

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 14th February 2019 at the Village Hall

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)
 Mr Jeff Nicholls
 Mrs Louise Reay
 Mr Alan Spackman

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mrs Paula Brown
 Mr Allan Till

1 member of the public
 Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 239 Apologies for absence – Mrs Marilyn Russell, Mr Terry Rogers, DC Mr Jon Neish, CC Mr Steve Criswell

Open Meeting

Item 240 Open Forum- A resident asked when the next LHI bid could go in. The Clerk said that the LHI bids begin around July.

Item 241 Ecops Report – The Clerk reported that several drain gullies have been stolen from Meadow Lane. Cambridge County Council responded within hours of the report being made to make the road safe and repairs were carried out the next day. Criminal damage by vandals to a blue transit van occurred in School Road and there was an RTA involving three cars in Meadow Lane. The hammer wielding thief that stole alcohol from the Village Shop has been sentenced to a 12-month community order with 80 hours of unpaid work and he has been ordered to attend a 20-day rehabilitation course.

Item 242 County Council and District Council Reports

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported via email that a survey of HCV traffic entering the A1123 will be undertaken using number plate recognition cameras. Council tax will rise by 2.99% following the budget setting from County.

DC Mr Jon Neish reported that Council tax will rise by 2.6%. Modernisation of parking is underway with a pay for what you use scheme to be introduced so that you pay on exit. The charge after the first hour will also be incremented by 15 minutes as opposed to the closest hour so a fairer charge will be made. Upgrades to electrical charging points are also being proposed. Solar canopies in car parks are also proposed to improve safety at night for car park users.

(Close open Meeting)**(Open closed section of Meeting)**

Item 243 Councillor Vacancy – Co-option of new Councillor – No applications received

Item 244 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – No dispensations received

Item 245 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). – No declarations made

Item 246 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 3rd January 2019

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

Item 247 Matters arising – None

Item 248 Planning – Application Reference 19/00094/HHFUL– Proposed two storey side extension – 11 Greenfields, Earith.

The Planning working Group looked at this application and advised the Parish Council to accept this application as it is in keeping with the area, the building materials are the same as those already used and there will be no impact on the neighbours, and it would give the family more amenity space.

Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mrs Louise Reay seconded that the application should be accepted.
 Resolved – All in favour

Planning – Application Reference 19/00055/LBC and 19/00054/FUL – Listed building consent and change of use to the main building to three dwellings with demolition of former extension and change of

use of existing outbuildings to two dwellings with related works and car parking – The Old School, 8 Colne Road, Earith

The Planning Working Group looked at this application and advised the Parish Council to accept the application as the North and West faces of the building will be retained which is positive for the area as the building is currently derelict. Parking was discussed as it was thought that eight spaces would not be adequate for this development but two of the dwellings have only one bedroom which would technically only warrant one space each thus providing two each for the other proposed dwellings. The Council asked the applicant to provide a voluntary undertaking to park on site whilst the build is underway and to allow adequate access to the dwellings behind the Old School. It was also stated that the clock belongs to the educational charity Skeeles and that this must be maintained on the building and treated sympathetically during the development.

Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the application is accepted.
Resolved – Four Councillors voted in favour and two abstained.

- Item 249 Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that the street protest had been successful and that approximately 80 residents took part and that the media support was reasonable. There is to be a follow up with actions to our MP.
The East- West rail consultation is worth commenting on as the proposal could affect Earith as it will bring development to the area.
The Chairman also asked if any Cllr was available to attend the Energy and Mobility Seminar and Cllr Reay may be able to attend.
Parking issues are still concerning in the Village, but Police reports must be made.
The Chairman also urged the Councillors to confirm their attendance at meetings in advance if possible and that emails should be read prior to the meeting. This will allow the meeting to flow more successfully. The Clerk has confirmed the Insurance company's stance on Volunteers and the Council is currently covered for 10 volunteers who must provide a risk assessment to the Clerk prior to any work being carried out so that the Clerk can keep records of the jobs completed and the volunteers who complete the work. The Chairman would like the Clerk to keep a record of maintenance jobs carried out around the village. Cllr Spackman said that current jobs needed were to trim the hedge at the pond, pollard the tree stumps at the pond, trim the ivy by the Doctors and trim the elder bush back at the Recreation Field. Cllr Spackman is happy to carry out these jobs and will provide the Clerk with a risk assessment prior to carrying out any work. The Clerk reminded Cllr Spackman that two people are needed for any job that requires power tools to be used. The Chairman said that he could possibly help Cllr Spackman if he is contacted in advance to allow him to organise his commitments. Cllr Spackman also asked Cllr Brennan to sort out the mole problem on the Green. She will contact her pest control contractor to organise this.

Item 250 Parish Council Representatives Report -

Road Safety and HCV – Cllr Nicholls reported that he attended the recent Road Safety meeting and the main items covered included the Willow Hall Farm application and the Wheatsheaf Junction. The speed camera at this junction is to be digitised and is to be one of the first in the area. An HCV meeting is planned for the 28th February 2019.

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report

Health and Safety – No report

Hanson update – No report

Rights of Way – No report

Saywell Charity – No report

Village Car Parks – No report

Village Pond – The Clerk reported that a project is hopefully going to be completed relating to the pond by www.froglife.org who will research the history of the pond, the habitat and species native to this area and will organise seminars and presentations if the Council agree to this. It will be an agenda item in March for discussion, but the project seemed to be well received.

Allotments – No report

Skeeles update – There is to be a meeting on the 23rd.

Earith Town Estate – No report

Ouse Valley Way update – No report

ERICA Update – No report

- Item 251 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** - No report as no visits made due to growth.

- Item 252 Drainage, Roads and pavements including advisory notes re car parking** – No report

- Item 253 Holiday sport provision from HDC** – The Clerk reminded the Council that this had been discussed last year and that the Council were too late to respond. She reported on the current costs per session and it

was agreed that two two-hour sessions should be booked to test the response in the Summer Holidays so that more funding can be allocated in November if this proved to be a well-attended event. Funding this year will be provided via the Youth Account which currently has £445 available.

Mrs Louise Reay proposed and Mr Allan Till seconded that the Clerk can arrange two two-hour sessions for the Summer Holidays.

Resolved – All in favour

Item 254 Meet your Councillor – Request by Cllr Russell – As Cllr Russell was not present this item will be moved to the agenda in March for discussion.

Item 255 Policy Review – Equal Opportunities, Safeguarding Policy, Lone/home Working Policy – As Cllr Russell was not present for this item it was agreed that a working party comprising of the Clerk, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr Russell should review the policies and then report back to Full Council if any amendments are needed.

Item 256 Earith Echo – Request for Parish Council to take over administration of the Echo – Mrs Mandy Pink and Miss Ann Brennan currently publish and administer the Earith Echo as an independent operation. The current printers have decided to withdraw the printing facility that currently enables the Echo to run successfully. (it is subsidised by the District Council who, due to cuts, are now withdrawing this service) Both Mrs Pink and Miss Brennan are urging the Parish Council to undertake the administration of this service otherwise it will cease. Mrs Pink has found a new printer who can provide a 24 page per issue A4 document with front and middle sections in colour for £450 per issue and the editorial cost of £200 will continue. Therefore, the cost per edition of the Echo will be £650. The advertising revenue is around £1000 and there is a portion of money in the Earith Echo bank account that can be given to the Council this year as a donation to help run the magazine for the next year (4 editions). Further funding for the Echo can then be looked at by the Council in November when they set the precept.

The Council discussed this and decided that as the magazine has a lot of information about the Council in it and the Village seem to like the magazine it would be sensible to take over the administration of the Echo. The administration involves yearly invoicing of the advertisers and any banking/chasing of funds which the Clerk can incorporate into her increased hours. The Editorial work will continue to be done by the Earith Echo Editor and an invoice will be given to the Council for the work. The Council also currently pay £220 per edition to help with printing costs and this will now cease if the Council take over. (the current invoice from Earith Echo to the Council will be credited)

Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Council should take over the administration of the Echo. Miss Brennan will step down and Mrs Pink will continue as the Editor.

Resolved – All in favour

Item 257 SLCC and ALCC membership and request for training - The Clerk advised the Council that as she now clerks for two parishes the cost of her membership rises but that both Councils will share the cost so the cost for Earith this year for SLCC will be £98.00 and ALCC £20.00. The Clerk would also like to attend the SLCC Practitioners Conference in February 2020 which is a two-day conference and will provide networking and information gathering opportunities along with seminars and workshops to attend. The cost this year is currently £330+ Vat and may change next year but this will also be shared by the two Councils.

Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the memberships should be renewed, and the Clerk should attend the training event.

Resolved – All in favour.

Item 258 Finance – a) Payments to sign off
b) Online Salary payments for February
c) Chairman to sign bank statement

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 65 hrs. @ £16.753	1088.95			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		853.92	online	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hours 6. 5hrs @ £9.521	61.89			LGA1972,s.133
	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £9.521	23.80			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		82.49	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE January 2019		332.08	online	LGA1972, s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
W Oldfield	Environmental Testing		32.40	online	LGA 1972. S.137

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Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection Rec		19.50	DD	Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6
Hunts DC	Commercial waste collection V Hall		10.50	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		134.10	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
	Total Spend for January 2019		£1,840.98		

- a) Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the payments should be signed off. All except the payment to the Earith Echo which has now ceased. See agenda item 256.
Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for February – Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls 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 January as above
Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded. Resolved – All in favour

Item 259 Correspondence – All correspondence as per file.

Item 260 Items for future meetings –Village Hall floor & chairs, Neighbourhood Plan (six monthly review), Pub to be listed as a building of interest, Electricity supply for pond pumps look for grants, Christmas Lights provision, Meet your Councillor to be discussed, possibly utilise Community Café for dates, Frog life project for the pond. Speedwatch to be added as a Reps report, Opening Day for slipway

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

email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com

Meeting Dates
Thursday 7th March 2019
Thursday 4th April 2019
Thursday 2nd May 2019
Thursday 6th June 2019
Thursday 4th July 2019

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Notice – 23rd February 2019