

## Earith Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

### Held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)  
 Mr Alan Spackman  
 Ms Hazel Lambert  
 Mr Ron Hodge  
 Mrs Jenny Lloyd

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)  
 Mrs Marilyn Russell  
 Mrs Hazel Scofield  
 Mr James Woolstenholmes  
 Mr Jeff Nicholls

CC Mr Steve Criswell, 2 members of the public

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk

**Item 140**      **Apologies for Absence** – DC Mr Robin Carter, DC Mr Terry Rogers, Mr Keith Hudson

#### Open Meeting

**Item 141**      **Open Forum** – A member of the public put forward a suggestion for refurbishing the Bench at George Corner. See item 154.

**Item 142**      **Ecops Report** – The Clerk read out the latest Ecops report which highlighted some vehicle robberies in St Ives. The Police have also announced that they will be attending Parish Council meetings again and they are due to visit Earith Parish Council in February 2013.

**Item 143**      **County Council and District Council Reports** – CC Mr Steve Criswell said that the improvements to the pedestrian crossings were really good and the repainting of the road markings are still to be completed. Minnaars are seeking planning permission to operate as a distribution centre. Only 7.5 tonne vehicles and not HCV's.  
 DC Mr Robin Carter emailed to report that the trees and hedges near 25 Greenfields have been cut back. There is still no news regarding transfer cost for grass cutting and there are no plans for leaf removal this Autumn. HDC will clear the worst areas if there is a need and the pathway outside the Woodlands Care Home has been nominated. Work on the Darford potholes is still to be carried out but DC Carter will chase this up.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

**Item 144**      **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). Mr Alan Spackman, Mr Ron Hodge and Mr Jeff Nicholls declared an interest in Item 147 planning at 86 Greenfields.  
 Mr James Woolstenholmes declared an interest in Item 147 planning at 3-7 High Street.

**Item 145**      **To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on** – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
 Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mrs Hazel Scofield seconded that the minutes should be signed. All in favour.

**Item 146**      **Matters arising** – There were no matters arising.

**Item 147**      **Planning** – Application Ref: 1201529FUL– Erection of Single storey garage, 28 Cooks Drove  
 Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that this application is declined as it is outside of the building line for Cooks Drove. All in favour.

Application Ref: 1201432FUL Single Storey side extension, revised scheme, 23 Darford  
 Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that this application is accepted as there have not been any changes which will vastly alter the original planning application. All in favour

Application Ref: 1201542FUL Erection of 2, 4 bed dormer bungalows and 1 , 2 bed Cottage, 3-7 High Street  
 Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mrs Hazel Scofield seconded that this application is declined as there are still proposals for vehicular access to the High Street. The access onto the High Street is too close to the existing junction and the pedestrian crossing and there are still restricted sight lines. The

building work, if the development goes ahead, will also cause problems on the High Street. All in favour.

Application Ref: 1201593S73 Variation to condition 1 permission 0900811FUL to continue to use part of building as a dwelling on a permanent basis Earith Carp Lakes Patian Meadow Drove Mrs Hazel Scofield proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that this application is declined as it is outside of the residential planning lines for the village and no dwelling should be built in this area. There is also no official access to this site. It was also discussed that there was insufficient information given on the application to support the change of use. All in favour.

Application Ref: 1201554FUL Two storey extension and alterations to dwelling at 86 Greenfields. Mr James Woolstenholmes proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that this application is accepted but with concerns regarding the front elevation. The comment on the plans regarding built up windows was confusing and the Council have accepted this application provided the front elevation is a new flush, flat wall with no window indentations. All in favour

#### Item 148

**Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that the Police are now 6 months into their restructuring programme and they are to attend the Parish Council meeting in February. They will also be using the internet to post up to date information regarding current issues. There are no new enforcement issues to report although clarification was sought regarding a replacement garage at 1 Hereward. The owners did submit a planning enquiry in June and were told that planning permission was not needed as it fitted into the permitted development guidelines. The Chairman has been asked to do a reading for Remembrance Sunday on the 11<sup>th</sup> November at Bluntisham Church at 3pm. Miss Ann Brennan will be laying the wreath at the memorial at the bridge earlier in the day at around 12.30pm. The Chairman also mentioned the problem of rats at the allotments and she will contact the Environment Agency regarding this issue.

The central heating clock at the Village Hall has been altered for the winter and the timings extended but both the Chairman and the Clerk have been contacted over the past few weeks concerning the heating in the Village Hall. The problems that have been experienced are caused, in our opinion, by the hirers of the hall tampering with the heating controls. The Clerk was called out on a Wednesday morning at 8.30am by the Day Centre as they had no heating at all in the Hall. Following several attempts by the Clerk to solve the problem she contacted Rule and Parker who could not attend the fault for 2 days and would charge a call out fee of approximately £60. Electric heaters were sourced and the Clerk left the Village Hall after 2 hours of trying to sort out the problem where luckily she found a Heating Engineer who was working on a property near to the Hall. He then managed to solve the issue. The Chairman therefore asked the Council to agree to pay the Clerk for 2 extra hours following this problem. Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that this should be done. All in favour.

The Chairman was also concerned over the last few months regarding the tone/attitude that some residents take when they communicate with the Clerk. There are, of course issues that need to be raised but there is no need for anyone to shout, be rude or sarcastic to the Clerk. Several of these communications have happened quite late in the evening. Therefore, Item 159 has been added to the agenda for consideration.

#### Item 149

**Parish Council Representatives Report – HCV and Road Safety** –Mr Jeff Nicholls attended the HCV Environmental Test Conclusions meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October which clashed with the Parish Council meeting and reported that Dust levels in all areas were higher than expected. Noise levels were also high with the highest readings being noted at night time. Nitrogen Dioxide levels were in line with others tested in other areas but still high considering our rural position. Vibration is experienced 24/7 but is unlikely to cause immediate damage to properties. All the parishes are to make a joint approach to the County Council and the police to discuss the issues that have been raised.

Ms Hazel Lambert reported that the permissive bridleway has been temporarily closed at Hanson pits so that work can be carried out. It should hopefully be reopened in the Spring.

Mr Ron Hodge asked if the period of occupancy at the allotments could be changed back to October so that new occupants can clear and plant at the appropriate times. The Clerk is to write to the allotment holders to let them know about this change.

#### Item 150

**Refurbishment of the Village Hall** - The Clerk has obtained a cheaper quotation for adding hot water taps to connect with the boiler from the heating engineer who helped sort out the problems experienced by the Day Centre as highlighted in the Chairman's report.

Mr James Woolstenholmes proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that this quotation be accepted. All in favour.

- Item 151**      **Christmas Tree lights – Location** – Miss Ann Brennan arrange a site survey in conjunction with Somersham Christmas Lights Committee and they are happy that a cherry picker can be used to add lights to the tree outside the Village Hall. Electricity can be obtained from the Village Hall and 10 strings of lights and a transformer are to be purchased at an approximate cost of £600. The lights will be purchased, put up, taken down, stored and PAT tested by the Somersham Committee. We are to make a donation to the cost of the Cherry Picker.  
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that this can be organised. All in favour.  
Miss Ann Brennan is to make the arrangements for around the 1<sup>st</sup> week in December.
- Item 152**      **Grass Cutting in Earith** –DC Mr Robin Carter is still looking into funding from the District and County Councils and The Clerk is still obtaining quotations for grass cutting.
- Item 153**      **Lights at the Recreation Field** – The Clerk has found an electrician who will help fix the lights at the Recreation Field but he will need access to a cherry picker as they are too high to be worked on with a ladder. The Chairman will try and source assistance from the local residents.
- Item 154**      **Refurbishment of Village Bench at corner of Colne Road** – The Clerk has been contacted by a resident who is happy to refurbish the bench over the winter months for the Village. Mr Ron Hodge and Mr James Woolstenholmes will arrange to have the bench moved to the resident's house when he is happy to begin the work needed. The Parish Council would like to thank the resident for his help in this matter.
- Item 155**      **Hermitage Road – Earith – Potential site for Rural Exception Housing** – The Clerk has received a letter from HDC who have expressed an interest in developing an area at the end of Hermitage Road for affordable housing for the Village. The Clerk is to invite the HDC representative to attend the meeting in January 2013 to give the Council more information regarding this idea.
- Item 156**      **Winter Gritting – new bin needed due to removal of existing bin at Vermuyden** – The grit bin has been stolen from the corner at Vermuyden.  
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the Clerk should purchase a new bin. All in favour.
- Item 157**      **Pedestrian Crossing Signage** – The Chairman has had correspondence from Sharon Piper regarding the signage that has been erected following improvements to the Pedestrian Crossings.  
Mr James Woolstenholmes proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the signage outside number 25 High Street should be removed. The Chairman is to contact Sharon Piper.
- Item 158**      **Annual Return – External Auditors Report** – The Clerk informed the Council that the annual return had been finalised as qualified by the External Auditors due to adding the monies held in a savings account into the main accounts as recommended by the Internal Auditor. They also mentioned the reclaim of VAT element concerning the refurbishment of the Pavilion. Both of these items had been fully investigated by the Internal Auditor who had given the External Auditors all the relevant information that they needed to enable them to make their report. They however, requested several other items from the Clerk which resulted in significant charges being made by the External Auditors. Both the Clerk and the Internal Auditor expressed their concern and disappointment following the External Auditors comments. The Council all agreed with the Clerk and the Internal Auditor that the External Auditor had acted in a bullish manner and did not need to report so severely when these elements had already been debated in depth by the Internal Auditor and the Clerk.  
The Council stated that the Clerk had acted upon their instructions in all things and they were happy with the way that the Annual Return had been completed.
- Item 159**      **Office Communications – Mobile Phone contract for the Clerk** – Due to the problems that the Chairman had highlighted in her report a mobile phone contract was discussed for the Clerk. This would alleviate problems with late night calling as a recorded message would be used to alert the public to the working times for the Clerk as she only works part time for a total of 30 hours **PER MONTH**  
Mr James Woolstenholmes proposed and Mr Ron Hodge seconded that this should be sorted out. All in favour.

**Item 160 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	2452	
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	2453	
Inland Revenue	PAYE October 2012		66.60	2454	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self employed monthly contract		100.00	2455	LGA1953,s.4
Truelink Ltd	Grass cutting contract		336.00	2456	OSA 1906 s.10
Mr M S Pink	Bus Shelter Refurbishment		104.98	2457	LGA (MP)1953 s.4
Colin Barson Electrical	Outside Light Repair		90.00	2458	LGA 1972, s.133
Mr Ron Hodge	Pond Maintenance		16.80	2459	PHA 1936, s.260
DCS Window Cleaning	Village Hall Windows		13.00	2460	LGA 1972 s.133
Ms Hazel Lambert	Newsletter Printing		33.00	2461	LGA 1972 s.232
Moore Stephens	External Auditor Costs		791.40	2462	ACA 1998 s.7
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		58.22	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	<b>Total Spend for October 2012</b>		<b>£1,935.34</b>		

Miss Ann Brennan proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that the finances should be accepted. All in Favour.

**Item 161 Correspondence** – The Clerk has been contacted regarding the expiration of the website domain name. Mr Alan Spackman is to sort this out. The Clerk has also received a letter concerning the cutting of a hedge in Adelaide Walk which runs down to the ECA field. Miss Ann Brennan is to sort this out. All other correspondence as per the file.

**Item 162 Items to report** – Mrs Jenny Lloyd requested that the Internal Christmas tree and lights be sorted out ready for use. The Clerk is to send a Hedge cutting letter to 3 Orchard Crescent. The Hedge needs to be cut back to the fence. The Chairman reported that the Police Commissioner polling day is the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at the Village Hall.

**Item 163 Items for Future Meetings** –Parish Plan, Parish boundaries between Bluntisham and Earith, White lining at the Recreation Field Car Park, Bench Replacement, Risk Assessments and Play Ground Inspections, Precept.

**Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

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

Date 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012

[www.earithparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.earithparishcouncil.co.uk)