

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 1st September 2022

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)
Mrs Paula Brown
Mr Keith Hudson
Ms Hazel Lambert
Mr Allan Till

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
Mr Nev Clements
Mr Jeff Nicholls
Mr Nick Tindall
Mrs Louise Reay

County Council – None

District Council - DC Cllr Jon Neish, DC Cllr Paul Hodgson-Jones

Public 3

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 98 Apologies for absence – Mr Alan Spackman, CC Mr Steve Criswell

Open Meeting

Item 99 Open Forum – A resident commented that they were disappointed that the Parish Council are considering cutting down the Horse Chestnut tree at the Recreation Field to facilitate the new Village Hall building if planning permission is approved. A resident contacted the HDC tree officer to ask for a TPO to be applied to the tree and as a result HDC have requested that Earith Town Estate submit an application for tree works to a tree in a conservation area. The Secretary has submitted the required paperwork to HDC.

Two new indigenous English Oak Trees will be planted to mitigate this loss if needed. An ecological report has also been undertaken that suggests further mitigating items can be implemented if this tree is lost. The Architects have submitted the proposed plans for pre planning advice and the HDC planners originally wanted the building to be placed at the far end of the field near to the homes in Vermuyden, but the Parish Council have asked the Architects to keep as much of the building away from the field as possible which now means that the tree may need to be felled.

A resident asked the Chairman why the Parish Council did not disclose to the Village that the ECA field has a sitting tenant. This field was a site put forward for consideration by the Village during the site location process. Other items counted against the use of the ECA field as there is currently no access to this site as the only way into the site is via a ransom strip and the owners of this land will need to be found to enable discussions re purchase of the ransom strip. Other access from Cooks Drove is owned by Huntingdon District Council. Because of the constraints on this site the Parish Council, following the democratic recommendations from the Village collated via consultation and drop in events that began in 2019 and have been ongoing, agreed to move forward the project using the Recreation Field as the chosen site. The Chairman will investigate the point raised by the resident and will provide an update when possible.

Item 100 Ecops Report – No report

Item 101 County Council and District Council Reports – County Council – no report.

District Council – DC Jon Neish commented that the month of August has been quiet and there is nothing substantial to report. DC Paul Hodgson-Jones commented that he had visited the site of the proposed 5G mast and had submitted photographs that showed that the site was unsuitable, and the Planning Officer has decided to refuse this application. This application was called in to the Planning Committee by DC Paul Hodgson-Jones.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 102 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

Item 103 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 104 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 4th August 2022.

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the minutes are agreed.
Resolved - All in favour

Item 105 Planning - Application ref CCC/21/088/FUL - Envar Composting – New information only to be discussed - The Council discussed this application and agreed that the added information provided still did not change the original comments made as it did not show a clear need for this application. Current Net Zero plans have highlighted that incineration may be contrary to the aspirations set out by the UK Committee on Climate Change and there is not a recognised need for additional incineration capacity and no substantial justification for constructing it.

Planning Application ref 22/0835/FUL – Demolish existing outhouse and replace with 3-bedroom dwelling with the same footprint – amended plan – Newfields, Earith Road

The Council agreed that the amended plan did not change the size of the dwelling and the changes made to the access of the site would improve the development.

Mrs Louise Reay proposed, and Mr Nick Tindall seconded that the application is supported.

Resolved - All in favour

- Item 106 Parish Council Representatives Report –**
Road Safety – Meeting to be held next week
HCV Group – Mr Nick Tindall reported that a zoom meeting had been held and the usual discussions were tabled. The next meeting is TBA.
Rights of Way – No report.
Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report
Village Pond – Ms Hazel Lambert has changed the locks. Water voles and baby fish are evident. The barley straw is still floating but will sink eventually. Ms Hazel Lambert asked the Clerk to contact the Insurance Company to state that works are still ongoing at the pond.
Health and Safety – No report
Hanson update – The Chair will attend the next meeting
Skeeles update – No report
Village Car Parks – No report
Speedwatch/MVAS – No report
Ouse Valley Way – No report
Saywell Charity – No report
Allotments – Mr Nev Clements reported that the hedge is still to be cut and the Chairman asked him to provide the Clerk with the correct paperwork and dates so that she could alert the insurance company.
- Item 107 Earith Town Estate** – The Clerk informed the Council that the sports days are now finished but they were all well attended, and eleven children attended the last session despite the inclement weather on the day. An application for tree work in a conservation area has been submitted regarding the Horse Chestnut tree on the Recreation Field.
- Item 108 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – Miss Ann Brennan reported that work has been carried out on the outstanding hedge, so no visits have been made. She is still watering the Queens Green Canopy tree on the Green and the Diamond Jubilee tree due to the lack of water.
- Item 109 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – The drains at the Shop are still a problem in heavy down pours. Parked cars on the High Street and Edwards Walk are causing issues with mobility scooters and prams and need to be reported to the Police. Miss Ann Brennan asked the District Councillors when the HDC civil enforcement parking team will be in place and Cllr Neish reported that the project is still ongoing but should hopefully be in place by 2023.
- Item 110 Plastic Free Communities** – The Clerk reported that one business had been signed up and it is hoped that more will support the project.
- Item 111 Village Hall update** – Ms Hazel Lambert reported that there will be an Architects meeting on the 5th September and it is hoped that the location of the Hall and the layout plans can be agreed so that a planning application can be submitted.
- Item 112 Land Registry update** – The Chairman informed the Council that he had collected the paperwork from the Solicitors, Leeds & Day in Huntingdon as they had not carried out the work expected of them and no submissions to the Land Registry had been made despite the Clerk chasing progress. The Clerk had deposited the paperwork with them in January and had asked for the submissions to be made by the end of June. The Clerk will now manage the applications and will do this as contract work as it may take some time to complete, and it cannot be fitted into the part time hours already worked. The Council asked the Clerk to write to the Solicitors to express disappointment and to ask for an ex-gratia payment as they had not carried out the work that was requested.
 Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Nick Tindall seconded that the letter should be sent.
 Resolved – All in favour
- Item 113 SAAA opt out communication – External Auditor appointment to be discussed** – The Clerk informed the Council that SAAA carry out a procurement exercise every five years to facilitate appointing an External Auditor for smaller authorities. This takes the worry, time, effort, and expense away from the Council. There are a lot of governmental regulations that need to be followed to appoint an External Auditor, so the Clerk recommended that the Council agree to remain opted-in to the SAAA appointment scheme.
 Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Council should remain opted-in.
 Resolved – All in favour

Item 114 External Auditor report to be discussed – The Clerk informed the Council that the External Auditor had pointed out that payments, under a receipt and payment accounting system should all be authorised and actioned in the month to which they relate so March payments, at year end, should be authorised and made in March. To continue with a receipts and payments scheme the Council will need to authorise all payments for March at the March meeting on the first Thursday or they can change to begin using an income and expenditure accounting system so that payment can be noted on the bank reconciliation as outstanding payments at the year end. When cheque payments were made the cheques would be dated 31st March and then sent out and would still be classed as outstanding but now that online payments are made, they should actually be actioned in the month that they are authorised. So, March payments would need to be authorised in March, but this could not happen at the beginning of the month as the Parish Council would not know what payments were needed. It was agreed that the Council should change to an Income and Expenditure accounting system moving forward and incorporating the current fiscal year. Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that the Council should change to Income and Expenditure accounting commencing with the current fiscal year 2022-2023
Resolved – All in favour

- Item 115 Finance** –
- a) Payments to sign off
 - b) Online Salary payments for September to be made as standard
 - c) Chairman to sign bank statement.
- a) Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the payments should be signed off.
Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for September to be made as standard
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the payments should be made.
Resolved – All in favour
- c) Bank statement signed by Chairman

Payee	Description		£	Chg	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 75hrs @ £18.90	1417.50			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	1323.23	online	
Mrs C Shook	Cleaner 5.5 hrs @ 10.63	58.47			LGA 1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ 10.63	26.57			LGHA1989,s.7
		total less tax	85.04	online	
Mrs J Law	Caretaker August		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE August 2022		234.29	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Mr MS Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting		390.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Ms H Lambert	Pond Maintenance		8.00	online	PHA 1936, s.260
Viking	Cleaning Products		62.78	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Fenland Fire Appliance	Fire Extinguisher Service		53.82	online	LGA 1972, s.133
PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor Charge		360.00	online	LGA 1972, s.226
James Waters	Grass Cutting Colne to Earith		60.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Leeds Day Solicitor	Legal Fees re Land Registration		2589.00	online	LGA 1972, s.127
Survey Solutions	Topographical Survey V Hall		900.00	online	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
Positive Energy	Village Hall Gas		61.13	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
SSE	Village Hall Electricity		73.82	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	Total spend for August 2022		6,481.34		

Item 116 Correspondence – as per file

Item 117 Items for future meetings – Leasing arrangements with ETE

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533

email: earithparishclerk@outlook.com
Meeting closed at 8.38pm

Meeting Dates 2022
6th October
3rd November
1st December

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Notice – 17th September 2022