

## Earith Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

### Held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018

#### Present – Councillors

Mr John Fulcher (Chairman)

Mr Jeff Nicholls

Mr Allan Till – arrived at 20:30

Mrs Louise Reay

Mrs Paula Brown

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)

Mr Keith Hudson

Mr Alan Spackman

Mr Steve Edwards

Mrs Marilyn Russell

2 members of the public

DC Mr Jon Neish, Mr Bryan Woodruff, Environment Agency and Ms Martha Taylor, Mott MacDonald

Mandy Pink – Clerk

**Item 164 Apologies for absence** – Mr Terry Rogers, CC Mr Steve Criswell

#### **Open Meeting**

**Item 165 Open Forum-** A brief presentation was given regarding agenda item 178. A resident commented that it would not harm the green if the Hawthorn tree was removed as long as it is replaced. A resident thanked the Parish Council for the work that they had completed on the river slipway and garden area and requested if a solar powered Christmas tree could be placed on the feeding platform at the Pond. This will be discussed in December. The resident also requested that the noticeboard at the Pond is reinstated. The Clerk will organise this.

A resident commented that they had attended a meeting of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Campaign for Rural England CPCRE and that it is only £36.00 pa to join and they suggested that the Council may want to become members. This will be discussed in December.

They also requested if the MVAS results could be displayed on the Council's website and the Clerk said that she was not sure if she could get the data into a good enough format to be presented on the website, but the raw data could be emailed to those that requested it.

Comments were also raised concerning advanced NO2 monitors which currently cost 225€ and are being trialled at the moment to see what results they can achieve. Standard monitors costing £10.20 per month could also be used. This will be an agenda item in December.

**Item 166 Ecops Report** – The Clerk reported that there had been a road traffic accident at Bridge End. Police had also seized and destroyed cannabis growing equipment and three cannabis plants from an address in Earith. CCTV caught images of a group of four youths damaging cars parked outside a business on the High Street. A bicycle was stolen from a garden in Cooks Drove and several horses needed to be rounded up and taken to safety after being found on the B1381 Earith to Sutton Road. Two break-ins occurred in Bluntisham and Colne from business addresses and machinery and tools were stolen.

**Item 167 County Council and District Council Reports** – DC Mr Jon Neish reported that HDC still need to set the budget for the forthcoming year and recycling is a big cost that will need to be investigated. Returning the bins to the correct places around Greenfields has been addressed but is still not always apparent. The Local Plan has now been concluded and rests with the Inspectorate who need to write back stating that the Plan can be made sound. Modifications may be needed but these will be re-consulted on. The Planning application for a new Aldi in St Ives has been deferred pending NO2 testing.

#### **(Close open Meeting)**

#### **(Open closed section of Meeting)**

**Item 168 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted** – none received.

**Item 169 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 2011 c7. s27(3)(b). – Councillor Nicholls declared an interest in agenda item 186.

**Item 170 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Louise Reay seconded that the minutes should be signed.  
Resolved - All in favour.

**Item 171 Matters arising** – None

- Item 172 Planning** – Application Reference 18/02043/TREE – TPO1 – Horse Chestnut – Fell, Diseased and in Decline to be replanted with a Silver Birch– 5 Cooks Drove  
Mrs Marilyn Russell proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the application should be accepted as the tree needed to be maintained and a new Silver Birch would be replanted. Resolved – All in favour
- Item 173 Chairman’s Report** – The Chairman reported that the Community Café on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> November will have a WW1 commemoration theme. The Clerk will be decorating the hall with banners, streamers, bunting and flags and any help will be appreciated.  
Memorial services will be held at Colne Church at 11am, Earith Bridge at 12:15 and Bluntisham Baptist Church at 14:30.  
Finally, the Chairman reported that he will be resigning his position of Chairman as of December. Due to family commitments he felt that he could no longer dedicate the required time to the Council. He thanked his fellow Councillors for their support and wished them well for the future. A new Chairman will be appointed at the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December.
- Item 174 Parish Council Representatives Report -**  
**Road Safety and HCV** – Cllr Nicholls reported that he was unable to attend the next Road Safety meeting, but Cllr Reay will attend. There has not been an HCV meeting.  
**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – No report  
**Health and Safety** – No report  
**Hanson update** – No report  
**PC Cluster Meetings** – No report  
**Saywell Charity** – No report  
**Ouse Valley Way update** – No report  
**ERICA Update** – No report  
**Rights of Way** – No report  
**Village Pond** – No report  
**Allotments** – Cllr Spackman thanked Cllr Edwards for attending and Chairing the testing meeting for the Allotment Association. The Clerk read out the notes taken from the meeting. 22 people attended, and the general feeling was that an association would be of benefit, but further investigation is needed. Two further meeting dates have been scheduled. Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November and Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> December.  
**Skeeles update** – Meeting scheduled for next week.  
**Earith Town Estate** – No report  
**Village Car Parks** – No report
- Item 175 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – No visits needed.
- Item 176 Drainage, Roads and pavements** – Cllr Russell stated that the drain grid in the High Street near Waterhaven needs to have further repairs as the recent repair work was not satisfactory. CC Mr Steve Criswell is aware, and this has been reported to the County Council.
- Item 177 Street Lighting Maintenance Contract to be discussed** – The Clerk has been told by the street lighting company that a maintenance contract would not be beneficial to the Parish Council for such a small number of columns. It was felt that a call off basis for any further repairs would be the best strategy to take going forward. They have provided a quotation for current repairs of £399.13 + VAT.  
Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the repairs should be carried out as soon as possible and the Clerk is to organise this. Resolved – all in Favour
- Item 178 Environment Agency request to carry out works over the existing boundary onto the Village Green**  
Following on from the new drawing featuring a holding wall and steps it was felt that a landscaped shallower earth/grass ramp should be installed which curves towards the current railings and sluice and ends closer to the current road boundary. Taking into consideration comments made in the open forum it was also decided to allow the hawthorn tree to be removed if a mature tree was replanted.  
Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that a flatter slope with a less severe, minimal gradient should be accepted as the riverbank must be accessible to wheelchair users and prams etc as it is a footpath. Resolved – All in favour
- Item 179 Quotation received from HAGS SMP for repairs to spinner to be discussed -** Following on from the current playground inspection it was decided that the bearings in the spinner play equipment should be replaced and the Clerk has received a quotation of £110+VAT for supply only or £325+vat for supply and fit.  
Mrs Marilyn Russell proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Clerk should accept the quotation for supply and fit of £325+vat. Resolved – All in favour.

- Item 180 – Allotment query raised by Resident – Council to discuss** – Further to the Allotment Association meeting, a resident has emailed the Council stating that some plots remain un-cultivated and that the locks on the wells have rusted and need to be looked at or removed.  
The Council discussed the email correspondence and agreed that the plots should be maintained but they wanted to see how the Allotment Association would be set up before they made any decisions. The Clerk has re-let one plot and two others have since been maintained so only one plot needs to be looked into at the moment. The locks are a Health and Safety requirement and the Clerk is to either, unstick the existing locks or purchase new ones.  
Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Clerk should purchase new locks if required. Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 181 Draft Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement to be discussed** – Mrs Marilyn Russell stated that she had not received the email notification of this and as such felt that she could not make any comments. The Clerk was asked to resend the email so that individual comments could be made by Councillors if needed as the consultation period for comments would expire before the next meeting. The Council provided no comments.
- Item 182 Planning working group to be discussed** – Cllrs Edwards, Reay and Till have been discussing this group but have not yet had time to put together a proposal to the Council so they have asked if this can be re-tabled for the January meeting. Cllr Edwards has contacted a planning consultant who could provide advice if needed and this person should be asked if they would like to be part of the working group.
- Item 183 War memorial query raised by resident – Council to discuss-** Bluntisham Parish Council have received an email query from a resident concerning installing a metal bar around the base of the war memorial to secure the poppy wreaths and as the memorial is shared with Earith they have asked for the Council's comments. The Council discussed this query and felt that they needed to make a site visit to the memorial to see if a metal bar could be installed as they felt that it would not be achievable due to the concrete base of the memorial. They have asked for this agenda item to be moved to December. They know that Bluntisham PC secured the wreaths last year with tent pegs and felt that this should be carried out again this year pending investigations into the feasibility of a metal bar. The Clerk is to liaise with Bluntisham concerning this and is to purchase tent pegs if needed.
- Item 184 MVAS sign report for High Street – Riverview End** – The Clerk reported that the sign had recorded 114053 vehicle movements over 23 days going in one direction only. An average speed of 25mph every 15 minutes. An average speed of 29 was recorded in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile which is the data figure which the Police use. The maximum speed recorded was 48 but averaged 43 and a minimum speed of 5 miles per hour was recorded. Environmental considerations should be made in this time frame as the Earith to Haddenham road was closed and a new dwelling is being build in this area, so construction traffic would be visiting the site.
- Item 185 Parking at Chapel Road/Bridge End** – Cllr Rogers proposed this motion and due to his absence, it will be moved to the December meeting. The Clerk has received an email from a resident concerning this issue and this will be recorded.
- Item 186 Royal British Legion Donation to be considered** – Mrs Marilyn Russell proposed that a donation of £60 should be made to the RBL even if the wreaths cost more than £40 this year.  
Mrs Marilyn Russell proposed, and Mr Steve Edwards seconded that the donation of £60 should be made. Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 187 Additional CCTV camera to be discussed for the Recreation Field** – The Clerk reported that more vandalism had occurred at the Recreation Field as three tables and a litter bin had to be re-cemented back into place. The litter bins are also still being vandalised and a metal rectangular liner has been removed and cannot be found. The cost to re-cement the tables and bin was £340 on this occasion. The Parish Council have requested that the combined costs of vandalism in the village should be recorded and an article placed in the Earith Echo so that the Residents know the cost to the Village of the vandalism and damage that is being experienced. The Clerk has contacted the CCTV company and the cost of an additional camera will be £365.00 + VAT including fitting.  
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that an additional camera should be purchased, and the Clerk is to deal with this. Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 188 Precept and Budget to be approved** – The Clerk tabled the proposed budget to the Council with a recommendation for a precept figure of £50,000. This equates to a 2.29% rise from last year. A cost for professional fees was requested by Cllr Russell so £2000 was entered under this budget heading with a £1000 reduction in the budgets for general and unforeseen and trees and hedges.

Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that a precept figure of £50,000 should be accepted. Resolved – All in favour

- Item 189 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off  
b) Online Salary payments for November  
c) Chairman to sign bank statement

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 42 hrs. @ £16.321	685.48			LGHA1989,s.7
	Clerks Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
	Mobile Phone monthly rental not taxable	12.00			LGHA1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		579.46	online	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hours 5.75hrs @ £9.341	53.71			LGA1972,s.133
	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £9.341	23.35			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		75.66	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE October 2018		145.59	online	LGA1972, s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting		690.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
MSP Services	Maintenance at Recreation Field		340.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Mr R Hodge	Pond Maintenance		8.00	3018	PHA 1936, s.260
Mrs W Oldfield	Environmental Testing		36.72	online	LGA 1972, s.137
Viking	Stationery		24.08	online	LGA 1972, s. 133
Hunts DC	Commercial waste collection V Hall qrtly		33.75	online	Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6
Hunts DC	Commercial waste collection		19.50	DD	Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6
Microsoft	Office 365 monthly cost		5.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
CNG	Village Hall Gas monthly charge		33.95	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
	<b>Total Spend for October 2018</b>		<b>£2,142.70</b>		

- a) Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the payments should be signed off. Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for November – Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the payments should be made. Resolved – All in favour
- c) Chairman to sign the bank statement to confirm the online salary payments for October as above. Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded. Resolved – All in favour

**Item 190 Correspondence** – All correspondence as per file. Email to be noted concerning parking at Chapel Road/Bridge End as per agenda item 185.

**Item 191 Items for future meetings** –Village Hall floor & chairs, Holiday Sport Provision from HDC, Neighbourhood Plan (six monthly review), Pub to be listed as a building of interest, Diary of Policy review dates, Electricity supply for pond pumps look for grants, parking at Chapel Road/Bridge End/Edwards Walk, Planning working group agenda item in January, Advanced NO2 monitors, Solar powered Christmas tree on feeding platform at the Pond, Council to join CPCRE, NO2 monitors at £10.20 per month, War memorial metal bar query.

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

email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com

**Meeting Dates**  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019

[www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk)

Date of Notice – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018