr Swain thanking him for his help and hard work and asking that he liaise with Cllr Barwick ref the Parrot weed. **Action Sarah Wells**

c) Allotments Play Area

Nothing to discuss.

d) Correspondence

None received.

15. 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) Letter from Royal British Legion ref War memorial

The members had no objections to the proposals outlined in the letter, however it was noted that neither the War memorial or the War graves were the responsibility of the Parish Council and that permission should be sought from the Church. The Clerk to respond. **Action Sarah Wells**

b) Recreation Ground

Nothing to discuss.

c) Bowling Green & Parish Room

Cllr Barwick had met with the Bowling Club and an architect to discuss the requirements of a new building. It was felt that a meeting with DDC planning conservation department should take place soon to see what would be permissible. The deeds for the recreation ground include a clause detailing the location of any building. This location is not the most logical for a new club house and parish room. The Clerk to contact KCC legal services to see if a different location could be considered.

Action Sarah Wells

16. REPORTS

To receive written or verbal reports from:-

a) Dist Cllrs

Cllr Manion gave a report including information of DDC council tax levels and the adoption of the land allocation document.

b) Parish Councillors

Cllr Bailey had attended the KALC election awareness evening.

17. COMMUNICATION

To agree Council communication to the following media:-

a) Village News Letter – Apr 2015

It was hoped the Chairman's Annual report could be published in the April magazine even though the Annual Meeting was after the closing date. Information on how to stand for election to be included if it meets with the timescales for returning forms.

b) Mercury Report

Election nominations.

c) Web Site

As required.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 2nd March 2015.

Scheduled dates of meetings

AMP Wed 18th Mar 2015 Mon 6th Apr 2015 Mon 11th May 2015 Mon 1st Jun 2015