

## Earith Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held via zoom on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

#### Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)  
Mrs Louise Reay  
Mr Alan Till  
Mrs Marilyn Russell

Mrs Paula Brown  
Mr Jeff Nicholls  
Mr Nick Tindall  
Mr Alan Spackman

CC Mr Steve Criswell  
DC Mr Jon Neish  
One member of the public

Mandy Pink – Clerk

**Item 127 Apologies for absence** – Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman), Ms Hazel Lambert, Mr Keith Hudson

#### **Open Meeting**

**Item 128 Open Forum** – No comments to be made by the member of the public present

**Item 129 Ecops Report** – No report

#### **Item 130 County Council and District Council Reports**

County Councillor Mr Steve Criswell reported that the Wheatsheaf Crossroads traffic light scheme has been agreed and funding sorted out by the new administration at the County Council. Further information has been requested from the applicant concerning the Envar Application to prove the need for the additions to the site. The A1123 group will not meet until the end of November and any details raised will then be reported back to the Parishes.

District Councillor Mr Jon Neish reported that the plans for the A141 are moving forward, and a strategic outline has determined three location areas that are being investigated to see which one will bring the most benefits to the region. HDC have set their carbon neutral deadline to 2040. Planning and enforcement departments are still understaffed but recruitment is ongoing. The Chairman asked why the Bluntisham recycling centre still does not allow the facility to drop off items that are still usable and can be reused by other households. CC Mr Steve Criswell stated that once the waste enters the gates it becomes the property of Amey Cespa, but he would check this out and report back. Mr Alan Spackman stated that the kerbside weed spraying had not been carried out and CC Criswell will find out about this as well.

#### **(Close open Meeting)**

#### **(Open closed section of Meeting)**

**Item 131 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted** – None.

**Item 132 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 133 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**  
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Allan Till seconded that the minutes are agreed.  
Resolved - All in favour

**Item 134 To receive the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting – 14th October 2021 for actions to be taken –**  
All items raised are Agenda Items for discussion this evening.

**Item 135 Planning** - None

#### **Item 136 Parish Council Representatives Report –**

**Road Safety** – Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that he had attended the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November and there was nothing major to report. The Minutes will be circulated. Some Parishes appear to have stopped sending representatives to the Meeting so an email will be forwarded to all Councils in the area asking for representatives to be appointed.

**HCV** – Mr Nick Tindall reported that Brian and Wendy had resigned from the group and the Minutes are not yet available for circulation.

**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – The Clerk reported that vandalism had occurred to several pieces of equipment at the Rec. The surface of the MUGA pitch had been vandalised along with the rocking horse and a small area of the Skate Park. Mrs Paula Brown and Mrs Marilyn Russell will repaint the equipment.

**Health and Safety** – No report

**Hanson update** – No report

**Speedwatch** – Mrs Louise Reay reported that she had not had any communication with the Speedwatch group

**Saywell Charity** – The Chairman has attended two meetings and there will be a third next week. The Charity need to sort out the income, bank accounts and land.

**Rights of Way** – No report

**Village Pond** – No report

**Allotments** – Mr Alan Spackman reported that a wheelbarrow and bench have been stolen from a plot. He has cleared the vacant plots and would like to thank Mr Neville Clements for his help, as a volunteer, with cutting the hedge.

**Skeeles update** – No report.

**Village Car Parks** – No report

**Ouse Valley Way** – No report

- Item 137 Earith Town Estate** – No update
- Item 138 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – No new reports
- Item 139 Drains, Roads and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – Mrs Marilyn Russel stated that there is a large hole around a drain at the memorial site and she will send a photo to the Clerk so that it can be reported.
- Item 140 Speed reduction measures on Colne Road to be discussed** – The Clerk had forwarded an email from a resident about vehicle speeds on Colne Road. The Council did not know of any suitable speed reduction measures that can be placed on this road. The MVAS sign has been placed on this road to record speed data.
- Item 141 Village Hall site location** – Three sites in consideration, the original site, the Recreation Field gravelled area and the ECA Field to be considered by the Council and presented to the Village on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Village Hall site flyers are being distributed to all homes in the Village asking for resident comments. Approximately 45% of the Village has been leafleted at the moment and 17 people have already responded with ideas. There will be an open forum for information at the Village Hall on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November from 1pm until 4pm before the Christmas Lights Switch on event. Access and parking issues are the main cause for concern within the Village for all sites.
- Due to technical issues with the meeting Mrs Marilyn Russell lost connection at this point*
- Item 142 Draft Budget for consideration and decision to be made in December** – Traditionally the Clerk would table the Draft Budget at this meeting but will post copies to Councillors next week.
- Item 143 20's Plenty Campaign – Request for Council support following APM** – The need to normalise a 20mph speed limit within the Village was discussed and was generally supported. Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Allan Till seconded that the Council should support the Campaign. Resolved – six for and one against
- Item 144 Plastic Free Communities** – Request by the Clerk for Council support to move this item forward following the APM. The Clerk has investigated this Initiative and would like to try and form a Community Group to work on this to help the Village of Earith to achieve the status of a Plastic Free Community. Three points to be agreed are: -  
The Council needs to put a member onto the steering group  
The Council agrees to support any other Plastic Free Initiatives that are present in the Village if it has the power to do so and it feels that it will help the Village  
The Council pledge to act by example to remove single use items from its Council owned buildings.  
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Allan Till seconded that the Clerk can move this item forward.  
Resolved - Earith Parish Council have already issued a Climate Statement and recommend to all Hall users that single use plastic items are not used within the Hall. They also support the three aims of the Plastic Free Community Initiative.
- Item 145 Queens Green Canopy Initiative** – Tree planting for the Jubilee to be considered – The Clerk attended a meeting regarding this Initiative and had emailed the slides to the Council prior to this meeting. Free trees can be obtained from the Woodlands Trust and the Council agreed that the Clerk can organise to have one tree planted on the Village Green to be nominated as part of this Initiative. Mr Steve Edwards proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that a tree should be planted for the Queen. Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 146 Land under PC control to be registered at the Land Registry – Solicitor to be appointed** – The Clerk asked the Council if all land under PC control, including the Recreation Field controlled by the Earith Town Estate Charity can be registered at the Land Registry and that a Solicitor can be appointed to do this work as it is very specialised and she would not feel confident in attempting to do this work.

Mr Nick Tindall proposed, and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that the Clerk could work with a specialised Solicitor to register the land with the Land Registry  
Resolved – All in favour.

**Item 147 Annual Salary standard increment increase for the Clerk and Cleaner to be considered payable as of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021** – The Clerk asked the Council to consider a standard scale point increase back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. The Cleaner would be moved to SCP 7, and the Clerk to SCP 32 of the agreed salary points for 2020/2021.

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Nick Tindall seconded that the increase can be administered and back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

Resolved – All in favour

**Item 148 Annual donation to the Earith, Bluntisham and Colne Royal British Legion to be made as standard by the Clerk every November until further notice** – The Council have agreed a donation amount of £60 and this should be paid by the Clerk as standard.

Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Steve Edwards seconded that the Clerk should ensure that the donation is paid every year going forwards as a standard amount.

Resolved – All in favour

**Item 149 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off

b) Online Salary payments for November to be made as standard

c) Chairman to sign bank statement.

a) Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Steve Edwards seconded that the payments should be signed off.

Resolved – six for and one abstention

b) Online salary payments for November – Mr Steve Edwards proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the payments should be made. Resolved – All in favour

c) Bank statement signed by Chairman

| Payee  | Description                                    |                | £        | Chq        | Powers                        |  |  |
|--|--|----------------|----------|------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 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 October                              |                | 100.00   | online     | LGA 1972,s.133                |  |  |
| Inland Revenue                                     | PAYE October 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                |  |  |
| MSP Services                                       | Hedge maintenance - Recreation Field play area |                | 385.00   | online     | OSA 1906, s.10                |  |  |
| EDC Poppy Appeal                                   | Remembrance Day Wreaths                        |                | 40.00    | online     | LGA 1972, s.137               |  |  |
| Earith, Bluntisham & Colne<br>Royal British Legion | Donation to Local British Legion               |                | 60.00    | online     | LGA 1972, s.137               |  |  |
| Cambridge Acre                                     | Membership Renewal                             |                | 57.00    | online     | LGA 1972, s.143               |  |  |
| UK Boiler Care                                     | Boiler service                                 |                | 84.00    | online     | LGHA1972,s.133                |  |  |
| Fast Hosts   | Domain Name Registration 2 years               |                | 25.18    | Debit Card | LGHA1972,s.266                |  |  |
| Amazon   | V Hall Toilet Seat                             |                | 17.98    | Debit Card | LGHA1972, S.133               |  |  |
| Camb Water   | Village Hall water and sewerage cost           |                | 57.15    | DD         | LGHA1972,s.133                |  |  |
| Community Heartbeat                                | Annual Support Year 5                          |                | 151.20   | online     | Public Health Act 1936, s.234 |  |  |
| 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                               |                | 41.66    | DD         | LGHA1972,s.133                |  |  |
|  | Total spend for October 2021                   |                | 3,209.99 |            |                               |  |  |

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533

email: [earithparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:earithparishclerk@outlook.com)  
Meeting closed at 8.41pm

Meeting Dates 2021  
2<sup>nd</sup> December

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

Date of Notice – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021