

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 4th July 2019 at the Village Hall

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mrs Paula Brown
 Mr Alan Spackman

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mrs Louise Reay
 Mr Jeff Nicholls
 Mr Alan Till

5 members of the public
 Mandy Pink – Clerk

DC Mr Jon Neish

Item 43 Apologies for absence – Ms Hazel Lambert, Mrs Marilyn Russell, CC Mr Steve Criswell

Open Meeting

Item 44 Open Forum- A member of the public raised a query with the Council regarding taking on joint grass cutting responsibility for the grass verges running from Earith to Colne. This will be an agenda item in August.

Item 45 Ecops Report – The Clerk reported that there was a break in at one of the industrial units on Short Drove and fencing products were stolen.

Item 46 County Council and District Council Reports

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported via email, the Chairman read the report and it was noted.

DC Mr Jon Neish reported that he had attended the Cambridge Acre Myth Buster tour which highlighted the rural exception sites in several different villages in the area. Cllr Hudson reported that the car park's in Darford and Edwards Walk had both been maintained.

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

Item 47 Councillor Vacancy – Co-option of a new Councillor – Two applicants had applied for the vacancy and both applicants gave a brief presentation concerning their goals and aspirations for the Council. The Councillors asked some questions and then the applicants were asked to leave the room while a vote took place.

The individual merits of each applicant were discussed, and a vote took place.

Applicant 1, Mr Nick Tindall was proposed by Mrs Louise Reay and seconded by Mr Allan Till with two votes being noted.

Applicant 2, Mr Peter Jackson was proposed by Mr Jeff Nicholls and seconded by Miss Ann Brennan with five votes noted.

Resolved – Mr Peter Jackson is to be the new Councillor for Earith.

Both applicants were called back into the room and the Chairman asked Mr Peter Jackson to complete his declaration of office paperwork and to join the table as the new Councillor for Earith Parish Council. Mr Nick Tindall was thanked for his application.

Item 48 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None

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 2011 c7. s27(3)(b). – None

Item 50 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 6th June 2019

Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the minutes should be signed.

Resolved - All in favour.

Item 51 Matters arising – Cllr Brennan noted that the new planters look nice in the Village and she also asked the Clerk if the paperwork for the listing of the Community Asset had been submitted. The Clerk confirmed that this had been done and that an answer should be received within 6-8 weeks.

Item 52 Planning – None

Item 53 Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that the Clerk had received a complaint from a High Street resident about cars being parked on the pavement and causing an obstruction. The Chairman will

contact the homeowner causing the obstruction to discuss this with them although it should officially be reported to the police as a matter for them to investigate.

The Chairman also commented that it was encouraging to see so much support from the Village for the Christmas Lights funding appeal. Many donations have already been received and it is hoped that the required target will be reached.

The Chairman also stated that the new planters do need to be maintained by the resident who installed them as he had already dead headed several plants due to lack of water.

Item 54 Parish Council Representatives Report -

Road Safety and HCV – No report

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – Cllr Hudson reported that there is a marked increase in litter in the main recreation field, probably due to the good weather but the play areas are being well maintained.

Health and Safety – No report

Hanson update – The Clerk reported that the planning application for the access road and carpark had been passed.

Rights of Way – No report

Saywell Charity – No report

Ouse Valley Way update – No report

Village Pond – The Clerk reported that the oxygenators had been received.

Allotments – The Clerk has received a request for a greenhouse on plot 12C. The Council are happy to agree this. Two plots need attention and the Clerk will contact the plot owners to ask for maintenance to be carried out. Cllr Spackman had carried out maintenance as requested.

Skeeles update – Cllr Brennan reported that there was a meeting last week that highlighted the need for more advertising of this charity. The Clerk reported that the application form has been published in the latest Earith Echo edition.

Earith Town Estate – No report

Village Car Parks – No report

ERICA Update – No report

Speedwatch – Cllr Reay reported that several sessions in June needed to be cancelled due to weather and obstruction on specific sites, but 800 cars had been counted on the High Street with 53 speeding East Bound and 12 speeding West Bound. Meadow Lane experienced 15 out of 84 cars speeding, Whybrows Lane 5 out of 81 speeding and no speeding cars were reported in Chapel Road.

Item 55 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made – Cllr Nicholls reported that all visits had been carried out and most of the requested work had been done. A visit to St Marys no's 11 or 15 at the back of the garages highlighted the fact that this area of land belongs to the District Council and Cllr Neish will look into this. There are problems with hedges and trees in this area. New reports at 5 Bridge End and the rented house, 75 Colne Road and 193 Greenfields. These sites would be visited in July.

Item 56 Drainage, Roads and pavements including advisory notes re car parking – No report

Item 57 LHI bid to be discussed ready for presentation before the deadline of the 4th August – The Clerk had received two suggestions from Cllr Lambert that were briefly discussed as the first suggestion for a pathway from Meadow Lane along the frontage of the allotments would be too expensive for an LHI bid and installing crash barriers on the large bend as you leave Earith and enter Bluntisham. This area is actually in Bluntisham as the boundary of Earith finishes before this bend starts. Cllr Spackman stated that the Village had been very lucky with all of the LHI bids that it had put in and that he felt that there was little scope at the present time to put any bid in this year. The Council therefore agreed to think again for next year but not to submit for this year.

Item 58 Parish Councillor Responsibilities to be reviewed - Due to the resignation of Cllr Rogers and the request for review by Cllr Nicholls the list was again looked at for Councillors to take on new responsibilities. The current list was worked through and the responsibilities have been shared between the Council members. Cllr Brown has taken over as Tree Warden, Cllr Reay has joined the Road Safety and HCV Group. Cllr's Reay and Jackson have taken over the Rights of Way responsibilities and the Chairman has taken over the Hanson Liaison role and has also joined with Cllr Russell for drains and pavements. Cllr Reay would also like to be considered as the Hanson Liaison if the Chairman is not able to attend the meetings.

Item 59 River Island to be discussed for future maintenance – This item was discussed at length and it was felt that as the maintenance of the island would prove to be costly it would be prudent for the Council to sell the River Island and the Clerk will look into this to see what can be achieved. A sealed bid would be

asked for with the buyer paying all legal costs for the sale. There will not be any access granted from the back of the Village Hall.

Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Island should be offered for sale. Resolved – 6 voted for and 2 abstained for the sale of the Island.

Item 60 Internal Audit report to be noted – The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor again commented on the online payment authorisation strategy that the Council have adopted. It is not contrary to the mandate, so the Council are not looking to make changes at this time. The approved budget paper needs to be signed by the Chairman. Queries were also raised as to the specific treatment of online payments in March and the Clerk is to try and find out some further information about this. The Annual return has been submitted as guidance from the External Auditor, posted on their website, states that online payments will be allowed as reconciling items. Standing orders and Direct Debits will not.

Item 61 County Council amendments to grass cutting schedule to be noted – The Clerk reported that the County Council had recently noticed that grassed areas within the village are not being cut as they had not previously added them to the grass cutting schedule originally agreed by the Parish to adopt. The Clerk is now in discussion with the County to try and get this resolved. Additional items have already been absorbed into our current grass cutting schedule along Colne Road and at George Corner and the grass cutting grant from the County Council will reflect this extra work.

Item 62 Finance – a) Payments to sign off
b) Online Salary payments for July
c) Chairman to sign bank statement

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 65 hrs. @ £17.09	1110.85			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		870.83	online	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hours 5.5hrs @ £9.96	54.78			LGA1972, s.133
	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £9.96	24.90			LGHA 1989, s.7
	Total Less Tax		79.68	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE June 2019		334.54	online	LGA1972, s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953, s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting		675.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Impressions Printers	Echo issue 52 – Printing		495.00	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Mrs K M Pink	Echo issue 52 – Editorial		200.00	online	LGA 1972, s.133
CCC	LHI Bid Fee for 2016/17 A1123 Scheme		4000.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
CCC	LHI Bid Fee for 2017/18 Cooks Drove		2500.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Mijan Ltd	Internal Auditor Charge		60.00	online	A&AR 2003 SI2003/533 reg 9
Wendy Oldfield	Environmental testing		43.20	online	LGA 1972, s.137
Advanced Security	CCTV maintenance		380.40	online	Local Govt & rating Act 1997, s.31
Isofast	Glue for CCTV signs		16.08	online	Local Govt & rating Act 1997, s.31
HAGS SMP	Repair to pirouette spinner		480.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Coopers of Stortford	Pond Oxygenator x 2		49.98	Dcard	LGA 1972, s.288
OVW Partnership	Joining Fee		30.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection Rec		20.15	DD	Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6
Hunts DC	Commercial waste collection V Hall		10.08	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		54.23	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
	Total Spend for June 2019		£10,455.16		

- a) Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the payments should be signed off. Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for July – 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 June as above. Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded. Resolved – All in favour

Item 63 Correspondence – All correspondence as per file.

Item 64 **Items for future meetings** –Village Hall floor & chairs and maintenance schedule, Neighbourhood Plan
(six monthly review)

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533
These minutes are unadopted
Meeting closed at 8:50pm

email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com

Meeting Dates
Thursday 1st August 2019
Thursday 5th Sept 2019
Thursday 3rd Oct 2019
Thursday 7th Nov 2019
Thursday 5th Dec 2019

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Notice – 13th July 2019