

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 3rd October 2019 at the Village Hall

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)

Mr Jeff Nicholls

Mr Peter Jackson

Mr Alan Till

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)

Mrs Paula Brown

Mr Alan Spackman

Ms Hazel Lambert

4 members of the public

DC Mr Jon Neish

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 107 Apologies for absence – Mr Keith Hudson, Mrs Marilyn Russell, Mrs Louise Reay, CC Mr Steve Criswell

Open Meeting

Item 108 Open Forum – No comments

Item 109 Ecops Report – The Clerk reported that there was a break in at a storage shed on the recreation field and investigations are continuing, a quantity of power tools were stolen from the back of a van on Earith Road, Colne. Motor bikes have been seen driving on the recreation field at night.

Item 110 County Council and District Council Reports

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported via email that repair work to the Willingham Road will be carried out via a Sunday road closure on 3rd November and there is no date yet for the Willow Hall Farm committee meeting. Continued HCV traffic will be an issue if the extension to Colne Fen Quarry is approved.

DC Mr Jon Neish reported that the volume of planning applications had quietened down and the St Ives Strategy Group is still having discussions but there is nothing to report at the moment. Cllr Spackman commented that the weed spraying in the village was not satisfactory and DC Neish will talk to the Operations Department.

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

Item 111 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None

Item 112 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 113 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 5th September 2019

Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that the minutes should be signed. Resolved - All in favour.

Item 114 Matters arising – None

Item 115 Sale of Common Land (parcel no. 22) known as Earith River Island – Sealed bids to be opened and the Council to decide if the sale should proceed

Three bids had been received and were opened.

Bid 1 - £8000 Bid 2 - £18,600 Bid 3 - £11,170

All bids offered cash payments and would be able to begin immediate negotiations via solicitors.

Mr Peter Jackson proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Island should be sold to the highest bidder. However, if there are any delays with the progression of the sale then the Council should review in three months-time with a view to cancelling the sale to the highest bidder and looking at the two remaining bids again to see if a quicker sale can be finalised. The second motion was proposed by Ms Hazel Lambert and seconded by Mr Jeff Nicholls. Resolved – All in favour

The Clerk will contact the highest bidder to inform them that the sale will proceed with them initially but could be changed if delays are paramount within a three-month time scale.

Item 116 Planning – Application Ref FMW/044/19 – Colne Fen Quarry – soil treatment – including a soil washing plant

The Council voted to reject this application as the range of soil and aggregate proposed to stockpile in the soil washing plant are not all suitable for site restoration and section 4.3 in the supporting statement clearly outlines that there is an additional financial motive for the application in providing aggregates to

the building and construction industry and thus continuing the quarry into the future. Earith has had a quarry since the 1940's with no gain to its amenities as the bridleway, which was in operation prior to the first application, but not restored is evidence of this.

The continued lorry movements will still be a problem on rural roads that cannot bear the use, vibration, noise, contamination and environmental pollution which is harmful to the residential amenity of the villagers in Earith. Mick George lorries will use the new purpose built roadway but all other lorries bringing contaminated soil and aggregates to and from the site for treatment will still come through the village.

The supporting statement 4.1 highlights that the application complies to the criteria laid down by the Cambridge and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Core Strategy DPD 2011 but as this site was not put forward for this plan and does not feature in this plan then it should not be considered to be compliant as it was not consulted on when the Plan was being drawn up.

Earith does not want an extension to be granted for the continued usage of the Quarry and does not want an additional soil treatment hub to be considered as this will mean continued usage of the Quarry into the future. The Quarry should start restoration now, reopen the bridleway and make provision for completion of works on site as per the original application which was all promised by the applicant but has since been forgotten.

Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Council reject this application
Resolved – All in favour

Planning – HDC consultation event – Bury Neighbourhood Plan to be noted

Item 117 Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that there had been some disturbances at the Recreation Field and it is important that all possible problems are reported directly to the Police as becoming involved in these matters can be confrontational and upsetting for any individual that tries to step in. The Police must be made aware, in the hope that an improved Police presence can be focused on the Village.

Item 118 Parish Council Representatives Report -

Road Safety and HCV – Cllr Till reported that he had attended a good HCV meeting and the group had the use of an open source app that includes monitoring of traffic etc. There was no Road Safety report.

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report

Health and Safety – No report

Hanson update – The Chairman attended the meeting and had a good tour of the facility. Lots of wildlife had been reported with an Otter group noted nearby. The site is on target for the predicted 3.1m tonnes per year and when restored the site will cover 9 Km Square. The number of visitors to site of 1000 per annum is an appropriate figure as it is not intended to make the area into a family day out, but it is envisioned that it will be aimed at the specialist bird watchers.

Speedwatch – No report

Saywell Charity – No report

Ouse Valley Way update – No report

Rights of Way – No report

Village Pond – Thanks to Cllrs Edwards and Spackman for their work on the hedge and tree at the pond.

Allotments – Cllr Spackman reported that the gate is being left open.

Skeeles update – No report

Earith Town Estate – Cllr Hudson gave the Clerk a report to state that the Earith Town Estate are not happy about the amount of break ins and vandalism that is happening at the Recreation Field and that they are looking at what can be done about this.

Village Car Parks – No report

Item 119 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made – New reports for 68 and 181 Greenfields – visits needed.

Item 120 Drainage, Roads and pavements including advisory notes re car parking – Cars are being parked irresponsibly at the corner of School Road and the Clerk is to report this to the Police.

Item 121 Village Hall working group update – The disabled toilet has been repaired and the plumber inspected all the toilets and stated that they are all satisfactory. Cllr Lambert cleaned and descaled the sinks. The Structural Engineer provided the Council with a report that pointed out that refurbishment is not a good route to proceed with but demolition and rebuild is required. Cllr Lambert is looking into grant funding and there are not many funds available to finance capital projects. The Clerk informed the Council about Public Works Loans which can be applied for and gave some examples of possible repayments if the Council decide to finance the build via lending. The open drop in meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 22nd October between 3pm – 8pm and Cllrs Lambert and Nicholls can be available at 3pm. Cllrs Brennan, Brown and Edwards will all be able to attend, and Cllr Spackman will drop in at some point. Refreshments will be provided.

Item 122 Climate change and Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency to be discussed – No Councillors wished to be active in this group.

Item 123 Request to move date of January 2020 meeting to Thursday the 9th January 2020 – The Clerk asked the Council if they would like to move the date of the January meeting to a more acceptable date of the 9th January 2020. This would then not have any impact on any New Year festivities.
Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the date is moved to the 9th Jan.
Resolved – All in favour

Item 124 Neighbourhood planning to be discussed – The Council agreed that this is not a project to move forward at this time and would like it to be looked at again in approximately six months. This will be placed on the items for future meetings list.

Item 125 Finance – a) Payments to sign off
b) Online Salary payments for October
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 September 2019 | | 334.54 | online | LGA1972, s.112-119 |
| Mr M S Pink | Parish Handyman | | 150.00 | online | LGA1953, s.4 |
| MSP Services | Grass Cutting | | 390.00 | online | OSA 1906, s.10 |
| Ms Hazel Lambert | Pond Maintenance | | 8.00 | online | PHA 1936, s.260 |
| Mr M Ward | Disabled toilet repair V Hall | | 65.00 | 3023 | LGA 1972, s.133 |
| Impressions Printers | Echo Issue 53 – Printing | | 495.00 | online | LGA 1972, s.142 |
| Mrs K M Pink | Echo Issue 53 – Editorial | | 200.00 | online | LGA 1972, s.142 |
| Cambridge Acre | Membership renewal | | 57.00 | online | LGA 1972, s.143 |
| Prettys Solicitors | LR search and application R Island | | 23.00 | online | LGA 1972, s.127 |
| Richard Money Assocs | Structural Engineer report V Hall | | 663.00 | online | LGA 1972, s.133 |
| Hunts DC | 2 x trial sports sessions | | 310.18 | online | Local Govt Misc Prov Act 1976, s.19 |
| 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 | | -78.79 | DD | LGHA 1972, s.133 |
| | Total Spend for September 2019 | | £3,603.66 | | |

- Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the payments should be signed off.
Resolved – All in favour
- Online salary payments for October – Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the payments should be made. Resolved – All in favour
- Chairman to sign the bank statement to confirm the online salary payments for September as above
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Peter Jackson seconded. Resolved – All in favour

Item 126 Correspondence – None

Item 127 Items for future meetings –Neighbourhood Plan, River Island.

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

email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com
Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Meeting Dates
Thursday 7th Nov 2019
Thursday 5th Dec 2019