

# Earith Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

### Held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the Village Hall

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)

Mr Keith Hudson

Mrs Marilyn Russell

Mrs Louise Reay

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)

Ms Hazel Lambert

Mr Allan Till

DC Mr Jon Neish, CC Mr Steve Criswell arrived at 8.20pm

1 member of the public

Mandy Pink – Clerk

**Item 172 Apologies for absence** – Mr Jeff Nicholls, Mrs Paula Brown, Mr Peter Jackson, Mr Alan Spackman**Open Meeting****Item 173 Open Forum** – No comments

**Item 174 Ecops Report** – The Clerk reported that there had been a break in at a house on the High Street and a van was targeted as it was parked in a driveway on Earith Road, Colne and when the person was confronted they walked off but CCTV footage will be used in the investigation to establish identity.

**Item 175 County Council and District Council Reports**

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that there is still a lot to be done at Colne Fen Quarry and it is now a question of priorities for this site and the County Council are looking at the question of validity for the need for extra time.

DC Mr Jon Neish reported that the refuse lorries have been fitted with full tele metrics so checks can be made on fuel usage, routes and the need for repairs etc. It is hoped that this will result in some cost saving and environmental improvements within the District. This will all be considered when the budgets are set later this year.

**(Close open Meeting)****(Open closed section of Meeting)****Item 176 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted** – None

**Item 177 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 178 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that the minutes should be signed.  
Resolved - All in favour.

**Item 179 Matters arising** - None**Item 180 Planning** – None

**Item 181 Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that it had been a quiet month but as the meeting was being held later in January the Clerk has received four further invoices that need to be paid now. They will be added to the payments list for next month. The invoices relate to the printing and editorial for the Earith Echo, Repairs to the Allotment gate, and an electrician's costs for the problems currently being experienced at the Recreation field.

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the payments could be made.  
Resolved - All in favour.

**Item 182 Parish Council Representatives Report -****Road Safety and HCV** – No report

**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – There are ongoing electrical problems at the Rec which the Clerk is working to rectify.

**Health and Safety** – No report**Hanson update** – No report**Speedwatch** – No report

**Saywell Charity** – No report

**Ouse Valley Way update** – No report

**Rights of Way** – No report

**Village Pond** – No report

**Allotments** – The wooden gate has been repaired and moved farther into the plot so that cars can stop off road to enter the site on the corner of Meadow Lane/ Colne Road which is a Health and Safety issue.

**Skeeles update** – No report

**Earith Town Estate** – No report

**Village Car Parks** – One solar light has been replaced at Darford and a further light with an intermittent fault is being monitored and will be replaced if needed.

**Envir Meeting** – Cllr Lambert attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation concerning all the items that are now recycled there. The fire last year has prompted more security measures on site and there is new CCTV and a night watchman. Communication is also to be looked at as the site, together with the Environment Agency, want to keep the residents more informed and they are holding community days. Visits to the site are encouraged.

- Item 183 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – No new reports
- Item 184 Drainage, Roads and pavements including advisory notes re car parking** – Cllr Hudson is to look into trying to locate the owner of the VW Golf that is parked in the disabled bay on Cooks Drove. This vehicle is subject to SORN and the MOT ran out in February 2019. It is causing a hazard to other road users and is taking up the disabled parking space.
- Item 185 Village Hall working group update** – Cllr Lambert confirmed arrangements for the second drop-in event scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> February. A notice has been published on the back page of the Echo and will be put on noticeboards and the website as previously. Cllr Lambert will also post details on Facebook.
- Item 186 Trees at the back of the Pond inside the duck feeding area – maintenance to be discussed** – The Clerk has checked the previous tree report for two silver birch trees and the report stated that the trees are in good health. As there are now three/four trees in question a new report should be carried out. The Clerk and Cllr Lambert are to meet with a tree surgeon on Friday at 1pm to discuss this.
- Item 187 Wheatsheaf Crossroads – Joint letter of support to the head of CCC and the local MP for improvements** – The Clerk received a letter from Bluntisham PC asking for support with a joint initiative to raise awareness of the issues being faced at Wheatsheaf Corner. Road improvements are carried out by the County Council when areas are identified, through various criteria, to need action. Previously this junction was quite a way down the list but due to the recent tragic accident and other more recent problems it is felt that this area should be moved up the list and a joint approach to the governing authorities was being questioned. CC Mr Criswell reported to the Council that work is being carried out by County to find funding for improvements however, at this time, a definite scheme has not yet been identified. However, it is being worked on and should hopefully mean that action can be taken possibly in three years' time as the road safety budgets for this year and the next have already been allocated to areas that are higher priority than Wheatsheaf Corner. Cllr Criswell felt that a joint letter from the neighbouring Parishes would not move this item forward.  
The Council discussed this item at length and Cllr Reay felt that a joint letter need not be sent at this time as the County Council are already working on this and support will be given to Cllr Criswell who is endeavouring to work towards an outcome that will be beneficial to all. If, however, it is felt that there is no movement being made by County then a joint approach from the Parishes can be looked at. The Council agreed that the Clerk can respond to Bluntisham PC as above.
- Item 188 Request for a spend of £200 to be agreed for the VE Day Event** – The Chairman reported that he, together with Cllr Nicholls and the Clerk, had attended a meeting with Bluntisham and Colne to look at organising a joint event to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ending of WWII. Since that meeting Colne have declined to be involved. It was felt that a budget of £400 would provide funding so a spend of £200 is requested from Earith. Bluntisham PC are also looking to spend £200.  
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that a spend of £200 could be pledged.  
Resolved - All in favour
- Item 189 The role of the Volunteer** – This agenda item is to be moved to February as Cllr Spackman is not present.

- Item 190 Finance –** a) Payments to sign off  
 b) Online Salary payments for January  
 c) Chairman to sign bank statement

| Payee             | Description                             |         | £                | Chq    | Powers                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------|------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Mrs K M Pink      | Clerks Wages 65 hrs. @ £17.57           | 1142.05 |                  |        | LGHA1989, s.7                      |
|                   | Clerks Expenses                         | 25.00   |                  |        | LGA 1963, s.5                      |
|                   | Back dated pay rise                     | 62.40   |                  |        |                                    |
|                   | Mobile Phone monthly rental not taxable | 12.00   |                  |        | LGHA1989, s.7                      |
|                   | Total Less Tax                          |         | 934.40           | online |                                    |
| Mrs C Shook       | Caretaker hours 5.5 hrs @ £10.16        | 66.04   |                  |        | LGA1972, s.133                     |
|                   | Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £10.16           | 25.40   |                  |        | LGHA 1989, s.7                     |
|                   | Back dated pay rise                     | £2.90   |                  |        |                                    |
|                   | Total Less Tax                          |         | 91.54            | online |                                    |
| Inland Revenue    | PAYE December 2019                      |         | 380.29           | online | LGA1972, s.112-119                 |
| Mr M S Pink       | Parish Handyman                         |         | 150.00           | online | LGA1953, s.4                       |
| W Oldfield        | Environmental testing                   |         | 21.60            | online | LGA 1972, s.137                    |
| Advanced Security | Maintenance visit                       |         | 102.00           | online | Local Govt & rating Act 1997, s.31 |
| The Solar Centre  | Solar Security Light                    |         | 50.89            | Dcard  | Local Govt & rating Act 1997, s.31 |
| 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         |         | 96.99            | DD     | LGHA 1972, s.133                   |
|                   | <b>Total Spend for December 2019</b>    |         | <b>£1,863.93</b> |        |                                    |

- a) Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the payments should be signed off. Resolved – All in favour  
 b) Online salary payments for January – Mrs Louise Reay 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 December as above. Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Louise Reay seconded. Resolved – All in favour

**Item 191 Correspondence –** All as per file

**Item 192 Items for future meetings –** River Island, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event WW2, Role of the Volunteer, Climate Change Action Plan, Pond Clearance.

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

email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com  
 Meeting closed at 8.52PM

Meeting Dates 2020  
 6<sup>th</sup> Feb  
 5<sup>th</sup> March  
 2<sup>nd</sup> April

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

Date of Notice – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020