

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Held on Thursday 2nd March 2017

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mr Terry Rogers
 Mr John Fulcher
 Mrs Marilyn Russell
 Mr James Woolstenholmes

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mr Gavin Young
 Mr Jeff Nicholls
 Mr Alan Spackman
 Mrs Jenny Lloyd

DC Mr Mike Francis, CC Mr Steve Criswell
 Mandy Pink – Clerk

4 members of the public

Item 262 Apologies for absence –DC Mr Robin Carter

Open Meeting at 7.35pm

Item 263 Open Forum – Presentation by ERICA – Earith River Island Conservation Association – There is a meeting planned for Friday at 6.30pm to discuss the River Island and what the group of volunteers hope to achieve regarding maintenance and ongoing upkeep of the River Island. The working party advisory group will report back to the Council at regular intervals and will not incur any costs without consulting with the Council first. Dates to go onto the Island must be agreed along with access to the Island. A tree surgeon will be consulted before any work is carried out to trees on the island and risk assessments and method statements will be made prior to work commencing.

Mr Wardell, Chairman of the School Governors announced that the school will **not** be closing. The Governors are working closely with the Local Authority to establish both short term and long term goals. The school Ofsted report is good and the Governors wish to maintain this standard.

A representative from Earith Kidz Klub reported that the after school and holiday children's care facility is likely to close down unless further funding can be found. A guaranteed roll number of 4 children would secure the facility for the short term. An emergency meeting will be held on Monday the 6th March and the council will display notices and add this as an item on the Parish Council website.

Item 264 Ecops Report – The Clerk reported that there had been a number of attempted dwelling break ins, thefts from cars and a theft at the Industrial estate. A house in Parrens Road had also had damage to its windows caused by possible air gun pellets. There had also been 2 thefts of lead from the church roof.

Item 265 County Council and District Council Reports – CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that the County Council are in discussion with the School as stated in the Open Forum.

The Earith to Bluntisham cycleway is being considered and a viability study is under way with funding to be looked at.

The Chairman raised an issue concerning the state of the Chatteris Road, resurfacing damage on the A1123 and surface damage to Barleycroft Corner.

DC Mr Mike Francis confirmed that HDC now have all the information concerning the closed churchyard and are looking to have a meeting to discuss what is needed.

Neil Sloper is organising a schedule for collecting litter on the roadside and he can be contacted on 01480 388635. There has been some fly tipping at High Bridge and DC Mr Francis will report this. Morrisons has now been approved and an application is currently underway for a fast food establishment opposite the Morrisons site. The rubbish bins in Chapel Road have not been collected and DC Mr Francis will report this.

(Close open Meeting) (Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 266 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted. None Received

Item 267 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 2011 c7.s27(3)(b). Councillor Young declared an interest in agenda items 270 and 280.

Item 268 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 2nd February 2017

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Terry Rogers seconded that the minutes should be signed.
 Resolved - All in favour.

Item 269 Matters arising – No hedge visits have been carried out

Item 270 Planning – Application Reference – 17/11241/FUL – Installation of horse riding arena (Menage) Livery Yard, New Farm, Meadow Lane, Earith

The Council discussed the application and the arena area occupies a field that is already there and already has horses using it. The addition of a new top surface and fencing will give the establishment more amenity space to provide additional services to the public. This area will not be lit.

Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this application is accepted.
Resolved – All in favour

- Item 271 Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that the rural exception housing development has now been handed over and the allocation has been split as follows 7 homes for people with Earith connections, 2 homes for people with connections to the adjoining villages and 2 homes for people with Huntingdonshire connections. Although the initial housing needs survey highlighted 12 families with Earith connections needing housing, over the time that it has taken to achieve this development, these people have already been housed or have changed circumstances. BPHA have been contacted concerning the grass verges.
The clerk has renegotiated the electricity contract and the Council have received a refund of £333.34 for the gas.
The Chairman requested that a Councillor representative attends the Parish Conference on Thursday the 30th March from 9.30 – 1.30 and possibly 2 Councillors are happy to attend.
The Clerk has received 42 requests for Parish Newsletter Subscribers from the website.
A resident has contacted the Clerk to ask the Council to consider a community orchard on the site of the Minnaars proposed development. There is already an orchard on this site but it does not belong to the Council. It is a plum orchard and because of the threat of silver leaf disease it would have to be removed and replanted and could not be refurbished and maintained as it is. The Clerk will inform the resident to contact the Minnaar Estate and the correspondence will be kept on file. The Clerk has also received an email from Miss Ellis concerning Plum Tree Farm as she thought that the council were objecting to the recent installation of electricity. The Parish Council had contacted HDC planning department who informed them that planning permission is not required for installation of utility services and that land owners do so at their own risk and cost, but the council are only concerned with the lack of planning permission on this site.
- Item 272 Parish Council Representatives Report –**
Road Safety and HCV – No report
Recreation Field and Play Equipment – The Clerk and Councillor Fulcher met with Wicksteed on site at the Pond and repairs have been agreed. It is hoped that the new play equipment will be installed prior to the Easter holidays.
Health and Safety – No report
Hanson update – No report.
PC Cluster Meetings – No report
Saywell Charity – No report
Ouse Valley Way update – There is a meeting planned but Councillor Young is unable to attend.
Rights of Way – No report
Village Pond – As above
Allotments – No report
Skeeles update – The Skeeles charity has received thanks for the bursaries given.
Earith Town Estate – No report
Community Plan – No report
Village Car Parks – No report
- Item 273 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made**– There is an overhanging bush at the corner of School Road. The Chairman has been given a letter from a resident concerning conifers in a garden in Hereward. The resident needs to contact the dwelling concerned and if they will not maintain the trees then they will need to contact the County Council. A resident at 7 Adelaide Walk has asked HDC to cut the hedge along the grass track leading to the ECA field from Cooks Drove and the Clerk will liaise with HDC concerning access.
- Item 274 Drains, Roads and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – No report
- Item 275 Cycle Way from Earith to Bluntisham to be discussed** – See comments from County Council in agenda item 265
- Item 276 Allotment wells update on quotations – 5 wells now found** – The Clerk tabled 2 quotations for brickwork surrounds for well covers and a quotation for wooden surrounds with hinged lockable lids. The quotation was £425.00 based on four wells but an additional well has now been found. The Clerk is to notify the plot owners that well surrounds are to be installed.
Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the quotation for wooden surrounds should be accepted but that the fifth well should also be included.
Resolved – All in favour
- Item 277 ERICA – discussion following on from presentation in the Open Forum** – The Council would like to thank the founding resident for putting together the volunteer group and the Clerk is to contact the Council insurers to see what needs to be done to ensure that the volunteers are covered.

Item 278 Youth Work – Connections Bus Project – The Clerk has received an email to say that the connections bus project is back up and running and are available to come to Earith if the demand for this facility can be proved. The Clerk is to add this as an article in the Earith Echo and Councillor Russell will ask Holly Saunders to include this on Facebook so that we can engage with as many of the Earith youth as possible to see if they are interested in the Council arranging for the connections bus to visit Earith. The cost per visit is £250 so the Council are keen to see if there is any interest before they commit funds to this project.

Item 279 Community Defibrillator agenda item requested by Councillor Brennan – Councillor Brennan reported that she had attended a community defibrillator course and that she found it very easy to use and would like to ask the Council to consider providing a community defibrillator in the village. The Clerk is to provide some additional information so that the Council can discuss this at the next meeting.

Item 280 Village Hall update – Request for additional cupboard storage space for the Over 60's - The Clerk has received an email from Mrs Denise Young requesting an additional storage cupboard for the Over 60's group in the village hall kitchen.
Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this can be actioned.
Resolved – All in favour

Item 281 Earith High Bridge – 2 new rubbish bins required and new signage if needed – The Clerk has received a request for additional rubbish bins at the High Bridge site. 2 signs also need to be replaced. The Chairman will organise the new signage and the Clerk will order 2 new bins costing approximately £107 each. These will need to be installed when received and the Clerk will organise this.
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that this should be actioned.
Resolved – All in favour

Item 282 Finance – a) Payments to sign off

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 42 hrs. @ £15.517	651.71			LGHA1989,s.7
	Clerks Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
	Mobile Phone monthly rental not taxable	12.00			LGHA1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		552.95	online	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hours 5.5 @ £8.566	47.11			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £8.566	21.42			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		67.73	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE & NI February 2017		136.66	2912	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – Self-employed monthly contact		150.00	Online	LGA 1953, s.4
CCC	Street Lighting Oct 15 – Sept 16		389.65	2913	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3
Parish Council Website	Website hosting annual fee		120.00	2914	LGA 1972, s.226
XL Displays	Notice Board		81.60	Dcard	Small holdings & allotments Act 1908
The Safe Shop Ltd	Post Box		68.44	Dcard	Small holdings & allotments Act 1908
Microsoft	Office 365 monthly cost		5.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
CNG	Village Hall Gas monthly charge		120.14	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
Axis	Village Hall Electricity monthly charge		28.01	DD	LGHA 1972 s.133
	Total Spend for February 2017		£1,721.17		

- Mrs Marilyn Russell proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that the payments should be signed off.
Resolved – All in Favour
- Online salary payments for March Miss Ann Brennan proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the payments should be made. Resolved – All in favour
- Chairman to sign the bank statement to confirm the online salary payments for February as above Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr John Fulcher seconded. Resolved – All in favour

Item 283 Correspondence – Email from resident concerning a near miss road accident on Colne Road. The Clerk advised the resident to notify the Police.

Item 284 Items for future meetings – River Slip Ways, Village Hall floor and chairs, WW1 commemoration, Risk Assessments, ERICA, Bus Project, Community Defibrillator

The Clerk asked the Council to agree the date for the Parish Meeting and a date of Monday the 24th April 2017 was agreed and the date for the Council Annual Meeting will be on Thursday the 11th May due to the elections in the Hall on Thursday 4th May

Meeting closed 9.45pm

Meeting Dates 2017
Thursday 6th April
Annual Parish Meeting Monday 24th April
Annual Council Meeting Thursday 11th May
Thursday 1st June
Thursday 1st July

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533

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These minutes are unadopted

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of notice – 11th March 2017