

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 6th June 2013

Present – Councillors

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

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

CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Robin Carter, 6 members of the public

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 44 **Apologies for absence** – DC Mr Terry Rogers

Open Meeting

Item 45 **Open Forum** – Mr Chris Hudson, RSPB, presented a proposal to build a footpath from the High Bridge to the Sluice Bridge along the right hand side of the A1123 as you enter the village. This path would be of rudimentary design with kissing gates at either end. It would not be of tarmac and kerbstone construction but would serve as a means of accessing the High Bridge site without walking on the Highway. At present the land around the War Memorial is causing a slight problem. Mr Hudson put two proposals to the Council to consider: 1) To enable this to happen a 50cm – 1m approx. wide pathway would need to be made along the outside of the war memorial so the fence to the war memorial would be moved back by this distance to allow access to the Riverbank at the Sluice Gate end. 2) The path would run through the War Memorial by putting gates on each end of the present enclosure. These options will be discussed and a decision would be made at the July meeting.

Mr Mark Deas, Cambridgeshire Acre, discussed the Housing Needs Survey which has been carried out to determine if land at the back of Hermitage, which is owned by the Huntingdonshire District Council could be a potential site for housing based on the Rural Exception Policy which enables homes to be built for residents of Earith and people linked to Earith only. This would not be housing for all but specifically for those people that have a need that are linked to Earith. The housing needs register has highlighted that there is a need for potentially 8 - 12 dwellings, of varying sizes to be built in this area. 2 x 1 bed properties, 6 x 2 bed properties and 4 x 3 bed properties are being considered. This item was discussed and a decision will be made at the July meeting.

Mr Brian Burpitt, Speedwatch, presented a proposal for permanent “Community Speedwatch operates here” signs to be erected at the entrance and exit points within the village, namely at either end of the High Street and at Colne Road. (Speedwatch operates in the village) These signs could potentially be affixed to existing road signs which have already been erected. The cost would be in the region of £350 - £400 and these costs have been agreed by Amanda Mays at the County Council. The proposal was discussed and a decision would be made at the July meeting.

A further presentation was given about the need for a skate park within the village and a village survey has been carried out and 66 names have been counted. Information was given concerning a “temporary ramps for a day” trial which can be carried out to see if this is needed. Costs and information have been given to the Clerk. A committee is to be formed from the people requesting the skate park so that grants can be applied for.

The Chairman is gathering information from neighbouring villages that already have skate parks to enable a thorough investigation into the matter to be undertaken by the Council.

Mr Robert Sherriff has also been finding out relevant facts concerning this.

Item 46 **Ecops Report** – The Clerk read out Ecops’ reports referring to further house burglaries, cycle thefts and thefts of fishing tackle. There has also been an incident concerning driving away from the Bluntisham petrol station without paying for fuel. Miss Ann Brennan also reported that there have been further diesel thefts in the area.

The Ecops reports highlighted details of preventative measures to ensure that your houses, cycles and sheds are securely locked to deter thieves.

Item 47 **County Council and District Council Reports** – CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that there have been some further additions to the planning application for Colne Fen Quarry and this is to be discussed at item 52.

DC Robin Carter reported that the consultation on the Local Plan has commenced and will continue until the 26th July. Comments can be made online and there is also to be a public meeting concerning this. Details are to be given to the Clerk for circulation.

Dates have been suggested to the homeowner at Darford and the contractors to meet to discuss the issue with the fence.

The Colne Road Sign is not to be re-erected as there is now a dispute concerning where Colne Road actually starts.

The Clerk is to meet with Mr Carter at the Chapel Road car park area to take photographs and have a site visit.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

- Item 48** **Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted.** No dispensations were received for this meeting.
- Item 49** **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 were made.
- Item 50** **To sign minutes of Parish Council AGM meeting held on – 9th May13**
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Ron Hodge seconded that the minutes should be signed.
Resolved - All in favour.
- Item 51** **Matters arising** – Miss Ann Brennan asked if any correspondence had been received concerning the tree at 199 Greenfields. The Chairman read out an email that DC Mr Terry Rogers had received confirming that the District Council had some system failures which allowed for this tree to be removed. There has not yet been any correspondence received by the Clerk concerning our letter about this.
A site visit is to be arranged concerning the London Plane Tree at the Village Hall.
- Item 52** **Planning** – Application Reference – H/05001/13/CW – Restoration at Colne Fen Quarry using imported inert waste to create conservation habitats.
An amended traffic movement report has been circulated concerning this application and the number of lorry movements is now uncertain. A discussion was held by the Council to consider these new proposals.
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this amendment should be rejected.
Resolved – All in favour.
The Clerk sent a letter to the rights of way officer, Camilla Haggett to reopen the right of way at Colne Fen Quarry until works commence. A reply has been given to say that this proposal is justified and the Huntingdon District Council will consult with Cambridgeshire County Council to see if this can be reopened.

Application Reference – 1300709FUL – Conversion of double garage, side extensions and first floor extension to create additional living space and annexe at 29 High Street
Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that this is accepted. Resolved – All in Favour
- Item 53** **Chairman’s Report** – The Chairman has received correspondence concerning changes to the planning guidance and the Clerk is to put a link to this on the website. Kerbside collection of electrical items has not been tabled as an agenda item as other flyers are being distributed concerning this. The Clerk is to keep this correspondence on file for consideration next year.
The Clerk has received a letter from Mr Dow’s solicitors concerning the ownership of the trees along Earith Causeway. She has forwarded this onto the County Council for a reply to be given. CC Mr Steve Criswell is dealing with this.
The Clerk is to contact all Hall Hirers concerning the introduction of a key log as advised by our insurers to enable the key to the hall to be logged in and out to further improve the Hall security. The Chairman has contacted the Vicar to request that a representative from Earith Parish Council is appointed to the board of trustees for the Saywell Charity. She has not had a reply as yet.
The Clerk has contacted the Women’s Institute to request the return of their key to the Village Hall notice board as a very important notice was removed and destroyed by the Women’s Institute representative. It was agreed by the Council that only Parish Council notices are displayed on this board and all communication regarding this must be carried out via the Clerk.

- Item 54** **Appointment of Council Representatives** – The Councillors discussed this item and new representatives have been appointed. The Clerk is to retype the list and circulate.
- Item 55** **Parish Council Representatives Report – HCV and Road Safety** - Mr Brian Burpitt addressed the meeting on behalf of Mr Jeff Nicholls to discuss the Road Safety meeting. The Environmental Survey is still ongoing and results are to be discussed. The County Council have a new transport strategy document which Mr Burpitt will email links to the Clerk. Willingham Parish Council have vetoed the major road refurbishment plans for the B1050 from Willingham to Earith as they want a complete new road to be built. This will cost millions of pounds which the County Council do not have within their budget. Repairs are still to be done to the road but not the major refurbishment work that was expected. The Road Safety Group have requested that the Parish Council write to the County Council concerning this. Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Clerk writes to the County Council. Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 56** **Cutting and tidying of Doctors Surgery footpath** – The Chairman and Mr Ron Hodge met with regard to the overgrown ivy, trees etc along the Doctors Surgery footpath. The actual fence belongs to the Riverview but it was agreed that the trees, ivy etc on the footpath side needed cutting and tidying. A quotation for this work was tabled. Mr James Woolstenholmes proposed and Mr Robert Sherriff seconded to accept. Resolved – All in Favour
- Item 57** **Adoption of the Freedom of Information Act Model Publication Scheme** – The Clerk, following on from her Cilca training was unsure if this publication scheme had been adopted so it was decided to include this as an agenda item for clarification. Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that this is adopted. Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 58** **Revision of Village Hall Hire Charges – Recommendation to increase costs due to refurbishment of the Hall**
New uniform hire charges were proposed due to the recent refurbishment of the Hall. The Chairman tabled a motion to increase the costs and to make them uniform for all hirers. A cost of £15.00 per hour for night time hire 7pm – 11pm and £7.50 for day time hire from 9am – 7pm. The costs for village organisations were also discussed and the Day Centre is still to remain as a free of charge hire and the Women’s Institute and POEs/Pantomime costs are to be increased to £5.00 per hour. A month’s notice is to be given to all hirers concerning these rises. Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the charges are adopted immediately. Resolved – All in Favour
- Item 59** **Proposal to acquire Parish Council owned land adjacent to 2a High Street** – The Council considered the proposal by the home owner at 2a High Street to acquire this parcel of land adjacent to 2a. In order for this to happen a public meeting would need to be held and a survey and valuation would need to be arranged. It was decided that even if the land was privately owned the problems that are occurring in this area would only move to another part of the village. The Council discussed ways in which to alleviate the problem via erection of fences etc but decided that again if these measures were taken problems would still arise. It was therefore decided that although the Council sympathise with the home owner that the land should remain as Council owned. Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that the land should remain as Council land. Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 60** **Grass Cutting – Earith to Bluntisham – additional area to be considered.**
The Clerk pointed out that there is still an area along the Earith to Bluntisham road that is not included within the remit of the County, District or Parish to maintain. The area along the right hand side along this stretch of road as you go out of the village remains uncut. The Council discussed that this area of grass should be included within the Parish remit and that the Clerk should contact the Parish Contractors to instruct them to include this area in the cutting schedules. Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this work should be carried out. Resolved – All in Favour

Item 61 Finance – a) Payments to sign off

| Payee | Description | | £ | Chq | Powers |
|------------------------------|--|--------|------------------|------|-------------------|
| Mrs K M Pink | Clerks Wages 32 hrs. @ £9.94 | 318.08 | | | LGHA1989,s.7 |
| xx | Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21 | 18.03 | | | LGHA 1989, s.7 |
| | Total Less Tax | | 268.91 | 2515 | |
| 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 | | 73.91 | 2516 | |
| Inland Revenue | PAYE May 2013 | | 69.00 | 2517 | LGA1972,s.112-119 |
| Mr M S Pink | Parish Handyman – self-employed monthly contract | | 100.00 | 2518 | LGA1953,s.4 |
| Earith Villagers Association | Earith Echo | | 220.00 | 2519 | LGA 1972, s.133 |
| JW Electrical | Electrical work at Village Hall | | 37.20 | 2520 | LGA 1972, s.133 |
| Truelink Ltd | Grass Cutting Contract | | 168.00 | 2521 | OSA 1906, s.10 |
| Zurich Municipal | Annual Insurance Renewal | | 1291.83 | 2522 | LGA 1972, s.111 |
| Tesco | Mobile phone 7th months rental | | 12.50 | DD | LGA 1972 s.133 |
| British Gas | Village Hall Gas | | 330.54 | DD | LGA 1972, s.133 |
| British Gas | Village Hall Electricity | | 47.88 | DD | LGA1972,s.133 |
| | Total Spend for May 2013 | | £2,609.50 | | |

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

Item 62

Correspondence - All other correspondence as per the file

The Clerk drew the councillor's attention to a road closure in Cooks Drove from the 19th – 22nd August to allow for changes to the Broadband Cabinet.

There are also 3 HDC Consultations which the Councillors should be aware of, Draft Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal and Environmental Capacity Study which are all open now until the 26th July and can be viewed on the HDC website.

Item 63

Items to report – Mrs Jenny Lloyd is concerned that the bus service may be stopping. The Clerk is to email CC Mr Steve Criswell concerning this matter.

Ms Hazel Lambert reported that the QDJ Committee have now delivered the Bandy Player statue and it is ready for installation at the pond. The Councillors are to think about how this can be arranged and discuss this at the next meeting.

Miss Ann Brennan commented on the amount of rubbish that was at the footpath to the Chapel Road Car park and the Clerk is to take pictures of this rubbish and email them to DC Mr Robin Carter who will help with this issue.

Mr Robert Sherriff reported that several residents have complained concerning the car that parks at the very end of the car parking facility outside Edwards Walk. The Clerk is to report this issue to the Police as this is very dangerous and an accident may occur if this is left unreported.

Mr Keith Hudson reported that the bench along the causeway has still not been replaced and the Clerk has written to the Saywell Charity to ask for a donation to allow this to happen. They have not yet had a meeting to discuss this. The Clerk will email for an update.

Mr Ron Hodge reported that the swings at the Recreation field need to be looked at due to vandalism within this area. Mr James Woolstenholmes will check this and arrange for repairs as needed.

Mr Alan Spackman, Mrs Marilyn Russell and Mr Ron Hodge have all reported that there are still potholes in Chapel Road, near to the pond and in Greenfields and also along the High Street near to Waterhaven. The Clerk is to report this to the District Council for action to be taken.

Item 64

Items for Future Meetings –Parish Plan, Playground inspection, Risk assessments, Earith Island Clearance, white lining at Bridge End Car Park

Date of next Council Meeting –Thursday 4th July 2013

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

email mpinkearithpc@aol.com
www.earithparishcouncil.co.uk

Date of notice – 9th June 2013