

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 3rd January 2013

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)
 Mr Alan Spackman
 Mrs Marilyn Russell
 Mr Ron Hodge
 Mr Jeff Nicholls

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mr James Woolstenholmes
 Mrs Jenny Lloyd

CC Mr Steve Criswell arrived at 9pm, DC Mr Robin Carter, DC Mr Terry Rogers

Mr Paul Foice from HDC , no members of the public

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 188 Apologies for Absence – Ms Hazel Lambert

Open Meeting

Item 189 Open Forum – Mr Paul Foice from HDC reported on the proposed development of land at Hermitage Road. This development would be affordable housing based on the “rural exception policy” which would provide affordable housing for residents of Earith or local persons connected to Earith residents only. The number of houses provided would depend on need and a survey would be done to determine the need.

Item 190 Ecops Report – no Ecops reports received.

Item 191 County Council and District Council Reports – DC Terry Rogers reported that savings will still need to be made to ensure budgets are met. Council tax benefits are to change but HDC are still partially funding services that are supplied. This partial funding is above the statutory requirements which are laid down by Central government.
 CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that there is money in the budget to help provide improvements to the Willingham Road although these changes will be only partial until solutions are fully investigated and the correct improvements can be identified. The Causeway flooding is to be looked at but this is not in the budget for the coming year. Although they are looking into ways that the management of the road closures can be modified to avoid undue closure should the road flood in the future. The HCV group are to have a meeting in February and it is the Parish Council who are to be the major point of contact for any road safety matters.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 192 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted. No dispensations were received for this meeting however Mr James Woolstenholmes and Mrs Marilyn Russell signed the general dispensation to discuss financial matters which was agreed in December.

Item 193 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 made.

Item 194 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 6th December 2012
 Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the minutes should be signed. All in favour.

Item 195 Matters arising – The road closure due to flooding is still a problem and the Clerk has written to the Environment Agency and the Highways Department but has had no reply at present. The Chairman has looked into the ownership of the trees along the Causeway and will contact the Highways Department to discuss ownership with them. She will arrange a meeting with Brian Ogden if the Highways Department are found to be the owners of these trees.

Item 196 Planning – No planning received.

- Item 197** **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that she is still investigating the trees along the Causeway. She also reported that we are still awaiting a response from the agencies contacted regarding the road closure.
Due to the road closure the road sign at Bridge End was knocked down by an articulated lorry which was forced to turn around as it was not aware that the road was actually closed due to inadequate road signage concerning the flooding.
Both the Chairman and the Clerk have been contacted regarding the disabled parking bays on Cooks Drove/Edwards Walk. They are both looking into this matter.
- Item 198** **Parish Council Representatives Report – HCV and Road Safety** – Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that the HDC letter to the Road Safety Committee was discussed at length and a reply will be sent as soon as the correct response has been agreed upon. The Road Safety Committee should still operate as a forum. He also reported on the Speedwatch sessions which have been carried out and there have been 14 sessions with 10% of drivers speeding and the highest speed recorded was 65mph along the High Street.
Miss Ann Brennan reported that the Skeeles charity which is an educational charity had received nine requests for grants and all had been approved.
- Item 199** **Land at Hermitage Road** – Mr Paul Foice provided additional information regarding this proposed development in the Open Forum. The Parish Council were asked if they would support this idea for development and a discussion took place.
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Council should support this idea for development. All in favour.
The Clerk is to write to confirm this decision.
- Item 200** **Earith Causeway bench replacement** –The Clerk has looked into the replacement of the bench and the cost should be no more than £300 for a reconstituted wooden bench.
Mr James Woolstenholmes proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the bench should be replaced and that the Clerk should ask Bluntisham Council for a 50% contribution towards the cost as the bench benefited both Parishes. All in favour
- Item 201** **White lining at recreational field car park** – The Council discussed this option and agreed that the Clerk should get costs for further discussion.
- Item 202** **Risk Assessments and Playground Inspections** – This item was moved to the February agenda for further discussion.
- Item 203** **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	Extra 2 hours re Day Centre	19.88			LGHA 1989, s.7
	Total Less Tax		253.03	2473	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hrs. 5 hrs. @ £7.21	36.05			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		55.08	2474	
Inland Revenue	PAYE December 2012		62.20	2475	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self-employed monthly contract		100.00	2476	LGA1953,s.4
Mr Ron Hodge	Pond Maintenance		25.60	2477	PHA 1936, s.260
Earith Timber Products	9w 2 pin lamp village hall		7.92	2478	LGA 1972, s.226
Earith, Bluntisham and Colne Royal British Legion	Donation		62.00	2479	LGA 1972, s.137
Tesco	2nd months rental		12.50	DD	LGA 1972 s.133
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		46.52	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	Total Spend for December 2012		£624.85		

Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that the finances should be accepted. All in Favour.

- Item 204** **Correspondence** –All other correspondence as per the file.
- Item 205** **Items to report** – Mrs Jenny Lloyd reported that she will sort out the Christmas decorations and the Chairman is to provide boxes. She was also concerned with the overgrown hedge as you come into Earith from Colne near the 30mph sign. The Chairman would look into this.
Miss Ann Brennan reported that she had changed the bulbs in the outside lights at the Village Hall but they were still not working. It was decided that the street light illuminated the door so no further action is to be taken. She would also look into the lights at the Recreational Field.
Mr Keith Hudson reported that the salt bin had been tipped out at Bridge End and Mr Ron Hodge is to sort this out.
- Item 206** **Items for Future Meetings** –Parish Plan, Parish boundaries between Bluntisham and Earith, Causeway and path refurbishment.

Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 7th February 2013

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533

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These minutes are unadopted.

Date 11th January 2013

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