

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 7th March 2013

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mr Ron Hodge
 Mrs Marilyn Russell
 Mr Jeff Nicholls

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mr Alan Spackman
 Mrs Jenny Lloyd
 Mr Robert Sherriff

CC Mr Steve Criswell, 1 member of the public Mr Robert Sheriff

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 229 Apologies for Absence – Mr James Woolstenholmes, DC Mr Terry Rogers, and DC Mr Robin Carter

Open Meeting

Item 230 Open Forum – No members of the public

Item 231 Ecops Report – The Clerk read out Ecops' reports referring to a number of burglaries in the area. There have also been Broadband Canvassers in the area calling in No Cold Calling Zones. A Police surgery is to be held at the Bluntisham Service Station at 11.30 – 1pm on the 23rd March 2013.

Item 232 County Council and District Council Reports – CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that one of the residents disabled parking bays in Edwards Walk is to be decommissioned soon but until this happens the bay is still in force and parking tickets will be issued for residents that park in these areas. The road survey for Earith Causeway has now been completed and confirms that the road is lower than the verge in some places and these areas are to be built up slightly to help alleviate the flooding problems that occur on this road. Repairs to the Willingham road are scheduled for May but road closures have not yet been confirmed.
 DC Robin Carter emailed to say that repairs to potholes in Darford are to go ahead and the new road sign has been ordered at Bridge End.
 DC Terry Rogers emailed an update regarding the Darford/Edwards Walk parking areas which will be discussed at item 243.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 233 Co-Option/Election of new Councillor – Mr Robert Sherriff was asked to give a presentation to the Council as he has applied to become a new Parish Councillor. He is married, with 2 children who have both passed through the village school and has lived in the village for 19 years. His family are also residents of the village.

Mr Sherriff was asked to leave the room whilst the vote took place.

Miss Ann Brennan proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that Mr Sheriff should be co-opted onto the Council. All in favour.

Mr Sherriff returned to the room and signed his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the Council table for the remainder of the meeting.

Item 234 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted. No dispensations were received for this meeting.

Item 235 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 238 regarding Olde Walls, Chapel Road and Mr Alan Spackman declared an interest in item 238 regarding the BT cabinet installation.

Item 236 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 7th February 2013
 Mrs Jenny Lloyd proposed and Mr Ron Hodge seconded that the minutes should be signed. All in favour.

- Item 237** **Matters arising** – Ms Hazel Lambert reported that the commemorative tree, item 219, has now been planted and that item 227, the pothole near the pond has now been filled. Mr Ron Hodge reported that item 209 should have read the Bridge End Car Park and not the Earith High Bridge.
- Item 238** **Planning** – Application Reference – 1300012FUL – Alterations and extensions to dwelling. To include demolition of existing garage and alterations to front wall - Olde Walls, Chapel Road. The size of the extension was discussed and although the additions will take up a large area within the existing plot it was decided that as the extension is mainly to the right of the property and this does not overlook anyone then this application should be accepted. The style and overall look of the extension would be in keeping with the area as there are properties on this road of varying shapes and sizes.
Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this proposal be accepted. All in favour.
Application Reference – Town and Country Planning order 2001 – Installation of BT broadband cabinet – verge of 9 Colne Road situated in Chapel Road
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that this application is accepted as it will help to bring faster broadband into the area which will benefit all residents. All in favour.
Application Reference 1300282TREE – Felling and removal of 2 horse chestnut trees at 19 Vermuyden.
Mrs Jenny Lloyd proposed and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that this application is accepted as the trees are causing structural damage and subsidence to the property. All in favour.
- Item 239** **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that the hot water has now been installed in the Village Hall and she has received thanks from the Hall users. Health and Safety notices have been put up to highlight the hot water.
The Clerk has received notices from British Gas for the renewal of the Gas contract for the Village Hall and it was decided to stay with British Gas for another year and then different options would be looked at next year. It was decided to stay with British Gas for the supply of the electricity for a fixed two year period as these prices would be cheaper than we are paying now. Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that the Clerk should confirm a 2 year fixed deal with British Gas for the supply of electricity.
The ownership of the grassed area to the side of 27 Chapel Road has been confirmed as the home owner and the Clerk is to write to the homeowner to ask them to maintain this grassed area. The Chairman, Clerk and DC Terry Rogers and DC Robin Carter had a meeting with Bluntisham Parish Council to discuss the boundary issues. Bluntisham Parish Council agreed with Earith Parish Council that the boundary does indeed go around the corner as far as the horse field going towards Bluntisham. Grass cutting was discussed and the Clerk is to give costs to Bluntisham regarding the area which Earith currently cuts on their behalf. It was agreed that the state of the trees along the causeway was a bigger issue and this should be looked into immediately if possible. DC's Rogers and Carter are to contact the Environment Agency and County Council to see if they can ascertain the exact ownership issue. County Council have looked into this already and say that the landowner, under a riparian agreement, is the owner of the trees. This is to be looked into further. The footpath along the causeway is also an issue and the County Council are to add this to their maintenance schedule and hopefully something will be done this year regarding the footpath.
The Chairman also contacted the planning department regarding the planning application for the Carp Lakes in Earith. It was noted that our reasons for declining the application were valid as we were not aware of the previous planning history involved in this case. An appeal hearing has been held and temporary permission has been granted for continued use of part of the dwelling for residential use. The Chairman again asked the planning department to furnish the Parish Council with renewed planning guidelines to help us with the planning applications which we consider.
- Item 240** **Parish Council Representatives Report – HCV and Road Safety** - Mr Jeff Nicholls attended a HCV meeting where the continued use of the A1123 was discussed and it was hoped that as the Ely southern bypass goes ahead and improvements are made to the A14 that the use of the A1123 will decline as a HCV route. The County Council also re-iterated their desire to work more closely with the Parish Councils in Road related issues.
Ms Hazel Lambert attended an Ouse Washes partnership meeting and she realised that although the grant had been approved for works to be carried out to improve the High Bridge area the plans that she submitted for the improvement works do not fit in with the Heritage fund plans for this area. Therefore she proposed that the Council withdraws from this project and looks for grant aid elsewhere so that our plans can be carried out without restrictions from other bodies. Mr Alan Spackman seconded this proposal and Ms Lambert will contact the Ouse Washes Partnership to officially withdraw from this initiative. All in favour.

- Item 241 Adoption of existing website for our own use. To be administered by the Council –** The Clerk has been notified that the current website is no longer being updated so she has requested that the Council take over the website and administer it themselves. The cost will be £80 and this includes a years' worth of hosting the site. When the new site is up and running an additional amount of hours for the Clerk to administer the site will be discussed.
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Clerk should sort this out. All in favour
- Item 242 Bench/memorial request for Earith resident for consideration –** The Chairman has received an email from a member of the public to request that a bench/memorial be erected in the Village to honour his father who served in the RAF and won medals for active service during the war. The Clerk is to look into costs for a reconstituted bench and base and these prices will be passed onto the claimant for consideration.
- Item 243 Darford and Chapel Road Parking – request for financial contribution by HDC -** The Clerk has received an email from Frank Mastrandrea of HDC requesting that the Parish Council make a contribution towards the cost of improving the parking to the Darford/Chapel road car park areas and that they then maintain and provide lighting for this area once it has been refurbished. This request was considered and as the Parish Council has already set their budgets for the forthcoming year then this cannot be considered immediately, however a nominal contribution may be considered in the next year's budget. The Clerk is to write to HDC to request that in the mean time they actively maintain this area to an acceptable standard as it is a HDC owned car park and as such should be maintained by HDC themselves.
Miss Ann Brennan proposed and Mr Ron Hodge seconded that the Clerk is to respond to this request as above. All in favour.
- Item 244 Village Hall refurbishment – Floor and blinds. –** The Chairman has looked into replacing the blinds within the Village Hall. There are six windows and an approximate cost would be £38 per blind. This would further enhance the Village Hall following the painting which is to commence on the 13th March. The Clerk is also to look into the problem with the floor due to the tree root which has encroached into the Village Hall over the years. She is to confer with a tree surgeon to see if there is anything that can be done to improve the current uneven floor.
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded. All in favour.
- Item 245 Risk Assessments and Playground Inspections –** Due to the unforeseen continued bad weather the playground inspections have still not been carried out. The Clerk is to chase this up and this item is therefore to be moved to the April agenda.
- Item 246 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	2490	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hrs. 7 hrs. @ £7.21	50.47			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		66.50	2491	
Inland Revenue	PAYE February 2013		65.20	2492	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self-employed monthly contract		100.00	2493	LGA1953,s.4
Mr Ron Hodge	Pond Maintenance		26.80	2494	PHA 1936, S.260
Moss Mynett Services	Hot Water installation Village Hall		1920.00	2495	
Cambridge County Council	Purchase of new grit bin		114.00	2496	HA 1972, ss.43,50
EVA	Earith Echo		220.00	2497	LGA 1972, s.133
Tesco	Mobile phone 3rd months rental		12.50	DD	LGA 1972 s.133
British Gas	Village Hall Gas		326.81	DD	LGA 1972,s.133
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		48.69	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	Total Spend for February 2013		£3,140.52		

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

Item 247 **Correspondence** –All other correspondence as per the file. The Clerk drew the councillor's attention to the census 2011 results which were in the file along with various Council Tax communications.

Item 248 **Items to report** – Mr Keith Hudson reported that the owner of the hedge in Darford that needs cutting has complained again as the hedge problem has still not been addressed. The Chairman is to contact DC Robin Carter to chase this up.
Mr Ron Hodge reported that cars have started to park on the Village Green. The Chairman is to have signs made to confirm that there is no parking allowed on the grass.

Item 229 **Items for Future Meetings** –Parish Plan

Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 4th April 2013

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

email mpinkearithpc@aol.com

Date 16th March 2013

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