

## Earith Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)  
Mr Allan Till  
Mr Jeff Nicholls  
Mr Alan Spackman  
Mrs Paula Brown

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)  
Mr Keith Hudson  
Mr Nick Tindall  
Ms Hazel Lambert  
Mr Nev Clements

Public 2

Mandy Pink – Clerk

**Item 1 Apologies for absence** – CC Mr S Criswell, DC's Mr J Neish, Mr P Hodgson-Jones, Cllr Mrs L Reay

**Open Meeting**

**Item 2 Open Forum** – No comments

**Item 3 Ecops Report** – No report

**Item 4 County Council and District Council Reports** – CC report noted by Council. DC reports noted by Council.

**(Close open Meeting)**

**(Open closed section of Meeting)**

**Item 5 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted** – None.

**Item 6 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 7 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.**  
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the minutes are agreed.  
**Resolved** - All in favour by those that attended the meeting.

**Item 8 Planning** - None

**Item 9 Earith BioDiversity Report from the Chairman** – The Chairman and the Clerk met with Emma Stannard from the District Council to discuss the preparation and siting of a Huntingdon District Council area for alternative land management within Greenfields. The small area of grass in between nos. 167 and 169 Greenfields has been chosen as the trial piece in the Village. An area around the outside of the grass will be cut and the middle piece will be seeded with meadow flowers and other grasses that will attract insects to the area and will aid Biodiversity within the Village.

**Item 10 Parish Council Representatives Report –**  
**Road Safety** – Cllr Nicholls reported that the new Police Sergeant attended the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March and would like to visit Parish Councils if he has the time to do so.  
**HCV Group** – Cllr Tindall reported that there is still no meeting scheduled.  
**Rights of Way** – No report  
**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – No report  
**Village Pond** – Cllr Brown is looking into different types of pumps for use in the Pond  
**Health and Safety** – Play Inspections are scheduled for April  
**Hanson update** – The Chairman attended the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April and reported that there has been a significant downturn in sales and production has been reduced. The site is only working two days per week to keep it ticking over as the stored sand stocks are still high. The reserve access carpark at Needingworth will be closed. The RSPB have noted several different bird species in the area along with a family of otters. Thirty-Five Marsh Harriers were spotted in January.  
**Skeeles update** – No report  
**Village Car Parks** – No report  
**Ouse Valley Way** – No report  
**Allotments** – No report

**Item 11 Earith Town Estate** – The Clerk informed the Councillors that a date will need to be set for the next Trustees meeting for Earith Town Estate as maintenance to the outside of the Pavilion needs to be discussed (to include lighting) along with a new fence fronting the outside perimeter of the Field at Cooks Drove. The Trustees will meet on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm.

- Item 12** **Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – No new reports.
- Item 13** **Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – No new reports.
- Item 14** **Allotment security and fees for 2023 review** – A resident had asked the Council to look into installing some locks to the gates at the allotment as there had been some burglaries on the site whereby sheds had been broken into. It is not known if anything was taken. The Council discussed this item at length and agreed that installing locks to the gates would not stop these attempted thefts. Having a lock on a shed on an allotment site would suggest that the shed held something of value. The Chairman will reply to the resident to give them some advice taken from the Bobby Scheme following similar thefts to garden sheds in the Village that have occurred recently.  
The question of raising the fees was also discussed and it was agreed that the fees should remain the same.  
**Resolved** – Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Nick Tindall seconded that the fees should remain the same.
- Item 15** **Commemorative Coronation Coins for the Primary School to be noted** – The Clerk and Chairman have organised for some Commemorative Coins to be purchased and given to the school children at Earith Primary School. The Clerk is liaising with the school to finalise a date for distribution. – Noted by Council
- Item 16** **Date for Annual Parish Meeting to be set** – The Clerk and Chairman proposed a date of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion – Noted by Council
- Item 17** **20mph limit application update to be discussed** – The Clerk had attended a meeting about the application criteria and the cost could be between £15,000 - £20,000 depending on the amount of signs needed per area and the road markings and legal road changes to cover the Village. A sign would need to be placed at the beginning and end of the limit change for any through roads. Cul-de-sacs off the through roads would be included. Repeater signs would also be needed on long stretches of road such as Meadow Lane, Cooks Drove etc. There would need to be a Village consultation and assessment before an application can be made. The Clerk asked the Council to strive to meet this criterion and to add to the budget so that this cost can be accrued over a two-to-three-year period. A working group of Councillors have been appointed to progress this. It will be an Agenda item for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting and updates will be added to the Earith Echo when a consultation paper has been agreed. Cllrs Nicholls, Tindall, and Brown will work with the Clerk to move this forward.
- Item 18** **CAPALC Renewal to be discussed** – The Clerk asked the Council to agree to renew the CAPALC membership for another year. The cost is £511.72.  
**Resolved** – Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the Clerk could renew the membership
- Item 19** **HDC Local Plan Call for Sites Consultation to be discussed** – The Council agreed that there are no sites within the Village that can be put forward for development. Cllr Lambert commented that the Village of Earith is still classed as a small settlement and does not warrant development within the Village boundary.
- Item 20** **HDC Local Plan Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology to be noted** – Noted by Council
- Item 21** **HDC Local Plan Settlement Hierarchy Methodology to be noted** – Noted by Council
- Item 22** **Finance** – a) Payments to sign off  
b) Online Salary payments for April to be made as standard  
c) Chairman to sign bank statement
- a) Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that the payments should be signed off.  
**Resolved** – All in favour.
- b) Online salary payments for April to be made as standard.  
Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown 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 @ £19.90	1492.50			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	1379.36	online	
Mrs C Shook	Cleaner 5.5 hrs @ 11.63	63.97			LGA 1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ 11.63	29.08			LGHA1989,s.7
		total less tax	91.44	online	
Mrs J Law	Caretaker March		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE March 2023		256.55	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Mr MS Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting		180.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
MSP Services	General H&S Village Hall Maintenance		299.75	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Impressions Printers	Echo issue 67 - Printing		534.00	online	LGA 1972, s.142
Mrs K M Pink	Echo issue 67- Editorial		200.00	online	LGA 1972, s.142
SLCC	Training Conference - Climate Change		72.00	online	LGHA1989,s.7
Ouse Valley Way	Membership Renewal		30.00	online	LGA 1972, s.143
Screwfix	Sack Barrow		56.99	Debit Card	LGHA1972,s.133
Target Tiles	Concrete Repair		33.66	Debit Card	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
Microsoft	Office 365 annual cost		59.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
Positive Energy	Village Hall Gas		171.76	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	Total spend for March 2023		3,645.73		

**Item 23 Correspondence – None**

**Item 24 Items for future meetings – Land Registry update, Saywell Charity**

**Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533**

**email: [earithparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:earithparishclerk@outlook.com)**

**Meeting Dates 2023**

**Meeting closed at 8.40pm**

**4<sup>th</sup> May**

**1<sup>st</sup> June**

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

**Date of Notice – 29th April 2023**