

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 2nd February 2012

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)
Mrs Marilyn Russell
Mrs Hazel Scofield
Mrs Jenny Lloyd
Mr James Woolstenholmes

Mr Alan Spackman (Vice-Chairman)
Ms Hazel Lambert
Mrs Ann Impey
Mr Keith Hudson
Mr Jeff Nicholls

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk

DC Mr Philip Godfrey, 2 member's of the public

Item 237 **Apologies for Absence** – Mr Ron Hodge, CC Steve Criswell, DC Mr Terry Rogers.
Open Meeting

Item 238 **Open Forum** – 2 members of the public put forward objections for the Planning to be discussed at item 244

Item 239 **Ecops Report** – The Clerk read out the latest Ecops report that highlighted that criminal damage to motor vehicles is taking place in Earith. A letter has been received from the HDC Police Commander offering 2 meetings to discuss the local policing issues that we are experiencing. Mrs Marilyn Russell and Ms Hazel Lambert are to attend.

Item 240 **County Council and District Council Reports** – DC Philip Godfrey reported that savings have been made within the cabinet and that there will not be so many cuts. CCTV is to carry on and the Leisure Centres are improving. The Council Tax has been raised by 3.5%. HDC is taking part in an initiative by Recap (waste recycling) to organise more efficient routes and better collections to help save money.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 241 **Councillors declaration of interest** – The Chairman drew the Councillors attention to the legal requirement that all interest should be declared following the Code of Conduct LGA2000s 50. Parish Councils order 2001. No declarations were made.

Item 242 **To sign minutes of meeting held on** – 5th January 2012
Mrs Jenny Lloyd proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded. All in favour that the minutes be signed.

Item 243 **Matters arising from the minutes** – Several matters from last months minutes are being discussed later in the meeting. Ms Hazel Lambert asked if the Banner is to be erected on the Village Green. The Clerk will investigate and report back.

Item 244 **Planning** – Application Ref: 1102095FUL to erect 4 bed detached unit with triple garage at 69 High Street. Application Ref: 1102096CAC to demolish Barn at 69 High Street.
Both items were discussed and it was agreed to reject both applications.
1102096CAC was rejected due to the age of the Barn. It is of historical interest and should not be demolished. It also has bats nesting in it. The height of the replacement garage was also a concern for light and privacy issues.
1102095FUL – the scale and design of the build are not in keeping with other dwellings within the area and the plot is being over-developed. There will also be problems with parking, privacy and light.
The area is also a conservation area and this factor effected the decision for both planning applications.
1102096CAC – Mrs Jenny Lloyd proposed and Mr James Woolstenholmes seconded that the plans should be rejected. All in favour.
1102095FUL – Mrs Ann Impey proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the plans should be rejected. All in favour

Item 245 **Chairman's Report – Including Common Land Registry Update**
The Chairman contacted the enforcement officer to enquire on the latest status of all enforcement cases at present. All cases are progressing. The fence at School Road is to be reduced to 1m in height and a hedge is to be planted. A planning application is being submitted for the Car Wash at

Minnaars. The building of the summerhouse at Bridge End needs to have listed building consent and needs to be stained black.

The Chairman and Clerk have looked into the Highway Minor Improvements funding and an application has been submitted for two things to be considered. We have asked for improvements to be made to both pedestrian crossings in the High Street and we have also asked for a speed reduction between the two bridges to 40mph from bridge to bridge at the Willingham end of the Village.

Mr Alan Spackman reported that further information is being gathered concerning the Common Land Registry and this will be discussed at future meetings.

- Item 246** **Parish Council Representatives Report** – Mr Jeff Nicholls and Mrs Julie Seamark attended the **Road Safety Meeting** and it was discussed that Speedwatch Volunteers can now stop cars and check tyres, tax and illegal spacing of Reg. No characters if they have a Police Constable present. HCV environment monitoring is to go ahead shortly and will be checking noise, vibration, Nitrous Oxide levels and particulates. The Bluntisham and Somersham speed cameras are now both back in operation.
- Neighbourhood Forum** – Mrs Ann Impey reported that a police presentation noted that crime rates were down from October to December. There have been 9 burglaries and 32% of the crimes reported were for Anti Social Behaviour. The Highway Warden Scheme is going ahead and training courses are being held in February. The information is to be passed to Speedwatch to see if they wish to attend as they expressed an interest last year.
- Speed Limit reviews can also be carried out and the County Council are happy to do all the legal work concerned. Probable costings for this would be around £2,000 per sign.
- P3 Partnership – Pathways** – Mrs Hazel Scofield and Ms Hazel Lambert are to go on a course to learn how best to promote local walks through the media. Earith are to remain members of the P3 Partnership.
- Pavements and Drains** – Mrs Marilyn Russell, Mr Ron Smith and Mr Jeff Nicholls attended a meeting with Jason Tyrrell to discuss the pavements and drains along the High Street. Mrs Russell is to take photographs of all the broken drains and damage and pass these on. Some action is to be taken immediately but other work would be more costly. However, most repairs look likely to be considered.
- Finance Meeting** – Mrs Hazel Scofield reported that all accounts and finance were in order and that the Clerk was doing a good and accurate job.
- Willingham Road** – Mr Alan Spackman attended a meeting to discuss repairs to the Willingham Road. The best scheme for repairs would be pileing and this is costly. Further information is to be received.
- Earith Primary School** – Ms Hazel Lambert attended a meeting with Mrs Sue Spooner from the school who has confirmed the school is happy to help with organisation of the Jubilee celebrations. Pupil post can be used for communication if needed. The school are also happy to help with improvements to High Bridge. Parking does not now seem to be such a bad problem.
- Item 247** **Parish Plan** – A copy of the plan was given to all Councillors and the Clerk is to send the plan to those people who have requested it. Some items have been acted upon already and others need to be discussed. This will be an agenda item for future meetings.
- Item 248** **Council Newsletter** – It was decided that an A4 flyer is to be sent periodically to the Village regarding Parish Council achievements and news. This is to be discussed at future meetings.
- Item 249** **Youth Club** – The Clerk has not heard anything further regarding possible Youth Club arrangements. Further updates are to be obtained.
- Item 250** **High Bridge Earith update re development** – Ms Hazel Lambert has received a letter from Grant Scope to say that our application has not been successful this time round but will be looked at again in the next round of funding. Our improvement ideas have also been forwarded to the Ouse Valley Washes Development who will include our proposals in with the large Heritage Lottery Funding that is being considered at present. This funding will be finalised in 2013 and the Council have to provide hard copy support for the application so an official letter is to be sent.
- Item 251** **Road Safety, Traffic Regulation Orders and Environmental Survey Report** – nothing to report.
- Item 252** **River Island Lease Update** – A proposed lease had been provided for consideration from the Council and it was decided that leasing to an individual was not in the best interests of the Village. The River Island is common land and should be available for all villagers. Maintenance of the Island is to be provided by the Parish Council. Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Island should not be leased to an individual. 1 Councillor abstained to vote but this decision was passed by all remaining Councillors.

Item 253 **Grass Cutting Tender – Update** – All tenders have now been received and it was agreed to award Truelink the Grass Cutting Tender for the new season. Costs ranged from £140 - £230. Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the quotation from Truelink was to be used. All in favour

Item 254 **Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebration update** – A brilliant response to a request for help with the Jubilee was exceptional. 23 members of the public attended the meeting and many offers of help were discussed. The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 8th February. Earith Town Estate are to open up the pavilion and allow the use of the Recreation Field for the event on Sunday 3rd June. The Parish Council are to guarantee the raffle prize and will loan funds to the organising committee to allow for up front expenditure if needed. This was proposed by Mrs Ann Impey and seconded by Mr Jeff Nicholls. All in favour.

Item 255 **Clerk and Caretaker Pay Scales** – It was agreed that the hourly rate of pay for the Clerk should be raised. The Clerk has been in her position now for a year. It was also agreed that the Caretaker (including Booking Clerk) pay should also be raised as this has been static for many years. The Clerk is to be paid at £9.94 per hour and this is to rise to £10.17 per hour once she has passed the CiLCA examination later this year and the Caretaker is to be paid at £7.21 per hour. This pay increment is to be backdated to January 2012. Mrs Ann Impey proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that the changes are to be made. All in favour.

Item 256 **Office Equipment** – The Clerk is to have a new computer as her current machine, inherited from the last Clerk is now showing signs of crashing. (Disc errors are occurring frequently and this causes the computer to freeze and not start up.) Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that a new computer can be purchased in the region of £500 - £700. Before the purchase is made the Clerk is to agree with the Chairman and Vice Chairman that this expenditure can be made. All in favour.

Item 257 **Council Administration – Adding new cheque signatories** – Mrs Ann Impey and Ms Hazel Lambert are to be added to the Council list of Cheque Signatories. The Clerk is to organise this.

Item 258 **Finance –**

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 30 hrs @ £9.253	277.50			LGHA1989,s.7
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £6.93	17.33			LGHA1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		235.86	2365	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hrs 9.14hrs @ £6.93	81.43			LGHA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £6.93	17.33			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		73.43	2366	
Inland Revenue	PAYE January 2012		66.97	2367	LGHA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self employed monthly contract		100.00	2368	LGHA1953,s.4
Mr M S Pink	Extra work carried out in Jan. Swings and signs at High Bridge Earith		66.49	2369	
G Dearnaley	Electricity Supply for Christmas Lights		25.00	2370	
Cambridge County Council	Street Lighting Maintenance		28.38	2371	
H Lambert	High Bridge Earith upkeep costs		21.88	2372	
Twineal Windows	Village Hall Lock replacement		120.00	2373	
Mr Ron Hodge	Key Cutting Charge re lock replacement		31.00	2374	
Mrs J Lloyd	Christmas Decorations		17.97	2375	
SKG Surfacing	Tarmac resurfacing at Recreation Field Car Park		5760.00	2376	
Huntingdon District Council	Grass Cutting		2100.00	2377	
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		0.00	DD	LGHA1972,s.101
	Total Spend for January 2012		8646.98		

Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr James Woolstenholmes seconded that the finances should be accepted. All in Favour.

Item 259 **Correspondence** – All items in file for inspection.

Item 260 **Items to report** – Ms Hazel Lambert would like a sign to be erected to direct people to the Village Hall. The lights in the Village Hall are in disrepair and the Clerk is to contact Mr Colin Barson to arrange for them to be repaired.

Item 261 **Items for Future Meetings** –The Parish Council are to think about possible jobs for the Scouts.

Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 1st March 2012

Mrs Mandy Pink - Clerk

These minutes are unadopted.

Date 8th February 2012