

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 7th February 2013

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)

Mr Keith Hudson

Mr Ron Hodge

Mr Jeff Nicholls representing the council at another meeting - arrived at 9.30pm

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)

Mr James Woolstenholmes

Mrs Jenny Lloyd

CC Mr Steve Criswell , DC Mr Robin Carter,

Phil Davies and Angie PCSO's , no members of the public

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 207 Apologies for Absence – Mrs Marilyn Russell, Mr Alan Spackman, DC Mr Terry Rogers

Open Meeting

Item 208 Open Forum – No members of the public

Item 209 Ecops Report – Phil Davies and Angie (PCSO's) attended and reported that there had not been many incidences of crime in the village apart some a small incident of anti-social behaviour involving local residents causing damage with snow balls. There have however been some burglaries in St Ives and St Neots so they urged local residents to be vigilant. Mr Ron Hodge raised the problem of drug use within the village and patrols are to be continued around the back of the Village Hall and around the Earith High Bridge area.

Item 210 County Council and District Council Reports – CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that he is still in talks with the Environment Agency and the Highways department regarding the road closures due to flooding that have taken place recently. Signage and quicker action is to be discussed. There will be some work on the Earith Bridge which will result in road closure over the weekends beginning the 1st March until the 8th April. Monday to Friday the road will be controlled by temporary traffic signals at off peak times from 9.30 to 3.30. Some work will also be undertaken to the Willingham road which should commence in April – May.

He also reported that £32 million pounds of savings have to be made by the County Council for budgets to be maintained and that there will be a rise of 1.99% to the Council Tax.

DC Mr Robin Carter reported that there will be changes to the District Councils lettings policy in April and if you are concerned about this you can contact Jo Coleen at Housing on 01480 388220. The Rural Cambs Citizens Advice Bureau will be opening for any residents who are having difficulties and they can be contacted on 0844 245 1292. District Council budgets and savings are still being considered but they will continue to maintain services.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 211 Co-Option/Election of new Councillor – Item to be moved to the next agenda.

Item 212 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted. No dispensations were received for this meeting.

Item 213 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). Miss Ann Brennan declared an interest in item 220 and Mr Ron Hodge declared an interest in item 216 planning for 86 Greenfields.

Item 214 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 3rd January 2013
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Ron Hodge seconded that the minutes should be signed. All in favour.

Item 215 Matters arising – None reported.

- Item 216** **Planning** – Application Reference – 1300017FUL – two storey extension to 86 Greenfields.
The Council carefully considered this proposal and having considered the HDC comments regarding the original application for planning decided to decline this application as it was not in keeping with other houses in this area. They also felt that the extension was still too large for the plot area. Mrs Jenny Lloyd proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this proposal be declined. One councillor voted to abstain but all others were in favour.
Application Reference – 1201739FUL – 70 High Street change of use of existing land and buildings from commercial to residential use.
Mr James Woolstenholmes proposed and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that this application is accepted as it will smarten up this area and make it more visually appealing. All in favour.
- Item 217** **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that she is still investigating the ownership of the trees along the Causeway as this is an area which needs to be attended to. She also reported that we are still awaiting a response from the agencies contacted regarding the road closure.
The Edwards Walk/Darford development plans are still being looked into and a meeting is to be arranged to discuss this either next week or the first week in March.
The Chairman also reported that the installation of the hot water in the Village Hall will commence on Friday 15th. Hot water is to be plumbed into the kitchen and the ladies and gents' toilets
The Village Hall is to be used as a polling station on the 2nd May so the Council AGM will be held on the 9th May. Due to these change of dates the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the 25th April.
- Item 218** **Parish Council Representatives Report – HCV and Road Safety** - Ms Hazel Lambert reported that the Ouse Washes development programme is to be discussed and 2013 will still be at development stage. The project should commence in 2014. Ms Hazel Lambert will be presenting the plans at the April council meeting. She is hoping that a further Councillor will join her to help with the organisation of this development.
Mr Jeff Nicholls joined the meeting at 9.30pm due to attending a local HCV meeting where they discussed their proposals for the forth coming general HCV meeting to be held on the 21st February.
- Item 219** **Jubilee Commemorative Tree – Update** – Ms Hazel Lambert and Mr Ron Hodge have now taken delivery of the commemorative tree and this will be planted shortly. An official opening ceremony will then be arranged. A plaque and press release will be sorted when the tree has been planted.
- Item 220** **ECA Field – Renewal of Lease** – The Clerk has not received any new applications for the ECA Field lease and Mrs Jenny Lloyd proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the lease is to be renewed for animal grazing for Miss Ann Brennan with the same conditions stipulated with the 2012 lease. All in favour.
- Item 221** **Adoption of official complaints procedure for administration and procedures of the Council only** – The Clerk, through her CILCA training programme, has been alerted to the fact that an official complaints procedure is needed. She drafted a proposal based on the NALC procedure legal topic note 9.
Miss Ann Brennan proposed and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that this proposal be adopted by the Council. All in favour.
- Item 222** **Internal painting of the Village Hall** – The Clerk obtained three quotations for this work to be carried out. The Council accepted the quotation from Mr Ian Ankin and work is to be carried out before the end of March.
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded. All in favour.
- Item 223** **Grass Cutting – additional areas – final decision to be made** – The Clerk reported that the County Council are happy for the Parish Council to undertake the grass cutting areas that they normally maintain. They normally carry out three cuts per year and they will fund this work based on a figure still to be confirmed but probably in the region of £200 per cut. Based on the Parish Councils decision at the December meeting item 177 it was agreed to instruct the current contractor to cut the new areas as specified on the County Council grass cutting maps supplied.
- Item 224** **Risk Assessments and Playground Inspections** – Mr Keith Hudson reported that the large swings were coming loose and Ms Ann Brennan is to investigate this before the inspections and risk assessments take place. This item was therefore moved to the March agenda for further discussion.

Item 225 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			LGHA 1989, s.7
	Total Less Tax		253.03	2480	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hrs. 7 hrs. @ £7.21	50.47			LGA1972,s.133
	Cleaning cloths expenses	0.36			
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		67.06	2481	
Inland Revenue	PAYE January 2013		65.00	2482	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self-employed monthly contract		100.00	2483	LGA1953,s.4
DCS Window Cleaning	Village Hall windows		30.00	2484	LGA 1972, s.133
Truelink Limited	Grass Cutting		168.00	2485	OSA 1906, s.10
Cambridge County Council	Purchase of new grit bin		114.00	2486	HA 1972, ss.43,50
Greenham Bunzl	Village Hall Cleaning products		68.39	2487	LGA 1972, s.133
SLCC Membership	Annual Renewal		86.00	2488	LGA 1972, s.143
Tesco	Mobile phone 3rd months rental		12.50	DD	LGA 1972 s.133
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		48.69	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	Total Spend for January 2013		£1,012.67		

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

Item 226 Correspondence –All other correspondence as per the file.

Item 227 Items to report – Ms Ann Brennan reported that the QDJ fund are arranging to have a silhouette sculpture of a bandy player made to be erected in the village pond. The Clerk is investigating planning permission for this. It was suggested that the QDJ could donate the sculpture to the Council so that the Council could place it in the pond.

Mrs Jenny Lloyd had to call out the handyman to grit a portion of road due to a resident falling and hurting their arm. She wanted to pass on the Councils thanks that this was done.

Ms Hazel Lambert reported that there was a large pot hole in the road near to the pond and the Chairman is to contact the Highways department regarding this.

Item 228 Items for Future Meetings –Parish Plan, Parish boundaries between Bluntisham and Earith, Causeway and path refurbishment.

Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 7th March 2013

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533
These minutes are unadopted.

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Date 8th February 2013

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