

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 7th March 2019 at the Village Hall

Present – Councillors

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

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mrs Paula Brown
 Mrs Marilyn Russell

4 members of the public
 Mandy Pink – Clerk

DC Mr Jon Neish

Item 261 Apologies for absence – Mr Allan Till, CC Mr Steve Criswell

Open Meeting

Item 262 Open Forum- A resident asked the Council to provide some further treatments for the Pond (quantity as previously supplied) and stated that the Right of Way being discussed under agenda item 272 must remain as a right of way as this allows access to one of the main drains in Earith. The sign must be re-instated, and the gate must always remain open. The Clerk has reported this to the County Council for their attention. The applicant concerning the PIP to be discussed at agenda item 270 commented that the dwelling would be for his own use and would be a family home close to his farming business and family relatives. The site would consist of a five bedrooomed house with a garden.

Item 263 Ecops Report – The Clerk reported that a potential theft of a hedge trimmer was halted when the home owner spotted the thief who then made off without the equipment. A stolen van from Sutton was recovered in Earith and has been taken for forensic examination.

Item 264 County Council and District Council Reports

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported via email that the Willow Hall Farm application has been put back due to extra information concerning air quality to be addressed. Cllr Criswell circulated an Air Quality report via email which was noted by the Council. Cllr Criswell has secured funding for a survey of HCV traffic using the A1123 which will be undertaken using number plate recognition cameras.

DC Mr Jon Neish reported that the HDC budgets had been approved with a Council tax will rise of 2.6%. Cllr Neish gave an outline description of what a planning in principle (PIP) application entailed.

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

Item 265 Councillor Vacancy – Co-option of new Councillor – Two applications received. The Chairman thanked both applicants for applying for the vacancy and invited them both to give a brief presentation to the Council of what they hoped to achieve by becoming a Parish Councillor and what skill sets they could provide. Both candidates spoke about their background and abilities and provided a brief description of their aims. The Chairman asked both candidates to leave the room so that the Council could vote on the co-option of a new Councillor.

Miss Ann Brennan proposed applicant one and Mr Keith Hudson seconded, and the Council voted with a vote of 6 for and 2 against

Mrs Louise Reay proposed applicant two and Mr Steve Edwards seconded, and the Council voted with a vote of 2 for and 6 against.

Resolved – Applicant one was asked to join the Council

The Chairman thanked both applicants and encouraged applicant two to come along to a few meetings to find out more about the role of the Parish Council and hoped that, if a vacancy arose in the future, he would still be interested in joining the Council.

Cllr Ms Hazel Lambert signed her acceptance of office paperwork and register of interests and joined the Council table.

Item 266 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – No dispensations received

Item 267 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 268 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 14th February 2019**
Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the minutes should be signed.
Resolved - All in favour.
- Item 269 Matters arising – None**
- Item 270 Planning – Application Reference 19/00275/PIP– Permission in Principle for erection of one dwelling – Land South of Bridge Farm, Holme Fen, Earith.**
The Council voted to accept the PIP at this stage even though it is outside of the current build structure of the Village as the principle is for a single dwelling for the use of the landowner and his family. NPPF paragraph 79. States that Planning policies and decisions should avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside unless one or more of the following circumstances apply: section A applies in this case, as below
(a) there is an essential need for a rural worker, including those taking majority control of a farm business, to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside;
With this in mind the Council would require an agricultural tie (restriction) to be placed on the New build so that the agricultural reason for the build remains in place.
Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mrs Louise Reay seconded that the application should be accepted with the agricultural tie as a condition of the acceptance.
Resolved – All in favour
- Item 271 Chairman’s Report –** The Chairman reported that, following his email regarding his comments at the previous meeting, he felt that the new points had been adopted by all and appeared to be working well.
- Item 272 Parish Council Representatives Report -**
- Road Safety and HCV –** Cllr Nicholls reported that he attended the recent HCV meeting and the main items covered included the Willow Hall Farm application and lack of progress with the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) for the HCV Diamond. Cllr Nicholls had emailed a traffic count to the Council and this was noted. The future status of the HCV Group was also discussed, and they are looking to form a Charity or a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) to allow them to apply for grants etc.
- Recreation Field and Play Equipment –** The Clerk reported that HAGS SMP are applying a charge of £499.50 for the extraction and re-installation of the pirouette spinner at the Rec. She has negotiated a 10% reduction on the original cost of £555.00 but is not happy with the service that she has obtained. Mr Terry Rogers proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the cost should be accepted as they felt that the installation needed to be carried out by the original company.
Resolved – All in favour
- Health and Safety –** No report
- Hanson update –** Cllr Rogers gave a detailed report on the progress of the Hanson’s Quarry. They are moving slowly Eastwards and have 2 nature trails that can be walked. Birds have settled into the habitat, but larger extraction areas are needed to provide a better environment for the birdlife. Current access to the site is via Needingworth but a planning application is due to be submitted for access via the B1050 Shelfords Road with a car park provided for visitors to the site. It is envisaged that approximately 120,000 visitors will access the site each year so a more adequate access and car park area should be provided although there is currently no provision for toilet facilities within the car park area. Pedestrian access from the Village will be made available.
- Rights of Way –** resident query re footpath adjacent to no.16 High Street – The Clerk has reported this ROW to the County Council for their investigation as the County Council are responsible for Rights of Way.
- Saywell Charity –** No report
- Village Car Parks –** No report
- Mobility and Future Energy Seminar –** Cllr Reay reported that the cost of adding an electric charge point to a development is approximately £1000. The National Grid is currently being challenged by the need for more power. Future development should look to incorporate energy saving initiatives and use more solar power and other sustainable energies. On demand bus services are also being looked at. Cllr Rogers reported that there is to be a solar powered canopy incorporated at the Car Park in St Ives to provide light to the Car Park users during the night time hours.
- Village Pond –** No report
- Allotments –** The Clerk reported that a quarter end to plot no 19 needs to be trimmed and cleared so that the new tenant can have the entire plot ploughed. Cllr Spackman will deal with this.
- Skeeles update –** Cllr Brennan reported that there is now a new Chairman of the Charity and he is looking at new ways of promoting the grants within the village. He feels that the eligibility criteria need to be made clearer so that applicants know if they can apply. There will be an editorial piece in the Echo to promote this Village Charity.
- Earith Town Estate –** No report
- Ouse Valley Way update –** No report
- ERICA Update –** No report

Speedwatch – Cllr Reay reported that 5 sessions had now been held on Meadow Lane, Colne Road and the High Street and 60 vehicles had been found to be speeding and have been reported. 35 vehicles were speeding on the High Street and 25 across Meadow Lane and Colne Road. The Speedwatch team are looking to hold 8 sessions per month over 8 sites in the Village. Cllr Hudson asked if sessions could be held on Cooks Drove and Cllr Reay would look into this. Cllr Spackman asked the Clerk if she could look into buying spare post clips for the MVAS sign so that the clips could be left on the posts so that it would make change over easier.

- Item 273** **Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** - No report as no visits made due to lack of growth.
- Item 274** **Drainage, Roads and pavements including advisory notes re car parking** – Three parking notices have been given out in Chapel Road concerning parking on the marked-out pathway area of the one-way system. The LHI bid for the pathway in Cooks Drove has been finalised and has been well received.
- Item 275** **Frog Life Project for the Pond** – The Clerk has received an email from the Frog Life project who wish to find out if the Parish Council would be happy for them to carry out a habitat survey on the Pond. They will be applying for a Heritage Grant so the Council would not incur any costs, and this is purely a speculative enquiry now. The Council decided that this would be a great project for the Village and are happy to give consent for the pond to be used in the project.
Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Clerk can report back that they are in favour of the pond being used in the proposed project.
Resolved – All in favour
- Item 276** **Meet your Councillor – Request by Cllr Russell** – Cllr Russell proposed that it would be a good idea if some Councillors attended the Community Café occasionally so that they can engage with the Village on a more personal level than can be accomplished via the usual Council meetings. Cllrs Reay and Russell would co-ordinate this endeavour.
- Item 277** **Policy Review – Equality and Diversity Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Lone/home Working Policy** – Cllrs Edwards, Brennan and Russell together with the Clerk attended a meeting to discuss the format of the Council policies and agreed a new layout for the policy to be presented in. The Clerk amended the policies as agreed and forwarded them to the whole Council for consideration. Cllr Russell then proposed some amendments to be made to the Equality Policy. Cllr Reay did not agree with the suggested policies or the specified amendments and agreed to discuss her concerns with Cllr Russell away from the main Council table. For the purpose of this agenda item the wording “and any subsequent updates” would be added to the last sentence in the purpose section of the policy and the word “of” is to be added to the sentence Earith Parish Council is committed to promoting equality “of” opportunity for all persons.
Equality and Diversity Policy – Mr Terry Rogers proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that this should be adopted with the noted amendments made.
Resolved – 10 for and 1 against
Safeguarding Policy – Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that this should be adopted with no amendments made.
Resolved – 10 for and 1 against
Lone/home working Policy – Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this should be adopted with no amendments made.
Resolved – 10 for and 1 against
- Item 278** **HGV list of Haulage Companies to be sent to Mr Vara following the Meet your MP day** – Mr Vara attended an event organised by the HGV Group in December and was asked by the HGV group to write to the local Haulage companies to ask them to be mindful of the speed limits in the village and to look to promoting a 20mph limit in the diamond area which includes the A1123 in Earith. Mr Vara has requested that the Parish Council provide a letter to him stating their agreement with this initiative. The HGV Group have provided a list of Hauliers to Mr Vara.
Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Terry Rogers seconded that the Clerk should send a letter stating that the Council are in favour of Mr Vara’s proposed initiative to write to the local Hauliers.
Resolved – All in favour
- Item 279** **Christmas Lights to be discussed** – The Vice Chairman stated that the lack of Christmas Lights in the village is disappointing and asked if the Council could look to provide solar powered lights along the High Street or any other areas of the Village. The Clerk has provisionally looked into this and you can hire Christmas decorations but that it was quite expensive. The Clerk will get more accurate costings and the Vice Chairman would look to local companies within the Village to see if they would contribute/donate to the cost of the Christmas Lights.

Item 280 Annual Parish Meeting date to be set anytime between the 1st March and the 1st June – Wednesday
the 8th May 2019 was confirmed.

Item 281 Finance – a) Payments to sign off
b) Online Salary payments for March
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 5hrs @ £9.521	47.61			LGA1972, s.133
	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £9.521	23.80			LGHA 1989, s.7
	Total Less Tax		71.21	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE February 2019		329.08	online	LGA1972, s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953, s.4
CCC	Street Lighting Oct 17 – Sept 18		494.21	online	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3
Parish Council Website	Website Hosting		120.00	Online	LGHA 1972, s.266
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		30.14	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
SSE	Village Hall Electricity Quarterly Charge		112.09	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
	Total Spend for February 2019		£2,196.64		

- a) Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Terry Rogers seconded that the payments should be signed off.
Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for March – 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 February as above
Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded. Resolved – All in favour

Item 282 Correspondence – All correspondence as per file. The Clerk has organised the Holiday Sports Provision days for Friday the 26th July from 10am -12 and Thursday the 22nd August from 2pm – 4pm. These dates will be promoted in the Earith Echo.

Item 283 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, Opening Day for slipway

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

email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com

Meeting Dates
Thursday 4th April 2019
Thursday 2nd May 2019
Thursday 6th June 2019
Thursday 4th July 2019
Thursday 1st August 2019

Meeting closed at 10:05pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 2019 – 7.30PM, EARITH VILLAGE HALL

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Notice – 16th March 2019