

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 3rd February 2011

Present - Councillors

Mr Peter Brace - Chairman
Mr Alan Spackman – Vice Chair
Mrs Ann Impey
Ms Hazel Scofield
Mr Bob Armit
Mrs Julie Seamark
Mrs Anne Corbin
Mr Ron Hodge
Mr Keith Hudson

Mrs Alison Brace - Parish Clerk
Mrs Mandy Pink - Parish Clerk

0 Members of the Public

DC Mr Terry Rogers CC Mr Steve Criswell

Item 190 **Apologies for Absence** – , Mr Ray Zetter
Mrs Jenny Lloyd

Item 191 **Police Report** – There were no Police representatives present.
The Chairman said to refer to the E-cops website regarding cutbacks.

Item 192 **County Council & District Council** – CC Steve Criswell reported – Regarding the proposed Localism Bill that due to some redesign and budget cutbacks this will start in 2012. There will be a number of Pilot Schemes and a Pilot Scheme being run by Somersham Parish Council will be launched in March 2011. All Councillors were invited to attend but no date has been set so far. The Localism bill will give Parish Councils more power and bigger budgets and this will be an exciting time bringing about more community leadership.

DC Terry Rogers - reported that the District Councils regional support grants were not as big as last year and were less by £700,000 but that the Planning Grant was exceeded. The savings of 6 million pounds were now expected to be 9 million pounds so if the Planning Grant is successful then everything will be alright. There will be a review but the decision is still split at the moment.

There is to be an appeal regarding the proposed Bluntisham Traveller Site on Wednesday 9th February at 10am at Pathfinder House, Huntingdon. The Environment Agency have said that the proposed site is no longer on the flood plain but Bluntisham Parish Council have photos of the site showing it under water.

The Budget will reveal 3 things and these are that:-

- 1) More money is needed for the administration of a correct CCTV system
- 2) What is to be done with the Customer Service Centres?
- 3) Grants to the Voluntary Sector have been cut from £384,000 down to £75,000

Regarding point 2 the St Ives Customer Service Centre will be closed along with the Huntingdon facility and St Neots and Yaxley will be experiencing reduced manning. Citizens Advice Bureau for Mobility will be funded until 2014 but they are to then look elsewhere for funding after this.

Item 193 **Open Forum** – Mrs Julie Seamark asked County Cllr Steve Criswell about the County Council plans to reduce bus services in the area. Cllr Criswell said that the budget was put to the Cabinet last week and will be brought before the Council next week and they are discussing if the money can be used more efficiently. He said that they are going to consider Local Transport Schemes such as Community Buses that can take people from subsidised areas that may be cut so that they can join the proper planned routes more easily. Subsidised routes are add-ons to proper routes and the County Council will look at things on a case by case basis. The County Council will give support to Parish Councils to help them to get things running and there will not be any desertion of help from the County Council. From April the County Council will take responsibility for Bus Passes from the District Council and as the Government are saying that Bus Passes cost 4 million pounds but the District Council have costed them at 5.7 million this leaves a 1.7 million pound shortfall

(Close open meeting)

(Open closed part of Meeting)

Item 194 **Councillors declarations of interest in the following items** – None

Item 195 **To sign the Minutes of the meeting** – held on the 6th January 2011 –Mr Alan Spackman proposed and 2nd by Mr Keith Hudson that the minutes be signed, all agreed.

Item 196 **Matters arising** – item 179 the words Transport Police are to be replaced with The Freight Haulage Association and Transport Company.
Item 188 – the words Whybrows Lane are to be replaced with the orchard behind Minaars.

Item 197 **Chairman's report** – The Chairman asked CC Criswell if he had seen the proposed plans for the new relief road as the junction and the curve of the road were not as discussed. The Chairman has emailed the Developers. CC Criswell responded that he was not aware of any changes and the plans obviously need further discussion. The Chairman is to email the revised plans to CC Criswell.
The Chairman also reported that the proposal for the Precept had been accepted via a letter dated 30th January 2011.

Item 198 **Road Report** – The Chairman attended a St.Ives Road Safety meeting and there were some matters arising concerning Speedwatch. The Staff that send out the letters are not employed by the Police so therefore no letters are being sent. The Police will not take any action until 1000 vehicles have been recorded as exceeding speed limits so if letters are not being sent then the Police are not acting. The Road Safety Cameras are also not in the right positions as they are at the entrance or exit of the village and they should be in the middle of the High Street so that they reflect the correct speeds recorded within the village and not on the outskirts of the village. The Chairman will be writing to request a meeting with the Police to discuss these matters.

Item 199 **Traffic Regulation Orders** – Mr Bob Armit has spoken to several people at the County Council and the County Council will write to the Parish Council to invite 1 representative only to attend a meeting – possible date of 2nd March – not yet confirmed. The Freight Haulage Association and the Police will also be invited to attend.
The problems, however, remain the same because if no alternative route can be found then nothing will happen.
The meeting will begin a Consultation Process which will discuss costs, of which there will be many, including legal, advertising, public enquires into objections, erecting signage etc. These costs will be expensive. Mr Bob Armit will attend the meeting when the Parish Council give him the date but he does not really see a way forward. The Freight Haulage Association are already acting on their own initiative with companies such as Mick George trying to find alternative routes but if no other haulage companies act then Mick George will probably stop their action and return to the normal routes through the village.

- Item 200** **Environmental Survey** – Mr Bob Armit reported that according to the last email from Owen two villages need to reply before things happen. The A14 still remains a problem but the Parish Council still want to push for the Environmental Survey to go ahead. East Cambs have replied and are keen to install and partly fund Air Control Systems. The EVA have agreed to help with funding but as the Council want villages to act together then they are monitoring the situation.
- Item 201** **Village Hall - Central Heating** -The Grant for the Central Heating has now been fully completed and returned to Donarbon. They will now be considering the Grant and will let the Parish Council know shortly. It was a requirement of the Grant that the Earith Parish Council adopts an Equal Opportunities Policy which will be discussed in item 207.
Village Hall – Lights - Mr Ron Hodge reported that the light bulbs and fuses had all been changed and that the lights are still faulty. We need to engage an Electrician to sort this out and the Chairman will organise the replacement.
Village Hall – New Hoover and Brush - Mr Ron Hodge reported that the Caretaker needs some new equipment. The Chairman is to give a spare industrial Hoover to the Caretaker but if this is inadequate then a replacement will need to be made. The Councillors requested a vote to be taken to allow a cost of £150.00 to be spent on a replacement Hoover and Sweeping Brush that the Caretaker can choose and supply and be reimbursed for on receipt of a correct itemised expenses claim should the Hoover supplied by the Chairman prove unsuitable.
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and 2nd by Mr Alan Spackman. All agreed.
- Item 202** **Planning** –
Application ref. 100267FUL – 3 bedroom detached house with integral garage. Plot 2 – 42 Meadow Lane.
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and 2nd by Mr Keith Hudson that this is to be passed. All agreed.
- Item 203** **Training for Councillors** –Due to the elections in May it was decided that training should be delayed until following the election.
- Item 204** **Village Plan** – The Village Plan was on track to be presented to the Parish Council in April as previously discussed. Mrs Seamark, Mr Armit and Owen will present their findings based on the responses received.
County Councillor Criswell asked the Chairman if he wanted to hold off the proposals for the Village Plan as the Localism Bill Pilot Scheme which will go ahead in Somersham will probably be asked to redo their Village Plan. The Chairman responded that it had taken a long time to get the findings that they had at present and that he did not want to delay the presentation that was to go ahead in April.
County Councillor Criswell also said that the Traveller Sites are still being discussed and that there is still Legislation in place to house the Traveller communities.
- Item 205** **River Island Lease** –.The Environment Agency are not renewing the lease for the River Island and the Earith Parish Council have to find a new Lessee. The Chairman reported that a person from The High Street was interested in keeping Bees on the Island. The item was discussed and it was decided that a new lease should be drawn up by a Solicitor for a 364 day term with clauses concerning no Subletting of the Island and the Clause to fully maintain and keep clear the Island. The Lessee would be responsible for paying all legal costs concerning the Lease.
Mrs Anne Corbin proposed and 2nd by Ms Hazel Scofield. All agreed.
- Item 206** **Plan for New Road** – This was discussed earlier in item 197. Moved forward to next meeting
- Item 207** **Equal Opportunities** – The policy was officially adopted by the Council in accordance with the Grant for Central Heating.
Mrs Anne Corbin proposed and 2nd by MrsJulie Seamark. All agreed.

Item 208 **CRB Checks** – CRB checks to be carried out in May. Several Councillors already have them.

Item 209 **NHS Consultation** – No Consultation to be carried out.

Item 210 **Finance:-**
Payments -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Chq</u>	<u>Powers</u>
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 30hrs @ 9.253	222.00	2245	LGHA1989,s.7
Mrs AS Brace	Clerks Wages 30hrs @ 10.198	306.00		LGHA1989,s.7
xx	Booking Clerk 5hrs @ 6.93	34.65		LGHA1989,s.7
	Total less tax	330.85	2243	LGHA1989,s.7
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker 6.75hrs @ 6.93	79.70	2244	LGHA1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE Jan 2011	65.30	2246	LGHA1972,s.112,119
Mr MS Pink	Parish Handyman – self employed	100.00	2247	
Cambs CC	Charge for Street Lighting	113.58	2248	
SLCC	Annual renewal	72.00	2249	
Mr J Sturrock	Repair damage to Kitchen door, Repaired Toilet Plumbing	135.00	2250	
David Lowe	Repair to Burst Pipes	70.50	2251	
Royal Mail	Redirecting Parish Mail for 1 year	77.99	2252	
e-on (powergen)	Village Hall Electricity bi-monthly	00	DD	LGHA1972,s.101
Total spend for January 2011		£ 1,266.92		

Mrs Julie Seamark pointed out that C Shook's wage description was incorrect and should read 11.5 hours instead of 6.75 as stated. The calculation is correct
Proposed by Mr Keith Hudson and 2nd by Mr Alan Spackman that the Finance be accepted.
All agreed.

Item 211 **Correspondence** – The Chairman read out a letter that was received from EVA stating that it was reported at last months meeting that EVA are to cover the costs of the Village Plan. This was not suggested at the meeting and all the Councillors agreed.

Youth Club invoice letter to the bank was signed.

Item 212 **Items to report** – Mrs Julie Seamark requested that a Finance Meeting be held on Thursday 10th February at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Agreed with the Clerk and Chairman.

Ms Hazel Scofield requested to know where the 1950's footpath archives are kept. Several suggestions made by Mr Ron Hodge and Mr Bob Armit including HDC Archives and Ordinance Survey Website.

Ms Hazel Scofield also asked to borrow the Village Hall tables. Mr Ron Hodge and Clerk Mrs Alison Brace pointed out that Village Hall furniture should not be let out following some incidents some years ago but the EVA had purchased some round tables that are stored at the Village Hall for use by the Village and these were suggested as an alternative.

The dates for the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting have been set.
The AGM – Thursday 12th May 2011.

The Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 26th May 2011.

Item 213 **Items for next meeting** – The Chairman requested that the ECA Field Lease needs to be discussed as this should have been renewed as of 1st January 2011.

Mr Bob Armit requested that the Parish Council consider and adopt some way of informing the Earith Villagers of the Role of the Parish Council, the Two Tier Authorities and the Function of the Parish Council.

Date of next meeting 3rd March 2011

These minutes are un-adopted

Mrs Mandy Pink Parish - Clerk

Date 12.2.11