

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 4th July 2013

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mrs Jenny Lloyd
 Ms Hazel Lambert

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mr Alan Spackman
 Mr Jeff Nicholls

DC Robin Carter, 5 members of the public

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 65 **Apologies for absence** – Mr Ron Hodge, Mr Robert Sherriff, Mr James Woolstenholmes, Mrs Marilyn Russell, CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Terry Rogers

Open Meeting

Item 66 **Open Forum** – No comments made

Item 67 **Ecops Report** – The Clerk read out Ecops' reports referring to the capture of thieves in Ramsey and the CID update was mentioned which highlighted the need to secure your houses and cars now that the weather is warmer. Miss Ann Brennan reported, through the Countryside Watch, that there had been thefts of fishing tackle and burglaries from caravans within the area. It was discussed that these items should have been covered within the Ecops reports and the Clerk is to contact the police to find out why they are not reporting on these areas.

Item 68 **County Council and District Council Reports** – DC Mr Robin Carter reported that the Colne Fen Quarry application had been passed and an email was received from CC Mr Steve Criswell concerning this. Over 5000 green bins have been returned following the HDC initiative to charge for the emptying of a second green bin. Only 1800+ residents have accepted the charge and 390 residents are disputing the charge.
 The Local Plan 2036 Consultation is on-going and concerns over the current infrastructure should be raised if these new developments are to go ahead.
 A "ward walk" is being organised on Tuesday so any highway issues can be raised and discussed at this meeting. Weed spraying and sweeping are in progress at the moment.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 69 **Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted.** No dispensations were received for this meeting.

Item 70 **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 71 **To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 6th June 2013**
 Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the minutes should be signed.
 Resolved - All in favour.

Item 72 **Matters arising** – Ms Hazel Lambert reported that the permissive path at Colne Fen Quarry is still to remain closed until 2014 now that the planning has been passed.

Item 73 **Planning** – Application Reference – 1300783FUL – Change of use of land to permit mobile home for site managers accommodation at Long Island Caravan Park, Meadow Drove
 The Clerk has received some residents' views on this application who are objecting to congestion on Meadow Drove due to the siting of the mobile home as caravans would have to queue to get into the Park. A discussion was held which led to a proposer and seconder for accepting the application however, 2 Councillors abstained to vote and only 2 Councillors voted to accept so the Council was inquorate and could not make an official decision (due to the number of Councillors present) . The

Clerk was to report back to the planning officer stating both the positive and negative views that the Councillors expressed.

Application Reference – 1300828FUL – Erection of agricultural stock building at OS 6472 High Street Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this is accepted. Resolved – All in Favour.

Application Reference – 1201542FUL – Land between 3-7 High Street Earith – response to appeal – The Clerk is to respond to the correspondence received concerning this appeal to say that the Council's views have not changed from the views expressed when the planning application was rejected.

Item 74

Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that a reply from HDC had been received following our letter concerning the felling of the tree at 199 Greenfields which stated that the administration procedures had failed within the department and that changes would be made to how temporary TPO's are administered in the future.

A resident had contacted the Chairman concerning the issuing of one of our standard hedges and trees letters. The Chairman would like to have a log kept of all letters that are issued by Councillors so that we can monitor the progress that is made when we request that maintenance is carried out on overgrown trees and hedges within the village.

There have been problems within the Village Hall due to the sink in the kitchen leaking. This has now been fixed and the plumber recommended that the pipes under the sink are boxed in to stop this from happening again. The Clerk is to inform the Bingo that this is to be done as it will limit the storage capacity of the cupboard under the sink. The Handyman will organise for this to be done once the Bingo have been informed.

The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting at Doddington Skate park to discuss with the Council member how the skatepark was administered and to gauge the useage and costs involved in this type of project. We were both very impressed by what Doddington Council had achieved and how much the park was used by the youth in Doddington and the surrounding areas.

The Clerk contacted the local police over the parking issues at Edwards Walk and also the issues that were being experienced at 2A High Street. The Chairman had received an update from the police who had attended both sites and they will add these areas to their regular patrols in the future. The police had also been asked to visit a private residence within the village where skateboard ramps have been built in the back garden and noise and nuisance were being experienced by the neighbouring properties. The Chairman would like to ask the youths who have built the ramps to have some consideration for other residents as their continued noise and nuisance could hinder the possibility of having a permanent skateboard park in Earith.

Item 75

Parish Council Representatives Report – Including Road Safety – Ms Hazel Lambert met with Mr Brian Ogden from HDC regarding the London Plane Tree outside the Village Hall. Mr Ogden did not feel that the tree was posing any problems to the Village Hall and recommended that the Council seek the help of a Structural Engineer to assess the damage that is occurring to the Hall. It was agreed that the Council would investigate this matter further.

Ms Hazel Lambert also attended a meeting to discuss the Local Plan 2036 at Hemingford where it was discussed about making an area from Hemingford down to Earith into an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Ms Lambert wanted to know if the Council would support this initiative in order for this to be incorporated in the Local Plan 2036.

Item 76

Skate Park Report – Discussion and Proposal - The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting at Doddington Skate Park to discuss the building and response to the Skate Park within Doddington. Both the Chairman and the Clerk were very impressed by the way that this initiative and been handled by the Council and were given some very good advice regarding grants and project planning by the Doddington representative. The Clerk is to contact the Earith Town Estates to request a meeting within the next two weeks concerning the possible siting and support for a Skate park within the village.

Item 77

Skate Park – Proposal for temporary ramps for a day to gauge the support and need – Following on from item 76 it was proposed that temporary ramps are hired for a day in August to assess the need and support for a Skate Park within Earith. The Clerk is to contact the hire company to request acceptable dates for this to be done.

Item 78

RSPB presentation – footpath from High Bridge to Sluice Bridge – Changes to the War Memorial - Following on from the presentation given at the last meeting the Council voted to accept option 1 as proposed by the RSPB of moving the fencing back a short distance along-side the

Highway to allow for the building of the path. It was considered very disrespectful by the Council to install gates to allow access across the Memorial.

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that option 1 is adopted immediately. Resolved – All in Favour

- Item 79 Housing Needs Survey – Do the Council wish to support this initiative** –Following on from the presentation given at the last meeting it was agreed by the Council that they would support the initiative proposed to look to provide housing for the residents and people connected to the residents of Earith under the Rural Exception Policy
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Council are in favour of this initiative.
Resolved – All in favour.

- Item 80 Speedwatch – Adoption of Community Speedwatch signs on the entrances and exits of the village** – Following on from the presentation at the previous meeting the Council discussed adopting and putting up Community Speedwatch Signs within the Village. The siting of the signs was discussed and pictures are to be taken of the proposed areas to be included with the application. It was agreed that 3 signs and 1 post would be needed. The Chairman and Clerk will complete the paperwork and pictures and make sure that the application is passed to the County Council.
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this work should be carried out.
Resolved – All in Favour

- Item 81 Log in procedure for delivery of standard letters regarding**
a) Trees and Hedges b) Car Parking issues
The Chairman has been contacted by some village residents who are unhappy regarding the current delivery of standard letters within the Village. The Chairman has requested that a log system is used to record the letters delivered regarding Hedges and Trees whereby any Councillor who notices that there are pathway obstructions caused by trees and hedges to contact the Chairman who will arrange for a site visit to be made whereby the homeowner can be spoken to if they are present or a letter delivered if they are not at home to request that maintenance is carried out on their overhanging trees and hedges. Follow up letters can then be sent if action is not taken as stated.
Car parking notices are also to change as they will now be numbered so that the Clerk can know who has the tickets and in what areas they are being used within the village. A record is to be kept by the Councillor who issues the tickets to note the date, registration number of the vehicle, road and obstruction that is caused so that we can monitor to see if continual occurrences are happening so that this can be brought to the attention of the local police force if needed.

- Item 82 Internal Auditors Report – response to the Annual Return** – The Clerk read out the report that the internal auditor sent to confirm that an unqualified report had been given following on from the audit of Council records. All was found to be in order and the Clerk was thanked for her continued good work and professional handling of the Annual Return for the Council.

- Item 83 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	2523	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker 7.5 hrs. @ £7.21	54.08			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		71.10	2524	
Inland Revenue	PAYE June 2013		68.20	2525	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self-employed monthly contract		100.00	2526	LGA1953,s.4
Mr M S Pink	Footpath clearance between Drs & Riverview		280.00	2527	LGA 1953,s.4
Mr Ron Hodge	Pond Maintenance		17.90	2528	PHA 1936, s.260
Truelink Ltd	Grass Cutting Contract		600.00	2529	OSA 1906, s.10
DCS Window Cleaning	Village Hall Windows		30.00	2530	LGA 1972, s.133
ICO	Data Protection Registration Renewal		35.00	2531	LGA 1972, s.288
Tesco	Mobile phone 8th months rental		12.50	DD	LGA 1972 s.133
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		42.08	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	Total Spend for June 2013		£1,525.69		

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

Item 84 **Correspondence** - All other correspondence as per the file
The Clerk drew the councillor's attention to a letter received from the HCSP regarding temporary skate ramps within the grounds of a private residence within the Village. The Chairman is to contact the people concerned and a letter will be sent in response.
The Clerk has also received a reply regarding the B1050 Willingham Road to say that this road is still on the provisional transport delivery plan and that repairs would be carried out when needed.

Item 85 **Items to report** – Ms Hazel Lambert reported that the QDJ Sculpture erection plans were underway and that a group of people would be needed once all the plans had been sorted out and the Sculpture was ready for placing in the pond.
Ms Ann Brennan reported that EVA would be placing adverts within the Earith Echo so that any interested parties could apply for grants from the remaining committee funds. Please reply to the adverts in the Echo if you are interested.
Mr Jeff Nicholls and Mr Keith Hudson reported that a couple of hedges needed to be looked at and site visits would be arranged.

Item 86 **Items for Future Meetings** –Parish Plan, Risk assessments, Earith Island Clearance, white lining at Bridge End Car Park

Date of next Council Meeting –Thursday 1st August 2013

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

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Date of notice – 27th July 2013