

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 3rd August 2023

Present – Councillors

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

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

DC Mr Paul Hodgson Jones
Public 1

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 74 Apologies for absence – CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Jon Neish, Mr Allan Till, Mrs Louise Reay

Open Meeting

Item 75 Open Forum – Comments were made concerning a broken drain cover at Cooks Drove and traffic lights for road works at Vermuyden. The Clerk informed the resident that the County Council are responsible for these items and that the Parish Council had not been informed about them. The road works were being carried out on behalf of Open Reach.

Item 76 Ecops Report – No report

Item 77 County Council and District Council Reports

County Council – No Report.

District Council - DC Mr Paul Hodgson Jones reported that the discussions concerning the Green Waste Charge are still ongoing and it is hoped that the decision to implement the scheme might be deferred. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council have received a letter from the District Council, and this has been emailed to the Newsletter Subscribers so that they can make comments. The Chairman asked if the petition from Change.Org had made any difference to the discussions. Cllr Hodgson-Jones noted that it may have some influence but standard communications, such as that received by the Parish Council, are being forwarded to all complainants.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 78 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

Item 79 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 80 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 6th July 2023.

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

Item 81 Planning - None

Item 82 Parish Council Representatives Report –

Road Safety – Cllr Nicholls attended the recent meeting, and the Group are concerned about the delays to work at Wheatsheaf Crossroads, and they are to write to the County Council about this. The Minutes will be emailed when they are received.

HCV Group – Cllr Tindall reported that no meetings are currently scheduled. This item will be temporarily removed from the agenda until further notice.

Rights of Way – No report

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report.

Village Pond – Cllr Brown proposed a different solution for the treatment at the Pond and provided a brief report on other options to consider such as a mechanical pump with filters which will include a UV filter and an ultrasound fitting to help to breakdown the build up of algae. Currently the pond is looking clear, and the fish are all OK. Cllr Lambert stated that filters will need to be cleaned and Cllr Brown said that self-cleaning filters can be used. Aqua Stop chemicals will also be needed before the pump is installed. A pump housing will be needed on the pond bank, but this can easily be made. Suggested prices of £550 for a pump and filter, £173 for pipework, £60 for an ultrasound fitting and approximately £170 for a pump housing. The chemicals (which should only be needed once) would be around £80. The Chairman thanked Cllr Brown for her alternative proposal for the Pond and he asked the Clerk to have an Agenda item at the September meeting so both suggestions could be considered and agreed.

Health and Safety – No report

Hanson update – No report

Skeeles update – No report

Village Car Parks – No report

Allotments – Cllr Spackman reported that no action had been taken on the plots that had been reported at the July meeting other than a small amount of work to plot 14. He also reported that concern had been raised regarding plot 6C. The Clerk will contact the plot holders again and inform them that they will be evicted as tenants if the plots remain unused. Cllr Lambert would like to see alternative uses at the allotment for the vacant plots such as a community orchard. This will be an Agenda item at the September meeting. The Clerk asked the Council to consider the final formal eviction of the tenant with three unused plots at the allotment site. An informal eviction notice had been issued with a date for contacting the Clerk of the 31st of July. No contact has been made.

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Nev Clements seconded that the tenant is formally evicted.

Resolved – All in favour.

- Item 83 Earith Town Estate** – Donation request for external fencing to be considered – The Chairman provided an update on the formal request by the Earith Town Estate Trustees for an external fence at Cooks Drove to be installed. Quotations have been considered and a final option chosen. The Council considered this request and noted that a figure of £2,500 has been placed in the budget for Earith Town Estate projects. Cllr Nicholls proposed that the Parish Council should provide a new external fence that will be donated to Earith Town Estate. Ongoing maintenance will rest with the Trustees and can be factored into their budgets moving forward. The donation of the fence will rest on the fact that Earith Town Estate must forego the expected monetary donation this year.
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Nev Clements seconded that the Parish Council will donate a new external fence to Earith Town Estate providing the stipulations mentioned above are adhered to. The Clerk will inform the Trustees of this decision.
Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 84 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – No new reports.
- Item 85 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – No new reports.
- Item 86 Installation of char.gy.com electric charging points at the High Street car park to be considered** – The Clerk had provided further information to the Parish Council so that they could consider this request based on her first report in June. The Parish Council would like the Clerk to move this item forward and to request a formal site visit and assessment to be made so that at least one, possibly two pay as you go EV charging points can be provided in the Village. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the District Council because he had received an email stating that they are also looking into EV charging points in the surrounding area.
Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the Clerk should move this forward to the next stage and report back to the Council.
Resolved - All in favour.
- Item 87 Winch/pump system to be installed at the allotment site for drawing water from the well to be considered** – Cllr Brennan reported that she had found a standard pump, but it would need a stand and pipes to be fitted. Pipework will be to a maximum depth of 7-8m (23-26ft). An approximate price of £300 plus fitting was proposed.
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this project should go ahead.
Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 88 Final electric meter installation and sockets at the Pond – Clerks authority to proceed to be agreed**
The Clerk reported that she had been provided with a new MPAN number for the site and that she had agreed a supply contract with EDF Energy for a one-year fixed business deal. This will allow the Council to assess the costs and then renegotiate if needed. The installation of a new meter could take between 8 – 12 weeks and then 2 double sockets are to be installed in the meter cupboard so that appliances can be provided at the Pond site. The Clerk requested that the Parish Council delegate authority to her so that these final stages can be finalised in good time. Any costs to be incurred will be authorised by the Finance Group. If costs become excessive then they will be referred to Full Council.
Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that authority is delegated to the Clerk so that this project can be finalised as quickly as possible.
Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 89 Finance** –
- a) Payments to sign off.
 - b) Online Salary payments for August to be made as standard
 - c) Chairman to sign bank statement.
- a) Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Mr Nev Clements seconded that the payments should be signed off.
Resolved – All in favour.
- b) Online salary payments for August to be made as standard.

Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the payments should be made.
Resolved – All in favour.

- c) Bank statement signed by the Chairman.

<u>Payee</u>	Description		<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 July		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133			
Inland Revenue	PAYE July 2023		256.55	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119			
Mr MS Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4			
MSP Services	Grass Cuttting		510.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10			
James Waters	Grass Cuttting		60.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10			
Impressions Printers	Echo issue 68 - Printing		534.00	online	LGA 1972, s.142			
Mrs K M Pink	Echo issue 68- Editorial		200.00	online	LGA 1972, s.142			
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		22.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133			
Viking	Stationary		116.15	online	LGA 1972, s.133			
The Solar Centre	Solar security light		59.99	Debit Card	Local Govt & rating Act 1997, S.31			
Isofast	clips for MVAS signs		14.80	online	Local Govt & rating Act 1997, S.31			
Scribe Accounts	Online accounting software, inc training		788.40	online	LGA 1972, s.226			
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			
SSE	Village Hall Electricity		14.03	DD	LGHA1972,s.133			
	Total spend for July 2023		4,326.95					

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533
These minutes are adopted

email: earithparishclerk@outlook.com
Meeting closed at 8.48pm

Meeting Dates 2023
7th September
5th October
2nd November
7th December

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Notice – 26th Aug 2023