

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 5th September 2019 at the Village Hall

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mrs Louise Reay
 Mr Alan Till

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mrs Marilyn Russell
 Mr Alan Spackman
 Ms Hazel Lambert

6 members of the public

Mandy Pink – Clerk

- Item 86 Apologies for absence** – Mr Jeff Nicholls, Mrs Paula Brown, Mr Peter Jackson, CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Jon Neish

Prior to the Open Forum the Chairman read out a Postponement Notice concerning agenda item 94 – Sale of Earith River Island. The Council need to carry out some further investigation into historical data concerning the Island to enable the Sale to progress. The sealed bids received would be held and subsequently opened at the next available meeting. The bidders would be contacted by the Clerk and further notices would be displayed on the Noticeboards. The Clerk and the Chairman will liaise with the Parish Council legal team to move this item forward. Potential legal costs for the sale of the Island have been identified as between £1500 - £2500 and the bidders should be made aware of this.

Open Meeting

- Item 87 Open Forum** - A member of the public raised a query with the Council regarding the sale of the River Island. The Council need to look into trying to find out what the Commoner Rights are regarding the Island and also need to confirm the riparian rights and navigational rights to ensure that the buyer is given enough information to enable them to make an informed decision regarding their bids. A member of the public provided some historical information about the Island.

- Item 88 Ecops Report** – The Clerk reported that there was a break in at a house in Greenfields.

Item 89 County Council and District Council Reports

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported via email that some repair work to the Willingham Road will be carried out in November and the additional information concerning the Willow Hall Farm development did not provide any significant changes to the original application.

DC Mr Jon Neish reported via email that the new car parking strategy being proposed by the District Council has created quite a stir. Marshalls Aerospace are considering moving out of Cambridge possibly to a site north of RAF Wyton. Two other sites are also being considered. The land adjacent to 7 St Marys cannot be identified as being owned by the Parish, HDC or CCC and appears to be no man's land. The Operations Manager has informed Cllr Neish that he will be investigating the complaint raised concerning lack of care during rubbish removal days whereby bins are not correctly returned to the side of the road but just left scattered about the pathways. He has apologised to the residents of Earith.

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

- Item 90 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted** – None

- Item 91 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 92 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 1st August 2019

Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the minutes should be signed. Resolved - All in favour.

- Item 93 Matters arising** – Cllr Hudson reported that the drains mentioned in agenda item 77 are outside no's 1&3 High Street and the Clerk will report these to the Highways team for cleaning.

- Item 94 Sale of Common Land (parcel no. 22) known as Earith River Island** – Postponed as above.

- Item 95 Planning** – Application Ref FMW/025/19 – Colne Fen Quarry – Extension of time – Variation of condition Section 73

Cllr Lambert had investigated this application and had prepared a briefing paper for the Council to consider which highlighted various arguments as to why the Council should place conditions upon this application. A five-year extension is too long, and the bridleway and restoration works should be prioritised.

Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Council object to this application based on the conclusions drawn up by Cllr Lambert

Resolved – All in favour

Planning – Application Ref E/3003/18/CM – Willow Hall Farm, Hill Row, Haddenham – re-consultation for the construction of irrigation reservoirs by the extraction, processing and export of sand and gravel
Some additional information has been submitted which makes very little change from the original application and the County Council have requested that if there are no further comments to make then the original comments will be taken into consideration.

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the original comments still stand.

Resolved – All in favour

- Item 96** **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reported that the second children's sports day had been successful, and the Clerk will give a report at agenda item 101. Work has now commenced on the Green and the drain near to Duncan House has been cleaned. Cllr Criswell was very quick to respond to this problem and the resident is very happy.
- Item 97** **Parish Council Representatives Report -**
Road Safety and HCV – No meetings yet in September
Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report
Health and Safety – No report
Hanson update – No report
Rights of Way – No report
Saywell Charity – No report
Ouse Valley Way update – No report
Village Pond – No report
Allotments – Qtr. plot to be maintained by the Council. Cllr Spackman will attend to this.
Skeeles update – No report
Earith Town Estate – The Parish Council would like to thank the Earith Town Estate for providing use of the Pavilion for the holiday sport sessions.
Village Car Parks – No report
Speedwatch – Cllr Reay reported that there had been six sessions with Cooks Drove and Chapel Lane recording zero speeders, Meadow Lane – 5 speeders, Colne Road – 28 speeders, High Street – 18 Speeders.
- Item 98** **Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – Cllr Brennan reported that all four hedges had been maintained following visits made. The Clerk reported that hedges at 149 and 181 Greenfields needed a visit. Cllr Lambert said that the apple tree in the pond needs pruning and Cllrs Spackman and Edwards will prune it towards the end of the year.
- Item 99** **Drainage, Roads and pavements including advisory notes re car parking** – The Clerk is to report that the drains at the top end of the High Street (no's 1&3) are full of straw and need to be cleared. Cllr Russell reported that many of the grids on the High Street are covered with straw but as there had been no rain, she was not sure if they were blocked or not.
- Item 100** **External Auditor report to be noted** – The Clerk reported, yet again, that the accounts had been passed with no qualification from the Auditor and that everything was being carried out in a correct manner. Cllr Lambert thanked the Clerk for her continued good work with the Council finances.
- Item 101** **Update on Holiday Sport Provision – Further sessions to be considered** – The Clerk attended the sports day in August and reported that approximately 12-15 children attended from about 5-6 different families with a good mix of both boys and girls. All the children enjoyed the day. The parents commented that more sessions would be good, but the cost of the sessions is high. The Clerk therefore tabled that possibly five sessions should be booked for the forth coming year. One at Easter and again in the May Half Term and three in the Summer Holiday.
Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that five sessions should be booked.
Resolved – All in favour
- Item 102** **County Council request for Parishes to take on maintenance of Ouse Valley Way permanently** – The Council discussed this request and felt that taking on this service would be costly and would mean more work for the Council to undertake. The precept would need to be raised considerably to enable this

to be maintained to an adequate and safe level and this is not something that the Council wanted to take on at this present time.

Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the Council do not take on this extra financial responsibility at this time

Resolved – All in favour

Item 103 Village Hall working group update – The working group met with a local building company to discuss the options for the Hall. Refurbishment would be costly as piling would be needed to negate the tree root damage that had already caused problems with the existing hall. A possible rebuild cost was given which was based on the square meterage of the exterior footprint. A structural engineer would be able to give more accurate costings and the group would look to arrange a site visit. The Clerk is to investigate low cost government funding and an open drop-in event is to be arranged so that the Village can give views and suggestions for the new build. Tuesday the 22nd October between 3pm -8pm was suggested and these details will be put into the Echo. An individual flyer would also be produced, and the Clerk would put notices on the boards, website and would email the newsletter subscribers. Cllr Lambert would add a post onto Facebook. Cllr volunteers to attend the drop-in sessions would be determined at the October meeting.

Item 104 Finance – a) Payments to sign off
b) Online Salary payments for September
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 August 2019		334.54	online	LGA1972, s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953, s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting		510.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Viking	Stationery		44.23	online	LGA 1972, s.226
Fenland Fire Appliance	Fire Extinguisher Service		60.96	online	LGA 1972, s.133
PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor Charge		360.00	online	LGA 1972, s.126
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		27.63	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
SSE	Village Hall Electricity quarterly charge		90.40	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
	Total Spend for August 2019		£2,564.49		

- 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 September – Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Louise Reay 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 August as above
Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Louise Reay seconded. Resolved – All in favour

Item 105 Correspondence – The Crown Public House has been included in the Assets of Community Value list and the Clerk has renewed the current Gas contract with CNG

Item 106 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 9.15pm

Meeting Dates
Thursday 3rd Oct 2019
Thursday 7th Nov 2019
Thursday 5th Dec 2019