

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 5th March 2020 at the Village Hall

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)
 Mrs Paula Brown
 Mr Jeff Nicholls
 Mrs Marilyn Russell
 Mr Alan Spackman

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mr Peter Jackson
 Ms Hazel Lambert
 Mr Allan Till

1 member of the public DC Mr Jon Neish

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 219 Apologies for absence – Mr Keith Hudson, Mrs Louise Reay, CC Mr Steve Criswell,

Open Meeting

Item 220 Open Forum – No comments

Item 221 Ecops Report – The Clerk reported that there had been several break ins and attempted break ins at the Industrial Estate, a house has been burgled in Hereward with cash and other items being taken, attempted garage burglary in Chapel Road, a bicycle was stolen in Greenfields but has been recovered, Police launched a drone to check a suspicious object, possibly a black jacket seen floating in the river near Earith Bridge.

Item 222 County Council and District Council Reports

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported via email that the design for a traffic light scheme at Wheatsheaf Crossroads is underway but has been halted until the work being carried out by Anglian Water is finalised. They are looking at installing traffic lights which could mean multiple land take, so a second option of a staggered junction is being looked at.

DC Mr Jon Neish reported that the Council Tax rise has been set with a balanced budget and has resulted in a 2.6% rise. The District Council are looking to set aside some monies for civil parking issues. The planning department are looking at new ways of working and enforcement cases are all ongoing.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 223 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None

Item 224 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 225 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 6th February 2020

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

Item 226 Matters arising – None

Item 227 Planning – Appeal Ref – APP/H0520/W/20/3245259 – 125 High Street – noted

Item 228 Application for Street Trading Consent – Chris' Griddle – B1050 Layby, Earith Road – noted

Item 229 Consultation on review of County Planning, Minerals and Waste Enforcement Plan – The Council discussed this plan and asked the Clerk to comment. As the County have planned for enforcement then they should actually enforce different planning applications and particularly those concerned with Minerals. Persistent applicants who constantly ignore conditions should be monitored closely if they put in any further applications.

Item 230 Chairman's Report – The Chairman asked the Council to accept a payment relating to the new Caretaker who has worked a half month in February.
 Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that a payment of £55 can be made now.
 Resolved - All in favour.

Item 231 Parish Council Representatives Report -

Road Safety and HCV – No report

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report

Health and Safety – No report

Hanson update – meeting on 20th April

Speedwatch – No report

Saywell Charity – No report

Ouse Valley Way update – No report

Rights of Way – No report

Village Pond – No report

Allotments – No report

Skeeles update – A meeting was held concerning the eight bursaries that have been approved. Only one applicant thanked the Charity.

Earith Town Estate – No report

Village Car Parks – District Council are looking at the area around Edwards Walk.

- Item 232 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – Cllr Spackman reported that the pyracantha hedge in Greenfields has still not been cut. Visit to be made.
- Item 233 Drainage, Roads and pavements including advisory notes re car parking** – The drain cover opposite the Crown is still causing problems. The Clerk will report this to CC Steve Criswell.
- Item 234 Village Hall working group update** – Ms Hazel Lambert gave a summary report of progress made to date following two consultation meetings and the presentation boards displayed at the Café. The overall response by Villagers in Earith was that a new Village Hall is needed, either in the current space or another site and better car parking is required. The talks and meetings have been held over a six-month period and a good selection of ideas have been made. All participants have been made aware of a precept rise and agree that a rise is needed for the work to go ahead but would not like to see a rise over £50 per year per household. DC Mr Jon Neish stated that the Council can ask the District for some funding from the Cil monies held by them. Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the working group should move to the next phase of the project so that actual designs, sites and costs can be determined. Resolved – All in favour
- A meeting of the working group will need to be arranged so that work can begin as soon as possible.*
- Item 235 Earith Climate Change Statement to be discussed** – The Clerk had attended a webinar and a workshop at the Conference and had prepared a statement that was tabled at the meeting for consideration. The worldwide problem of Climate Change was discussed, and it was decided that declaring an emergency was not the way forward for Earith. Earith Parish Council will publish the Climate Change Statement on the Council website. Mr Till asked the Clerk to include comments to the prepared statement concerning urging the residents to consider recycling. The Council agreed that the Clerk should action this request and then post the statement on the web. The statement can be viewed at www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk Resolved – All in favour
- Item 236 River Island update** – The Clerk reported that the sale of the Island is progressing, and all papers have been forwarded to the buyer's solicitor for action. The Clerk asked the Council if she could instruct the Solicitor to look at all the parcels of land registered to the Council on the Commons Land Register to see if they have also been registered with the Land Registry. A cost of £300 + VAT will be charged per parcel of land if Land Registration is needed following the initial cost for the check itself. Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the Clerk could ask for site checks to be made. Resolved – All in favour
- Item 237 75th Anniversary WW11 update** – The Clerk reported that there is another meeting on Monday 16th March to discuss the purchase of medals and prizes etc for the events pencilled in for the picnic in the park to be held at Bluntisham hall on Saturday the 11th July from 2-4.30pm
- Item 238 New Internal Auditor to be appointed** – The Clerk asked the Council to consider the appointment of Auditing Solutions Ltd to act as Internal Auditor for Earith PC. The cost is £250.00. Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the Clerk could appoint a new Internal Auditor as above. Resolved – All in favour
- Item 239 Earith Allotments – Flooding and Drainage to be discussed** – The Clerk has received an email from two allotment holders who are experiencing flooding issues on the allotment site. The question of ditch drainage was queried, and the Clerk explained the Riparian Rights that all homeowners have if their properties border watercourses. Letters and Riparian Rights guidance will be given to all homeowners in this area so that they can maintain the ditch that runs alongside their properties.

Any allotment holder can clear the ditch that runs alongside the allotment if needed but volunteer forms will need to be completed to enable them to do so. Excessive winter rainfall has resulted in the flooding issue and if this continues to be a yearly event then the plots concerned may need to be vacated as the Council cannot let them if they continue to flood. If the tenants wish to keep using the plots, then a discounted cost could be considered.

The plot holders asked the Council to consider supplying topsoil so that the plots can be raised but this was not agreed. They also requested that a pond could be dug to help with this problem. The Council will not consider this option as health and safety issues would need to be taken into account and would be costly and there are no free plots at present that can be used for this purpose.

Item 240 Pond Clearance to be discussed – The trees at the pond will be cut on the 19th March.

Item 241 School Governor to be appointed – The Clerk has been asked by the School to see if any Councillors would like to be considered as a School Governor. No Councillors came forward.

Item 242 The role of the Volunteer – Cllr Spackman challenged the Council on its Volunteer Policy and asked why jobs could not be carried out when he/other Volunteers are free to do them. The Clerk explained that the insurance company need to be made aware of any work being undertaken by Volunteers so that they are covered by the Council insurance. The Council will ask Volunteers to undertake work and will expect that work to be carried out on dates that are set by the Council. Volunteers cannot carry out jobs of their own choosing when they feel like doing them. It is important that Risk Assessments and Method Statements are provided so that the Insurance Company know what is being carried out and how the job is being done. The Clerk is to check with the Insurance Company concerning delivering the Earith Echo as this is carried out by Volunteers now who deliver the magazines dependent on the weather and therefore not to a specific date.

Item 243 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. @ £17.57	1142.05			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		891.88	online	
Mrs C Shook	Cleaner hours 5.5 hrs @ £10.16	55.88			LGA1972, s.133
	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £10.16	25.40			LGHA 1989, s.7
	Total Less Tax		80.88	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE February 2020		349.40	online	LGA1972, s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953, s.4
Ms Hazel Lambert	Pond Maintenance		8.00	online	PHA 1936, s.260
Viking	Cleaning Products		62.92	online	LGA 1972, s.133
SLCC	Practitioners Conference		464.00	online	LGA 1989, s.7
Yale	Key cutting VHall x 3		39.60	Dcard	LGA 1972, s.133
Dale Bateman	Locksmith charge VHall		40.00	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Parish Council Website	Website hosting charge		120.00	online	LGHA 1972, s.266
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		275.46	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
SSE	Village Hall Electricity		116.00	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
	Total Spend for February 2020		£2,634.36		

- a) Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Peter Jackson seconded that the payments should be signed off. Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for March – Ms Hazel Lambert 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 February as above
Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded. Resolved – All in favour

Item 244 Correspondence – All correspondence as per file

Item 245 Items for future meetings – Rubbish Bins on the Causeway, Parish Mapping

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

email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com
Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Meeting Dates 2020
2nd April
Annual Parish Meeting 23rd April