

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EASTRY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT
THE PARISH ROOM AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2014**

Present: Councillors	N Kenton (Chairman)	B Read	J Gardiner	M Pemble
	N Wickham	A Barwick	J Sale	A Wiles

Sarah Wells Clerk to the Parish Council	5 Members of the Public	Community Warden
		PCSO Ryan Doel

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Mitchell, M Kemp & S Hooper.

The meeting was closed so that Mr B Binfield of Regional Surveying Services Ltd in attendance could speak about a possible planning application at Poison Cross.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations received.

3. POLICE LIASION

PCSO Doel gave a verbal report detailing his activities in parish. Bob Priestly gave a verbal report on activities in the local area.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 3rd Feb 2014 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLVED the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd Feb 2014 are duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

Churchyard & Cemetery

Response from Strutt and Parker ref Cemetery Extension

Strutt and Parker had asked how much land the PC wished to purchase and how much they would be willing to pay. It was agreed Cllr Kenton would investigate further. **Action Cllr Kenton Ongoing**

Cllr Wickham had been contacted by a local resident about the path in the Cemetery, it is very wet at the moment. The Clerk to contact the resident. **Action Sarah Wells ongoing**

Recreation Ground

The Clerk to get quotes to remove the remnants of the tree opposite the Church, that came down in the bad weather. **Action Sarah Wells ongoing**

Gun Park

Work to Cherry Trees - The Clerk had requested a quote, she would chase this up.

Action Sarah Wells Ongoing

Highways

Letters ref traffic problems Lower Street.

The Clerk had been in contact with DDC and yellow lines are no longer there responsibility, she had been informed by KHS that as the road did not have a critical safety record there were no funds available for a traffic scheme. She had therefore emailed Cllr Leyland Ridings to ask for a scheme to be paid for out of the KCC member's highway fund.

Footpath running through Gun Park parallel to Wilmott Place - The Clerk was still trying to find a principle authority responsible for this path. She would continue to pursue this matter.

Action Sarah Wells Ongoing

Correspondence

Greville Almshouse Charity – Appointment of Trustees

The Clerk had responded as agreed at the last meeting.

Action Discharged

Forthcoming Events**Council Events**

Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2014 –

The Clerk had invited County Cllr L Ridings, the Local Police, The Chairman of the WW1 commemoration committee, Eastry School and the Church to give reports.

Action Discharged

Allotments

The Clerk had contacted the committee and asked if they felt a dog control order was necessary on the allotment site. The committee had responded to say thought a dogs on lead order would be a good idea. The Clerk had informed DDC enforcement team.

Action Discharged

Bowling Green & Parish Room

Bowling Club - permission to undertake some works to outside of the Parish Room.

The Clerk had spoken to Mr Marsden from the Bowling club as agreed.

Action Discharged

6. CORRESPONDENCE

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

a) Consultation Documents

- i) KCC – Christmas and New year Storms – Consultation by 10th March 2014

The members did not wish to respond.

- ii) Local Audit and Accountability Act – Openness of Local Government Bodies

RESOLVED the Clerk should draft a response to this consultation as the members felt its implementation could lead to abuse and would be overly onerous on a small Parish Council.

Action Sarah Wells

b) News letters and Circulars

- i) Rural News

Noted

c) Other

Nothing received.

7. FLOODING

The meeting was closed so that members of the public from Brook Street and Lower Street could speak.

Following the heavy rains in mid February, Brook Street and Lower Street had been affected by flooding. Investigations had shown that the flooding in Brook Street and Lower Street was due to the breakdown of the overflow drainage system at the Butts Pond, Lower Street. This system had been in place since the 1950/60's and it is believed the pipe work has been damaged over the years and has not been replaced or maintained. Unfortunately because the water table had been low for many years the overflow system has not been needed and its existence seems to have been forgotten. Exacerbating this situation was that fact that many drainage dykes had not been cleaned out for many years.

The meeting reopened.

RESOLVED the Clerk would try to locate those responsible for the drainage system and the dykes and ask them to take appropriate action.

Action Sarah Wells

In addition to the problems caused by the flooding the members of the public were disappointed by the reaction of local authorities, The Environment Agency and KCC had been of no help. DDC had provided some help but only after several days of flooding.

In addition to the members of the public the Clerk had also received a letter ref lack of support from Parish Council. It was agreed the Clerk should respond informing the resident of the actions to be taken following this meeting.

Action Sarah Wells

8. HIGHWAYS

To discuss and agree actions relating to highways issues

- a) Complaint ref Ovendens Lorries

Clr Manion reported that this had been referred to a transport officer at KCC.

9. POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT HAY HILL

The Chairman had been made aware that a restrictive convenient was attached to the site currently being occupied by Gypsies and Travellers at Hay Hill. Although this would not be a material planning consideration it may be possible to take civil action to prevent the change of use of the land.

RESOLVED the Clerk should contact a solicitor to ask if a civil action would be possible, what the chance of success would be and if the Parish Council would be allowed to take this action. RESOLVED the Council would initially spend up to £5000.00 on legal fees to take such civil action.

10. COMMUNITY CENSUS

The Closing dates for returns is 14th March, a reminder had been printed in the March issue of the Village News.

11. FINANCE

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

- b) Dog Control Orders - Are the Council willing to contribute towards Signage Costs

The members were happy in principle to contribute towards signs, however they would need to know how much the signs would cost before a final decision could be made.

- c) Council Tax Referendum principles

Noted by the members.

- d) Repeal of S.150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972

Noted by the members.

12. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED the following payments should be made, proposed by Clr A Wiles, seconded by Clr B Read. Clr Barwick was the third signatory.

Receipts Feb			
	Funeral	250.00	
		250.00	
Petty Cash expenditure			
		0.00	
Feb Payments		Cheque No	Amount
	Environmental Engineer - Feb 2014	STO	393.25
	Toilet Cleaning Contract Feb		160.00
	Toilet Cleaning Supplies allowance Feb		8.00

	168.00	STO	168.00
Clerks Salary Feb 2013		STO	765.91
H M Revenue and Customs	Income Tax	0.00	
	Employees NI	17.33	
	Employers NI	14.19	
	31.52	STO	31.52
Employers Pension Contribution	110.70		
Employees Pension Contribution	49.10		
	159.80	STO	159.80
AJL garden Services - Feb	623.23	STO	
AJL Garden Services - Extra work Church Yard		4678	550.00
Coffee Break Refreshments Dec - Feb		4679	40.29
ACRK - membership		4680	35.00
Eastry Village News - Community Census extra page		4681	35.00
Grants			
Eastry Cricket Club		4682	350.00
Eastry PCC- Organ Refurbishment		4683	500.00
Eastry WW1 Commemoration Committee		4684	500.00
1st Eastry Brownies		4685	200.00

13. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

To discuss and agree actions relating to events

a) Council Events

Annual Parish Meeting agenda to be finalised at the next meeting.

Action Sarah Wells

b) Outside Events

- i) KALC - Planning Conference Sat 22nd March 2014 – Kings Hill Community Centre

Noted.

14. ALLOTMENTS

The allotments committee requested that the Clerk contact the former holder of plot 63b to see when he intended to finish clearing his plot.

Action Sarah Wells

15. LEISURE FIELDS

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

a) Gun Park

A new bin had been installed by DDC.

b) Pond

- i) AES Europe - Aquatic Environmental Solutions

Noted.

c) Allotments Play Area

Nothing to discuss.

d) Correspondence

None received.

16. 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

An inspection had shown a number of graves in need of topping up, the Clerk to contact the grave digger. **Action Sarah Wells**

b) Recreation Ground

i) Request from PCC for use of the Recreation ground for event in 2014

RESOLVED the PCC should be allowed to use the recreations ground as below, for Mad Hatters Tea Party on Monday May 5th and for parking between Thursday 17th - Sunday 20th July for St Mary's Flower Festival and Fete. Use subject to a site inspection by Cllr Barwick on the mornings of the events. The Clerk to respond to the PCC. **Action Sarah Wells**

c) Bowling Green & Parish Room

The Clerk to contact KCC legal services to get a lease drawn up for the bowling green. It was agreed the lease on the parish room should be separate to the lease for the building.

Action Sarah Wells ongoing

17. REPORTS

To receive written or verbal reports from:-

a) Dist Cllrs

Cllr Manion gave a report including information on DDC council tax, Flooding and road repairs. Cllr Kenton gave a report including information on the Hospital Site and the LDF inspectors report.

b) Parish Councillors

No reports received.

18. COMMUNICATION

To agree Council communication to the following media:-

a) Village News Letter – April 2014

Annual Parish Meeting Speaker.

b) Mercury Report

As required.

c) Web Site

As required.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Ordinary meeting on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm.

Scheduled dates for ordinary meetings

Mon 12 th May 2014	Mon 2 nd Jun 2014	Mon 7 th Jul 2014	
Mon 8 th Sept 2014	Mon 6 th Oct 2014	Mon 3 rd Nov 2014	Mon 1 st Dec 2014