

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting **Held on Thursday 7th April 2011**

Present – Councillors

Mr Alan Spackman (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs Julie Seamark
Mrs Jenny Lloyd
Mrs Hazel Scofield
Mrs Ann Impey
Mr Bob Armit
Mr Keith Hudson
Mr Ray Zetter
Mr Ron Hodge

Mrs Mandy Pink - Clerk

DC Mr Terry Rogers,
2 members of the Public

Item 1 Apologies for Absence – Mrs Anne Corbin, CC Mr Steve Criswell

Item 2 Police Report – police not present – Vice-Chair requested that we contact the police and ask them to attend the next meeting.

Item 3 County Council and District Council reports. CC Steve Criswell apologies for absence – no report
DC Terry Rogers – Reported that several parishioners have complained about the fence that has been erected at 17 School Road and that an enforcement case is being opened to query this. The owner of the house on the corner of Colne Road and Meadow Lane has complained about dog litter being left in their rubbish bins as they are left close to the path due to disabilities and it was said that we need to get more Dog Litter bins in this area.
The District Council have also been approached concerning the Edwards Walk/Darford Car Park area as people are reluctant to park there as it is unlit and not marked out. The Council are looking to sell this area for Social Housing and 8-10 Car Parking spaces will be added along the grass verge at the back of Darford and these spaces will be in a lit area. Mr Ron Hodge asked what was happening with the smaller car park area on Chapel Road/Edwards Walk and DC Terry Rogers was not sure. The disabled car parking spaces in Edwards Walk were also discussed as the people that these spaces were provided for are no longer living in this area.
DC Terry Rogers also reported that it has been approved by the Inspector, following an appeal that 11 pitches for travellers will be provided in Bluntisham for a four year period and 2 pitches have been approved in Somersham close to the Raptor Centre. DC Terry Rogers has insisted that the proposals for a traveller site at Colne will be eliminated as we now have an abundance of approved sites and we do not need any more in this area.
Mrs Julie Seamark attended the meeting that was held in Somersham for the Localism Bill Pilot Scheme and said that it was a very full meeting but not really informative. Email to be sent to Mr Criswell to ask for an update on this meeting.
Mr Keith Hudson requested an update on the Tree house enforcement action and the Clerk is to follow this up.
Also the new house on the corner of Bridge End was supposed to make provision in its plans for the path to be widened. Mr Terry Rogers is to speak to the planners.

Item 4 Open Forum – 2 representatives from the Earith Baby and Toddler Group appealed to the council for help with the running costs of the local group as they are currently operating from the Rectors Hall and they have just raised their rent costs and other running costs are high and the Toddler Group will have a shortfall of approximately £500.00 for the coming year. If they rent the Village Hall this would be cheaper but the Hall is not really “Baby Friendly” and a storage area would be needed. There is also not any outside space at the Village Hall. This is to be discussed at item 16.

The Open part of the Meeting was Closed

The Closed Part of the meeting was Opened.

Item 5 Councillors declarations of interest – Mr Ray Zetter declared an interest in item 22

- Item 6** **Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd March 2011** – Mrs Jenny Lloyd and Mr Ray Zetter were omitted from the attendee list.
The word Localism was missed off in item 216. This should have read The “Localism” pilot scheme.
Proposed by Mr Keith Hudson and seconded by Mrs Jenny Lloyd.
The Vice Chair signed the minutes provided the changes are made as stated.
- Item 7** **Matters arising from the minutes** – Item 239, no letter was sent to the farmer as discussed as the farmer’s details were unknown. Mrs Hazel Scofield confirmed the farmer as Mr Edward Doe but it was agreed not to pursue at this point in time as it no longer appears to be a problem and the headland has recovered. The Clerk is to follow up discussions with the Dog Warden.
- Item 8** **Chairman’s Report** – The Vice-Chair reported on the Council Tax and the increase of around 19% against the Earith Parish. The Parish Council (PC) has not requested any significant increase in the last 4 years. The parish element is less than 5% of the overall council tax bill and in real terms the rise for most householders is still only 20p – 25p per week. The parish element for a Band C house in Earith is £58.00 compared to £102 for the same band property in Bluntisham .
Government funding cuts are widespread affecting both young and the elderly and the PC wants to be in a position to help preserve the future of existing groups. The Parish Council already funds trained youth workers to run the youth club and help has also been given to the Day Centre. These costs are in addition to the normal operating costs that are rising annually - In particular village hall maintenance as we try to preserve the ageing building until such times as a new village hall is an option. When that time arrives the PC wants to be in a position financially to move forward with building plans. Parishioners should also be aware the PC is responsible for certain street lights within the village, the upkeep for some grassed areas and childrens play equipment.
Thanks were also expressed to all the councillors for the support they had given to Mr Peter Brace and for all their help over the past council term and also for the help given from the late Mr Bob Harradine and Mr Derek Broughton.
- Item 9** **Road Safety Report** – Mr Bob Armit referred back to item 222 in last months minutes as Mr Criswell has not reported back concerning the fatalities on rural roads and the HCV group would like to use the information to help with their discussions
- Item 10** **Traffic Regulation Orders** – Mr Bob Armit referred to item 223 in last months minutes to the question concerning if the local Council wants to take on the responsibilities for Traffic Regulation then they will need to be properly trained. He asked again if Earith Council really want to take this on. If the Council want to organise a TRO then this will need to be properly advertised in a correct legal fashion and this would all be expensive. If the Parish Council decides to organise a TRO then they would also be culpable if the Parishioners prove to be unhappy concerning the decision.
- Item 11** **Environmental Survey** – Mr Bob Armit said that the HCV had written to Sutton Parish to ask them to reconsider there decision to pull out of funding an Environmental Survey. If they do not reconsider then it could come down to asking for donations.
- Item 12** **Village Hall – Central Heating** – The Clerk contacted Donarbon on behalf of the Chairman and the Council still need to provide various testimonial letters from Village Hall users to say that they would use the Hall more and possibly raise more numbers if the Hall was warmer and not so damp. The Clerk has written to the WI, the EVA, the Bingo Group and the Day Centre to ask for help. Several letters have been received and they will be sent to Donarbon for consideration when all have been received.
- Item 13** **Planning** – Application ref – 1100305Ful – Single storey extension to rear and two storey extension to side of 87 Greenfields
Mrs Julie Seamark proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this application was granted. All in favour.
Application ref – 1100348Ful – Two storey rear extension, Single storey side extension and alterations to 10 Chapel Road
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mrs Hazel Scofield seconded that this application was granted. All in favour.
- Item 14** **Village Plan re view** – Mr Bob Armit and Mrs Julie Seamark reported that they had compiled the Village Plan, with the help of Mr Owen McLaughlin based on all relevant information that was obtained from the Questionnaires that had been given to all households in Earith over three years ago. Mr Bob Armit said that the council now needed to consider all items that have been put into the action plan and that they should consider the relevance of all points raised. Some items have now been actioned such as the request for a youth club but some items are still to be considered. The Village Plan information is all available electronically and all this information is to be passed over to

the Clerk for action following a full review of all points by the Council. Village plans have been given to all Councillors for action and discussion. The Council should consider this at the next meeting with a view to publishing the plans to all householders over the period of June – July 2011.

Item 15 Plan for New Road – Nothing to report.

Item 16 Toddler Group – Following on from the presentation heard earlier in the meeting concerning the Toddler Group Mr Ron Hodge reported that he had attended the Rectors Hall and that this was a very good venue for the Toddler Group and that they really do want to stay there if possible. He therefore requested that the Council consider the idea for funding to be granted for the shortfall amount of £500.

It was decided that a one off subsidy would be considered for the coming year provided that the Toddler Group carried out some internal fund raising such as toy and clothing sales, coffee mornings etc.

This would be considered again for funding on a year by year basis.

Mrs Hazel Scofield proposed and Mr Ray Zetter seconded that £500 would be granted this year from 1st May 2011 to 30th April 2012.

Item 17 Bingo Group – Concerns were raised from the Bingo group concerning the marking out of the Village Hall Car Park. This is something that the Huntingdonshire District Council is responsible for. The question of storage was also raised and it was decided that a general storage area and general use of crockery would be considered. The WI and the Day Centre would be contacted and they would consider this approach and report back at the next meeting.

Item 18 River Island Lease – a follow up letter had been written but as yet no response had been made.

Item 19 Information for Villagers on the Role of the Council– It was agreed that it would be a good idea if the role of the District and County Councils could be incorporated in with the Village plan. Mr Steve Criswell and Mr Terry Rogers are to be contacted to ask for their input and this would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Item 20 Earith Youth Club– The Service Level Agreement had been received by the Clerk and this is to be signed providing all items are as last year.

Item 21 Highway Wardens – It was agreed that the Parish Council are to show an interest in the Highway Warden Scheme. The Clerk is to contact HDC and register the interest and find out if the Highway Warden would be involved on TRO discussions.

Item 22 Pre School Swimming Pool Funding – Mr Ray Zetter has received a letter from Jenny Cooper regarding the issue of pre school swimming pool funding. The Headmistress of Earith Primary School, Mrs Spooner, has issued a letter to the Pre-School to say that the swimming pool will not be available for six weeks during the summer school holidays as it is now very expensive to run the pool. Mrs Spooner has said that the costs are between £1000 - £2000. It would appear that the School do not really want the pool to be used over this period and more information should be obtained. This item is to be added to the next agenda

Item 23 Grass Cutting Contract – Mr Peter Haynes from HDC has contacted the Clerk to ask if they are to carry on with the grass cutting contract this year. A quotation figure is to be obtained and decision made soon. If the figure in the precept can be matched then the contract is to run for a further year. The Clerk is to get more information. It has been drawn to the Councils attention that a resident has cut the grass along Colne Road from Whybrows Lane to the Corner of Meadow Lane. The council are pleased that residents are taking an interest in the Village and a letter is to be sent concerning this.

Item 24 Internal Auditor – Two people considered third to be asked to quote. The Clerk is to contact Mr Nick Sloman from 13 Greenfields.

Item 25 Finance Payments

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Chq No.</u>	<u>Powers</u>
Mrs KM Pink	Clerk Wages 30hrs @ 9.253	277.50		LGHA1989,s.7
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ 6.93	17.33		LGHA1989,s.7
	<u>Total less tax</u>	235.86	2264	

Mrs C Shook	Caretaker 10hrs @ 6.93	69.30			LGA1972,s.133
	Booking Clerk 2,5 hrs @ 6.93	17.33	86.63	2265	
Inland Revenue	PAYE March 2011		58.97	2266	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman Self Employed – Monthly Contract		100.00	2267	LGA1953,s.4 LGHA
Mr Ron Hodge	Pond Maintenance		16.30	2268	1972,s.101
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Expenses – Stationery and Stamps		31.21	2269	LGHA 1972,s.7
CPALC	Affiliation Fees		505.78	2270	
HDC	Youth Club Invoice		640.20	2263	
PC Home Call	Clerk Computer Upgrade		158.60	2271	
CPALC	Payment for Training		200.00	2272	
Cambridge Water	Water Bill April – Mar 2012		321.94	2273	
HDC	Rates Bill April – Mar 2012		183,72	2274	
EON (Powergen)	Village Hall Electricity		0.00	DD	LGA1972,s. 101

Total spend
for –
March 2011

2,539.21

The Clerk reported that the Water Bill was very high and that a water meter should be installed. Possible cost of this to be £500 to be shared with the water board if contacted before 30th April.

Mrs Julie Seamark proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded for the Clerk to contact the Water Board. All in favour.

Mrs Julie Seamark proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that the Finances should be accepted. All in favour.

Item 26 Correspondence – All correspondence was on display for all to access.

Item 27 Items to report - Nothing new to report.

Item 28 Items for Next Meeting – Mrs Julie Seamark requested that the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations for 2012 should be discussed and added to the June agenda

Date of next meeting – Due to local elections on 5th May next Parish Council and AGM will be Thursday 12th May 2011

Mrs Mandy Pink - Clerk

These minutes are unadopted.

Date 07.05.2011