

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 1st June 2023

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)
Mrs Paula Brown
Mr Keith Hudson
Ms Hazel Lambert
Mr Nev Clements

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman),
Mr Nick Tindall
Mr Jeff Nicholls
Mr Alan Spackman
Mr Allan Till

CC Mr Steve Criswell
DC Mr Jon Neish
Public 0

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 38 Apologies for absence – DC Mr Paul Hodgson Jones, Mrs Louise Reay

Open Meeting

Item 39 Open Forum – No comments made

Item 40 Ecops Report – No report

Item 41 County Council and District Council Reports

County Councillor Mr Steve Criswell noted that the design, procurement, and construction phases for the signalled junction at the Wheatsheaf Crossroads is all progressing as to plan with the Construction Phase expected between March 2024 – September 2024 and Post Completion Activities expected between September 2024 – September 2025. The Clerk had forwarded to Council an email concerning school attendance that Cllr Criswell had previously sent. The S106 agreement concerning the diversion route for Colne Fen Quarry is due to be signed and the bridleway will be opened soon. Cllr Spackman commented on the roadside weeds and asked Cllr Criswell to feed the comments back to the Operations Department. Cllr Brennan asked again about the road signs at the roundabout on the bridge and those at Bridge End. The Highways Officer is aware of the need for new signs at Bridge End and will investigate the lack of signage on the roundabout.

District Councillor Mr Jon Neish noted that there is a planned meeting both online and in person regarding the Local Plan on 5th June beginning at 7pm. The Chairman asked Cllr Neish to investigate the problems occurring with dustbins being left precariously on the roadside after they have been emptied. Cllr Neish asked for reports to be made as they happen so that the crews can be noted, and action taken if needed.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 42 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

Item 43 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 44 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 4th May 2023.

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the minutes are agreed.
Resolved - All in favour by those that attended the meeting

Item 45 Planning - Application 23/00816/FUL – 37 High Street – Erection of a 4-bedroom dwelling
Mr Nev Clements proposed, and Mr Nick Tindall seconded that the application is accepted with no objections. The Council asked the Clerk to make a note when replying to the planners that this development is not on the High Street but has vehicular access only from Chapel Road.
Resolved – All in favour

Item 46 Parish Council Representatives Report –

Road Safety – Cllr Nicholls attended the meeting on the 9th May and will forward the Minutes when they are available.

HCV Group – Cllr Tindall reported that no meetings are currently scheduled

Rights of Way – No report

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – Cllr Hudson reported that abusive language and actions at the Recreation Field play area have forced some older children to use the play equipment at the Pond. Cllr Lambert is aware of this and will monitor the situation at the Pond. The Chairman will report this problem via 101.

Village Pond – Cllr Lambert has investigated different types of pumps for use in the Pond and will report back to Council when she has some ideas and costings. Cllr Brown has been working with Village volunteers to clear and tidy the Pond area and will be placing weed suppressant at either end of the Pond

so that stones can be used as ground coverage and for landscaping purposes. The Council do not want gravel or shingle to be placed at the Pond and asked Cllr Brown to ensure that larger stones are used. Cllr Brown will be the lead Councillor on this project. The Council would like to send thanks to the Volunteers for their work in helping to maintain this valuable Village asset.

Health and Safety – The Play Inspections have taken place and the Clerk will now work through the areas that need consideration. Work has already taken place on the MUGA pitch fencing.

Hanson update – No report

Skeeles update – No report

Village Car Parks – No report

Ouse Valley Way – No report

Allotments – The Clerk has received some complaints from plot holders regarding lack of maintenance on some plots. Cllr Spackman has attended site and will liaise with the Clerk to ensure that the problem sites are attended to. The Council asked the Clerk to speak to the plot holders who currently hold plots and asked Cllr Spackman to clear back the vacant plots where possible.

- Item 47 Earith Town Estate** – The Clerk informed the Council that she is obtaining quotes for replacing the metal fencing to the outside boundary of the Recreation Field. This was mentioned on the Play Inspection reports. She is also going to arrange to install a solar powered pir sensor light to the back of the Pavilion so that the area is lit at night if movement is detected.
- Item 48 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – Cllr Nicholls reported that overhanging vegetation is making the path from the Dr's Surgery to the High Street difficult to walk down. He will attend site with Cllr Brennan if needed.
- Item 49 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – No new reports.
- Item 50 Internal Audit Report to be noted** – Noted by Council. Thanks given to the Clerk.
- Item 51 Playground Annual Inspection Reports to be noted** – Noted by Council. The Clerk will action items if needed. Repairs to the MUGA pitch have already been completed.
- Item 52 Electric vehicle charging points at Old Village Hall car park to be considered** – The Clerk had emailed details of the Char.gy website (<https://char.gy/>) to the Council prior to the meeting so that they could consider this item. The Council would like to have some more information before they action this item and asked the Clerk to provide a full report for consideration at the next meeting.
- Item 53 The Great Collaboration Climate Change website to be supported and considered** – The Clerk attended a Climate Change Summit and the Great Collaboration website (<https://greatcollaboration.uk/>) was discussed. This website is a free to use site that encourages personal actions to be made by individual residents in the Village so that they can make changes to their habits that will help to reduce carbon emissions and thus help with Climate Change. The Clerk asked the Council to consider supporting this website and to help to promote its use within the Village. The Council will receive a monthly report noting the website sign ups and can consider events or notices about this that can be actioned in the Village. It is hoped that this initiative will help to promote action within the Village that will positively impact the Climate problems. The Council agreed that the Clerk can start to promote this website in the Earith Echo and that they would support its use within the Village.
- Item 54 School visit report and request to consider setting an annual reserve for school projects** – The Chairman and Clerk visited the school and presented commemorative coins to the pupils. The visit also included an extensive tour both inside and outside the school with the Head Teacher and he explained the various projects and funding that the school need to enhance the positive learning and education that the pupils receive. With the need for funds always being a top priority. The Clerk asked the Council to consider setting an annual reserve for educational needs within the Village for both the primary school and the village pre-school. The funding will need to be applied for each year and cannot be used for operational or staffing purposes. It can only be used for specific projects that are determined by the application and funding will be provided on a first come first served pro rata basis depending on each application. The Clerk is to prepare an application form and checklist to be agreed by the Council so that the school and pre-school can be informed of the procedures for funding that will now be available from the Parish Council.
Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the Clerk should prepare an application form and that a budget figure will be allocated in the 2024/2025 fiscal year. This will be an ongoing figure placed in reserve each year and can be varied if needed going forward.
Resolved - All in favour
- Item 55 Memorial bench and plaque policy to be considered** – The Clerk tabled a policy for consideration by the Council.
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Allan Till seconded that the policy is adopted.
Resolved - All in favour

Item 56 Village Hall Update – The Clerk had hoped that a decision by the planners would have been received by now, but no firm decision has yet been made by the District Council Planning Department.

- Item 57 Finance** –
- a) Payments to sign off
 - b) Online Salary payments for June to be made as standard
 - c) Chairman to sign bank statement.
- a) Mr Nev Clements proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the payments should be signed off.
Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for June to be made as standard
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert 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 May		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133	
Inland Revenue	PAYE May 2023		256.55	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119	
Mr MS Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4	
MSP Services	Grass Cuttting		780.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10	
Earith Timber Products	Fence repair at allotment		168.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10	
Seagrave Inspection S	Playground Inspections x 2		252.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10	
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		11.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133	
Auditing Solutions	Internal Auditor Charge		318.00	online	A&AR 2003 SI2003/533 reg 9	
Reids playground repai	MUGA Fence repair		744.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10	
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		59.44	DD	LGHA1972,s.133	
SSE	Village Hall Electricity		67.32	DD	LGHA1972,s.133	
	Total spend for May 2023		4,407.34			

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533

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

Meeting Dates 2023
6th July
3rd August
7th September
5th October

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Notice – 1st July 2023