

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 2nd September 2021 at the Village Hall

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)
 Ms Hazel Lambert
 Mr Alan Spackman
 Mr Alan Till
 Mrs Marilyn Russell

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Mr Jeff Nicholls
 Mrs Paula Brown
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mrs Louise Reay

CC Mr Steve Criswell
 DC Mr Jon Neish
 19 members of the public

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 91 Apologies for absence – Mr Nick Tindall

Open Meeting

Item 92 Open Forum – Earith Residents attended the meeting to discuss agenda items 105 and 107.

Agenda 107 - Envar Composting CCC/21/0088/FUL – Main points raised – Lack of consultation, inadequate consultation, chimney height, community ill health, waste disposal of medicinal/clinical waste is not needed in this area, poorly written application although green energy is needed and some elements of the application are good, other areas have large chimneys and incinerators within built up areas so having this chimney in a rural area was not so bad, traffic volumes during the build process, independent Environmental Policy should be used, the current, applicant commissioned, report was not open and transparent and did not indicate any long or short term risks, sustainability or impact on biodiversity.

Agenda 105 - A1123 road calming – Main points raised – Narrowing of road is pointless, road markings and pinch points are not effective, physical barriers at either end of the High Street before and after the built up area such as chicanes or gates may be effective but home owners at the beginning and end of the Village disagreed but temporary barriers could be used as a trial, traffic flow needs to be maintained so traffic lights, although suggested by some were discouraged by others due to noise, vibration, pollution, stop/start of traffic and horizontal road measures such as speed cushions and raised platforms would also cause these issues. The houses on the High Street are older than others in the Village and they cannot take the continual traffic damage that physical road-based calming would cause. The pavements are also very narrow and do not shield pedestrians from the high speeds of traffic on the road. Average speed cameras at the beginning and end of the road were also suggested but Cambridgeshire County Council do not have an active policy supporting the use of average speed cameras and promote safety cameras only in the County. Changing speed limits on the whole length of the A1123 promote faster speeds being driven in the built-up areas. Speed limits are defined by the Department of Transport and are allocated to roads due to set criteria.

Item 93 Ecops Report – No report

Item 94 County Council and District Council Reports

District Councillor Mr Jon Neish reported that planning applications are being dealt with quicker now that a validation checklist is in place. The District Council will be responding to the Envar Application concerning the height of the chimney and emissions, highway issues and off-site flooding. The District Council are working with the Longhurst Group to provide more affordable housing. They are also supporting the Explore Huntingdon Campaign to encourage local shopping and regeneration of High Streets. Climate Change is also being investigated and the Council have received a 3.8million grant to be used to decarbonise Council owned buildings. Cllr Spackman asked if weed spraying of kerbs is still being carried out as he felt that the village was looking untidy, and it is the District Council who normally carry this out. Cllr Neish will investigate this. A resident asked Cllr Neish about additional infrastructure if more affordable houses are being provided and was told that the question of infrastructure is complex and depends on needs and wants which can only be determined if a development site is identified.

County Councillor Mr Steve Criswell reported that the Envar Application is a concern, and the question of emissions will be judged by the Environment Agency who will need to issue a permit for use if the emissions are deemed to be satisfactory. The regrettable developments concerning the A1123 will mean that more favourable matters will need to be looked at and the Committee will look to introduce an engagement process with Councils to see what can be achieved regarding traffic calming. A 20mph speed limit reduction may be achievable, without the prerequisite traffic calming criteria as this option is being explored elsewhere in the Country and it is possible that the criteria may change to allow more 20mph limits within the County. The allocated funding for traffic lights at the Wheatsheaf Cross Road has been put on hold due to the changeover of control within the County as the new Committee would rather see a staggered junction in place. Cllr Criswell will be pushing to get the proposals back on track with traffic lights as the preferred option if he is able to do so.

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

- Item 95 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.**
- Item 96 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 97 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 5th August 2021.**
Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the minutes are agreed.
Resolved - All in favour by those who attended the meeting
- Item 98 Planning – None**
- Item 99 Parish Council Representatives Report –**
Road Safety – Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that the next meeting will be held on the 14th of September.
HCV – Mr Nick Tindall emailed a report prior to the meeting that was noted by Council
Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report
Health and Safety – No report
Hanson update – No report
Speedwatch – Mrs Louise Reay reported that she had not been contacted by the Speedwatch Group to attend any sessions
Saywell Charity – No report
Ouse Valley Way update – No report
Rights of Way – Ms Hazel Lambert asked the Clerk if she had contacted Mr Minnaar and the Clerk stated that the footpath will be attended to shortly. The Riverbank footpath/bridleway closure is still in place and an extension has been requested. The Clerk had emailed the TTRO request prior to the meeting.
Village Pond – Ms Hazel Lambert reported that she is still investigating Grass Carp fish for the pond.
Allotments – No report
Skeeles update – No report
Village Car Parks – The Clerk reported that a car is regularly parking on the paved walkway to the side of the Village Hall, and she will issue a polite reminder to not park in this area and if the car fails to respond to the reminder drop down bollards will be installed. This area is needed to remain clear so that staff and contractors can have access whilst attending the Hall. The space also needs to be kept clear so that any disabled users can access the Hall via the disabled ramp.
- Item 100 Earith Town Estate –** The Clerk has been contacted by a member of FOES to see if they can hold a firework display at the Recreation Field. The Clerk has informed them that they will need to provide a copy of their public liability insurance, event insurance, risk assessment and method statement and confirmation that first aid services will be provided. There should be no driving on the field during the winter months and the Pavilion will not be available for hire until further health and safety measures have been undertaken. The Council did think that it was a good idea, but all the measures stated by the Clerk will need to be in place before FOES can make any arrangements to organise the event which did not leave very much time for this year.
- Item 101 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made –** Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that no visits have been made due to other commitments, but visits will be made to those reports on the list shortly. No new reports to add.
- Item 102 Drains, Roads and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken –** No reports
- Item 103 Update on the Village Hall project –** Ms Hazel Lambert reported that she had met with the Architects and that they will be providing some concept drawings which will be displayed at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday the 14th of October.
- Item 104 External Auditor Report to be noted –** The Clerk had emailed the report to the Council prior to the meeting and the Auditor had not raised any concerns. Cllr Lambert thanked the Clerk for her continued commitment and hard work for the Council and wished to have this noted in the Minutes.
- Item 105 A1123 traffic calming measures to be discussed –** The Council noted the comments made during the Open Forum and discussed what could be investigated as suitable traffic calming measures on Earith High Street. The Council agreed that the suggestions made by the County Council and mentioned in the report that had been previously emailed would not be acceptable as they are all inappropriate measures for Earith. The addition of 20mph Mick George road signs has made a difference in the speeds being experienced on the High Street so a request will be put in for a 20mph speed limit on the High Street but

without the prerequisite traffic calming associated with this limit. A request should also be made for more MVAS signs.

- Item 106 Local Highway Initiative Bid to be discussed** – The Council discussed what new Initiatives could be put forward for the Bid and a pathway going from Meadow Lane to the first corner on Colne Road heading into Colne along the side of the road opposite the allotment site in Earith was put forward. Many residents currently walk along the uneven surface of the roadside verge to walk their dogs along the field edges to Bluntisham. Vehicle speeds are high on this stretch of road and the verge is uneven with gulleys for water dispersal and it also gets very muddy and dangerous in winter. A solid pavement/pathway on this part of the road would keep residents and children safe. The Clerk will prepare the bid and a contribution from the Council of £1250 will be offered in the hope that the bid is successful.
- Item 107 Non-Consultee Planning Application CCC/21/088/FUL – Envar Composting Ltd – Interested party only – Comments if needed** – The Council noted the earlier residents' comments made during the Open Forum and the emailed comments already received. The Council discussed this item and decided to put in a series of suggestions based on the items noted in the Open Forum and to include concerns over road safety and increases in traffic, pollution and damage to the local agriculture, noise and lights during the night and concerns over the emissions. Some good points were also noted primarily that there would be an increase in green energy, better storage for the site, a tidying up of the site and increased eco management at the site. The Clerk will work with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to put together a submission from Earith Parish Council.
- Item 108 Saywell Charity Education Letter to be noted – Comments to be made if needed** – The Council noted the request to provide Bluntisham Trustees with administrative responsibility for this Charity so that they can amalgamate their Village Charities to make it easier going forward. Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mrs Louise Reay seconded that the request is approved. Resolved - All in favour
- Item 109 Correspondence** – Thank you letter from the President of 7 Squadron Association to be noted. – Letter noted by Council regarding the installation of a new bespoke bench at the memorial.
- Item 110 Finance** –
- a) Payments to sign off
 - b) Online Salary payments for September to be made as standard
 - c) Chairman to sign bank statement.
- a) Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the payments should be signed off. Resolved – All in favour
 - b) Online salary payments for September – Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mrs Louise Reay seconded that the payments should be made. Resolved – All in favour
 - c) Bank statement signed by Chairman

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>Chq</u>	<u>Powers</u>
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 75hrs @ £18.05	1353.75			LGHA1989,s.7
	Clerks Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
	Mobile phone monthly rental not taxab	12.00			LGA 1972, s.133
	total less tax		1254.74	online	
Mrs C Shook	Cleaner 5.5 hrs @ 10.16	55.88			LGA 1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ 10.16	25.40			LGHA1989,s.7
	total less tax		81.28	online	
Mrs J Law	Caretaker August		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE August 2021		224.57	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Mr MS Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting		450.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Fenland Fire Appliance	Fire Extinguisher Service		71.10	online	LGA 1972, s.133
PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor Charge		360.00	online	LGA 1972, s226
Morelock Signs	Battery for Speed Sign		82.80	online	Highways Act 1980, s274A
Amazon	Hall maintenance		27.07	dcard	LGA 1972, s.133
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
CNG	Village Hall Gas		38.66	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
SSE	Village Hall Electricity		68.16	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	Total spend for August 2021		2,938.61		

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533

email: earithparishclerk@outlook.com
Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Meeting Dates 2021
7th October

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Notice – 11th September 2021