

## Earith Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 5th October 2023

#### Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chair)

Mrs Paula Brown

Mr Nick Tindall

Mr Alan Spackman

Mr Keith Hudson

Mr Nev Clements

Mr Allan Till

Mr Jeff Nicholls

Public 1

Clerk – Absent, notes taken by Cllr Brown

#### **Please note that the Parish Council Meeting for November 2023 has been cancelled.**

**Item 107**      **Apologies for absence** – CC Mr Steve Criswell, Ms Hazel Lambert, DC Jon Neish, DC Paul Hodgson Jones, one vacancy

#### **Open Meeting**

**Item 108**      **Open Forum** – One member of the public present asked about using the pavilion and extending it as planning had been turned down for the village hall. The Chair explained this was not a viable option at the moment.

**Item 109**      **Ecops Report** – No report

**Item 110**      **County Council and District Council Reports** – No Councillors in attendance, emails had been received prior to the meeting any comments or questions to be passed to the Chairman.

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

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

**Item 111**      **Village Hall Update** – It was noted that the Village Hall committee has had a meeting with the HDC Planning Rep and are waiting their report.

**Item 112**      **Code of Conduct** – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

**Item 113**      **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 114**      **To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**  
Mr Keith Hudson proposed, Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the minutes are agreed.  
**Resolved** – All in favour by those attending the meeting. Minutes signed by Chairman.

**Item 115**      **Planning** – None

**Item 116**      **Parish Council Representative Report -**  
**Road Safety** – Meeting held last month no report available currently. The Minutes will be emailed when they are received. Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November, no representatives available to go.  
**Allotments** – Mr Alan Spackman asked if a trial reducing the allotment plots into smaller plots, as was suggested at a previous meeting, could go ahead. It was suggested a large plot could be turned into five small plots. It was agreed that the trial should go ahead. Mr Alan Spackman also suggested that these plots are charged at the same rate as the current small plot rate, and advertised in the Echo in the Easter edition. This was agreed. He is also clearing any empty plots that become available.  
**Rights of Way** – No report.

**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – No report.

**Village Pond** – Mrs Paula Brown informed everyone that the meter has now been installed and she would be contacting a local electrician to install some sockets.

Mr Nev Clements has placed some humane rat traps at the pond, but caught nothing, following reports of rats being seen.

**Health and Safety** – No report

**Hanson Update** – The Chairman explained how on their last visit they were driven around the newest part of the reserve. They were advised that Konik horses have been introduced. When finished it will be the biggest wetlands in Europe measuring 9 sq kilometres. Hanson's are still extracting sand and gravel.

**Skeeles** – Meeting is next month after they have collected all the returns from the Echo.

**Village Car Parks** – Cllr Hudson informed everyone that the lights in Darford were not working. Miss Ann Brennan will investigate.

- Item 117**      **Trees and Hedges to report action to be taken and updates on visits already made**  
Mr Nev Clements reported 12 Orchard Crescents hedge was over hanging the path.  
Mr Keith Hudson was offered some oak tree saplings. Miss Ann Brennan agreed to take them and keep them in posts with a view to plant in the village.
- Item 118**      **Drains Roads and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking** – reports for action to be taken – Darford light situation to be investigated.
- Item 119**      **Christmas Lights** – A resident has complained about the placement of the Christmas lights on the High St and suggested that lights should be distributed around the village. The current set up has come about as a result of significant vandalism to trees and lights.  
Councillors agreed to look into this for next year. A team will walk around the village looking for suitable lamp posts. It was noted that only certain posts are suitable and subject to agreement by the CC. It was suggested that some villagers might provide a bracket on their houses, as in Sutton, as an alternative. Decorations at the village pond should be considered.
- Item 120**      **Speed Camera** – A resident has asked if the speed camera could be moved onto the old speed sign to the east of 101 High Street. This is owned by the CC and is not available as it is not safe and is not going to be repaired. Cllr Till suggested a LHI bid for more posts around the village. This will be considered at an appropriate meeting.  
It was suggested that part of the High St may be included in the 20mph zone. However, it is thought that this would only be between Bridge End and Colne Road if it goes ahead.
- Item 121**      **Parish Council Information** – The Chairman suggested some communication with villagers about what a Parish Council does. The information will take the form of an article in the Echo.  
**Resolved - All in favour.**
- Item 122**      **Response to Weed Spraying** – All agreed to complete the HDC survey. Cllr Nicholls brought to everyone's attention a petition in a local paper with over 1000 signatures.
- Item 123**      **Vacancy** – A vacancy for a parish councillor has been advertised. This could result in an election or more probably a Co-option. The clerk is following the process with HDC.
- Item 124**      **Representative for Skeeles** – Another representative is required to join Skeeles. Cllr Tindall volunteered.  
Mr Alan Spackman proposed, Mr Allan Till seconded. **Resolved – All in favour.**
- Item 125**      **External Audit Report** – No problems were identified.
- Item 126**      **Finance** – a) all payments to sign off.  
b) On-line salary payments for October to be made as standard.

c) Chairman to sign bank statement.

a) Miss Ann Brennan proposed, Mr Nev Clements seconded that payments should be signed off.

**Resolved – All in favour.**

b) Online salary payments for October to be made as standard

Mr Keith Hudson proposed, Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the payments should be made.

**Resolved – All in favour.**

c) Signing bank statement deferred until next meeting.

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
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 September		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE September 2023		256.55	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Mr MS Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting inc Village maintenance		450.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Earith Town Estate	Rental of play area at Recreation Field		750.00	online	OSA 1906, 3.10
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		22.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133
PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor Charge		378.00	online	LGA 1972, s226
EDC Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Day Wreaths		50.00	online	LGA 1972, s.137
Eclipse Planning	Planning consultation		824.04	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Hunts DC	Sports Summer sessions		609.58	online	Local Govt Misc Prov Act 1976, s.19
Cambridge Acre	Membership Renewal		60.00	online	LGA 1972, s.143
Brownfella Repairs	Speed camera bracket		150.00	online	Local Govt & Rating Act 1997, S.30
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
Source for Business	Village Hall Water & Sewerage		172.06	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	Total spend for September 2023		5,473.26		

Cllr Nicholls passed on information about Remembrance Day services.

These being - 11<sup>th</sup> November Act of Remembrance at Colne War Memorial at 10.50am

12<sup>th</sup> November Act of remembrance at Earith War Memorial 12.30 pm,

12<sup>th</sup> November Act of Remembrance at Bluntisham War Memorial followed by a service in St Marys Church 2.20 pm.

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

email: [earithparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:earithparishclerk@outlook.com) Meeting Dates 2023  
Meeting closed at 8.45pm Cancelled - 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
7<sup>th</sup> December

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

Date of Notice – 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023