

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 6th September 2012

Present – Councillors

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Ms Hazel Lambert
 Mrs Hazel Scofield
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mr James Woolstenholmes

Mr Alan Spackman
 Mrs Jenny Lloyd
 Mr Ron Hodge
 Mr Jeff Nicholls

DC Mr Robin Carter, Sgt D Savill, 3 members of the public

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 96 **Apologies for Absence** – CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Terry Rogers, Mrs Julie Seamark, Mrs Marilyn Russell

Open Meeting

Item 97 **Open Forum** – Sgt D Savill presented a report on police procedure and actions within Earith. Year to date the reported crime rate is down by 50%. Due to a number of burglaries at the Industrial Estate extra patrols are being sent out to provide a more visible police presence within the Village. Anti-social behaviour is also down by 50%. The police can only act on reported incidents and Sgt Savill urged all residents to report crimes so that they can be recorded. A Police Surgery is being held at the Village Hall on Friday 5th October at 7.30pm and this will give the community a chance to discuss any problems that they may have.

A member of the public gave a small presentation concerning the planning development proposed at 69 High Street as changes have been made to the plans. The barn is to be developed and not knocked down. The roof is to be pantiles in accordance with the conservation area. Entry and exit of the development in first gear only will be via Chapel Road.

Item 98 **Ecops Report** – Due to the policing restructure Ecops reports had been suspended as this service was to be updated however the launch date is still some way off so Ecops reports will be reinstated.

Item 99 **County Council and District Council Reports** – DC Mr Robin Carter reported that there is a lot going on at present at HDC. Council tax and Housing Benefit are due to change and any residents that will be affected will be written to. There are also a lot of changes concerning the Local Plan Consultation as more properties are to be built in the region. The Consultation ends on the 21st November and drop in sessions will be held in Houghton on the 17th October.

The weed spraying is now complete and DC Mr Robin Carter is working with the HDC operations department to get the dead weeds removed. The clearing of the footpaths is still to be carried out. Earith Sluice is to be refurbished in March 2013 and it is to be resurfaced and joints are to be strengthened. HDC are still looking at the Willingham to Earith Road refurbishment but funding still remains an issue. They are looking at alternatives to resurfacing. Grass cutting in the region still remains an issue.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 100 **Councillors declaration of interest** – The Chairman drew the Councillors attention to the legal requirement that all interests should be declared following the Code of Conduct Localism Act 2012 c7.s27(3)(b). No declarations were made.

Item 101 **To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 2nd August 2012**
 Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the minutes should be signed following 2 minor amendments being made. Item 84 spelling of name should be Simeon Carroll and item 87 dates of meeting should read the 3rd Thursday in September. All in favour that the minutes be signed.

Item 102 **Matters arising - None**

Item 103 **Planning** – Application Ref: 1201169FUL – 69 High Street Conversion of existing barn into a two bedroom dwelling.

Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that this should be accepted with the inclusion of a specification that designated parking should be provided on site and not on Chapel Road. All in favour.

Application Ref: 1201315FUL- 64 High Street Change of use from commercial to residential. To include converting and extending building to form annexe to 70 High Street.

Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr James Woolstenholmes seconded that this planning was accepted as it greatly improved the area. All in favour.

- Item 104** **Chairman's Report** – Vice Chairman Miss Ann Brennan gave the Chairman's report as apologies had been received from the Chairman.
Proposals are to be discussed regarding the implantation of our successful bid in the Minor Highways Improvement Scheme. Repainting of the markings at the Pedestrian Crossings has been proposed along with additional signage and improved beacons are to be considered.
The footpath behind Minnaars is to be cleared following a very successful meeting between Mrs Seamark and Mr Minnaar. The contractor is waiting for access to the site.
The bench along the Earith to Bluntisham Causeway has been stolen and this has been reported to the insurance company. The Clerk is to look into its replacement to be discussed at the next meeting.
The trees which were obscuring the interactive signs opposite the Green at Bridge End have been trimmed. The overhanging tree on the boundary of the Recreation Field was investigated and this remains within the jurisdiction of the Earith Town Estate who will arrange for this to be cut back.
The Clerk is to clarify the ownership of the land at the junction of Chapel Road/School Lane.
- Item 105** **Minor Highways Improvement Scheme** – The proposed changes were discussed and agreed that the improvements are to be accepted. Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded. All in favour.
- Item 106** **Parish Council Representatives Report – HCV and Road Safety** – Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that the environment testing results are to be published at a meeting at Bluntisham Village Hall on 4th October 2012 at 7pm.
General Estate – Mr Ron Hodge reported that the Woodlands Care Home have been blowing their leaves onto the pavement and this is causing some blockage of the drains and slippery pavement surfaces. The Clerk is to send a letter asking them not to do this
The slipway at the back of the Village Hall is also becoming dangerous and the Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Mr Ron Hodge and the Environmental Agency to discuss this.
Horse manure along Chapel Road is also becoming a problem with residents and the Council would ask all Horse riders to be extra careful along this road.
Due to the refurbishment of the Crown Public House a footpath (no 69/15) has been fenced off. This is a public right of way and Mr Ron Hodge and Ms Hazel Lambert are to visit the Licensee to discuss this issue.
- Item 107** **Hedge cutting along the Earith to Bluntisham Causeway** – The Clerk obtained three quotations for this work to be carried out. Option 1 JW Willmott, Option 2 MSP Services and Option 3 SJ Talbot. Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that Option 1 should be accepted. Ms Hazel Lambert abstained from voting as it is unsure if a flail mower will be used for this job. All other Councillors voted in favour.
- Item 108** **Parish Newsletter – items to be added and distribution** – Ms Hazel Lambert tabled her proposals for the next Newsletter and it was decided that an item about Speedwatch should be added. Distribution was decided and it will hopefully be circulated in September.
- Item 109** **Christmas Tree lights – Location** – Miss Ann Brennan, Vice Chairman, has looked into purchasing some more lights due to the vandalism last year and 170m of lights will cost in the region of £350. However if the lights are to be situated at the Village Hall then a cherry picker will be needed and it is unsure if a cherry picker can get close enough to the tree due to the wall. Miss Ann Brennan is to find out and report at the next meeting.
- Item 110** **Purchase of Jubilee Commemorative Tree** – Ms Hazel Lambert put forward suggestions for the Tree and it was decided to purchase an Amelanchier. She is to get costings for this and is to also ask Ms Halford from HDC if they will fund this purchase.
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded the choice of tree. All in favour.

Item 111 **Timing of the lights at the Recreation Field** – A member of the public contacted the Clerk to ask if the timing of the lights could be changed. The Council agreed that the lights should remain as previously set and the settings are to be checked by Mr Alan Spackman and Mr Ron Hodge. They will be changed if power cuts have reset the timings as believed. Mr Keith Hudson reported that some lights are not working and the Clerk is to find out which ones are not correct and arrange for them to be fixed.

Item 112 **Grass Cutting in Earith** – The grass cutting contractors have requested if the Council wish to extend the amount of cuts that are needed for this season. The Clerk is to liaise with them and if a further cut is needed this can be arranged.
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Clerk can arrange this if needed. All in favour.

Item 113 **Parish Council Annual Audit Return – Proposed changes to figures supplied** – The External Auditors have suggested that the figures for last year should be restated as an extra bank account has now been included within the Audit as recommended by the Internal Auditor. The Council have discussed this point and do not want the figures to be restated as this bank account was opened several years ago and has not been included before.
Mrs Jenny Lloyd proposed and Miss Hazel Scofield seconded that no change is to be made. All in favour.

Item 114 **Finance** – a) Payments sign off

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 30 hrs. @ £9.94	298.20			LGHA1989,s.7
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		253.03	2433	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hrs. 8 hrs. @ £7.21	57.68			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		72.31	2434	
Inland Revenue	PAYE August 2012		66.60	2435	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self employed monthly contract		100.00	2436	LGA1953,s.4
Truelink Ltd	Grass cutting contract		168.00	2437	OSA 1906 s.10
Queens Diamond Jubilee Earith	Donation		250.00	2438	LGA 1972 s.144
EVA	Earith Echo		220.00	2439	LGA 1972, s.145
Greenham Bunzl	Cleaning products		104.08	2440	LGHA 1989, s.7
Debit Card Expenses	Stamps and Key Cutting		35.20	Debit Card	LGA 1972 s.226
DCS Window Cleaning	Cleaning of Village Hall Windows		30.00	2441	LGA 1972, s.133
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		0.00	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	Total Spend for August 2012		£1,299.22		

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

Item 115 **Correspondence** – The Clerk received some correspondence from Mr Ray Zetter who maintains the Council website and he has sold his business onto a new owner who will charge around £35 per year for website maintenance. CAPALC have released their new training dates and Hansons are to have a meeting concerning the Needingworth Quarry at Over Community centre at 6pm on Monday 24th September. All other correspondence as per the file.

Item 116 **Items to report** – Mr Keith Hudson reported that residents have raised concerns regarding the footpath from no 35 Chapel Road to School Lane. It is very narrow in this area and the Clerk is to contact Mr Jason Tyrrell to discuss this. There are also large potholes on Meadow Way which need to be addressed.
The Clerk is to contact the planning department concerning 26 High Street as this is now very overgrown again and needs to be cleared.
The Clerk is to arrange for overgrown hedge letters to be sent to the houses along the Doctors Surgery Footpath as ivy is growing over from the cottage next to the Riverview and causing problems.

Mrs Jenny Lloyd reported that the road sign at Cooks Drove is damaged and the Clerk is to contact the Highways department to arrange for this to be reset.

Item 117 **Items for Future Meetings** – Village Hall improvements, Parish Plan, bus shelter refurbishment, Parish boundaries between Bluntisham and Earith re grass cutting.

Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 4th October 2012

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 01487 843983 email mpinkearithpc@aol.com
These minutes are unadopted.

Date 16th September 2012

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