

## Earith Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Co-Option Meeting Held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)  
Mr Jeff Nicholls  
Mr Alan Spackman  
Mrs Paula Brown  
Mr Keith Hudson

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

DC Mr Paul Hodgson Jones  
Public 2

Mandy Pink – Clerk

- Item 1 Apologies for absence** – CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Jon Neish, Mr Allan Till
- Item 2 Councillor Vacancy for Co-Option – The Chairman asks the Applicants to introduce themselves and invited questions from the Council** – Applicant one gave a brief overview about themselves, and Cllr Lambert asked them to state why they wished to join the Council. Applicant two gave a brief overview about themselves and why they wanted to join the Council.
- Item 3 Council Vote (Applicants are asked to leave the room)** – The Council considered both Applicants and voted to accept Applicant two.  
Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mr Steve Edwards seconded that Applicant two should be asked to join the Council. **Resolved – All in favour**
- Item 4 The Applicants are invited back into the room and informed of the vote** – The Chairman asked Applicant two to join the Council and take a place at the Council table. The Chairman thanked both Applicants for their interest in the Council. Mr Michael Barbour was asked to sign his declaration of acceptance of office and register of interests forms by the Clerk.

### Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)  
Mr Jeff Nicholls  
Mr Alan Spackman  
Mrs Paula Brown  
Mr Keith Hudson

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)  
Ms Hazel Lambert  
Mr Nev Clements  
Mr Nick Tindall  
Mr Michael Barbour

DC Mr Paul Hodgson Jones  
Public 1

Mandy Pink – Clerk

- Item 127 Apologies for absence** – CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Jon Neish, Mr Allan Till

#### Open Meeting

- Item 128 Open Forum** – No comments made by members of the public present at the meeting.
- Item 129 Ecops Report** – The Clerk reminded the Council that she had forwarded an item about catalytic converter marking to the Council. Cllr Lambert also informed the Council of the last Police Teams meeting being held this year. She will attend this meeting.
- Item 130 County Council and District Council Reports**  
County Council – Report received by email noted by Council.  
District Council - DC Mr Paul Hodgson Jones reported that the Full District Council meeting will be held next week when the first stages of budget proposals will be discussed. There is an incentive to sign up to the new Green Bin scheme early with a discounted first year charge being offered. The District Council are estimating that there will be a 40% take up of the scheme when it becomes live in April. The Chairman asked several questions about this scheme and reminded the Council that food waste cannot be added to the Green Bin after April 2024. The District Council are also looking into all aspects of Councillor interaction and reputational issues through their corporate governance committee. There are also issues concerning local fire stations closing. Kimbolton station has been noted as well as Sutton fire station which will directly impact on Earith Village. Cllr Spackman commented on items which should be considered by the District Council when they set their budgets. He has noticed that the District Council and County Council both cut some grass areas within the Village, and this is resulting in double taxation of the residents.

#### (Close open Meeting)

#### (Open closed section of Meeting)

- Item 131 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted** – None.

- Item 132 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 133 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. (November meeting cancelled)**  
Mr Nick Tindall proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the minutes are agreed.  
**Resolved - All in favour** by those that attended the meeting. Minutes signed by the Chairman.
- Item 134 Planning - Application Reference - CCC/22/075/VAR - Willow Hall Farm - re-consultation** - The Council discussed this item and agreed to recommend refusal of this application. There are no further comments to make and all original comments stand.  
Mr Steve Edwards proposed, and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that this application is refused.  
**Resolved – All in favour.**
- Planning - Application Reference - 23/01986/HHFUL - 14 High Street - Retrospective application for proposed garden room and garden store to rear of property.**  
The Council discussed this item and agreed to recommend refusal of this application. The large metal container type buildings are not appropriate in a riverside setting. They are in a conservation area and do not blend in well with the surrounding properties in this location. They will impact on river users' enjoyment and amenity of this natural recreational facility in the Village.  
Mr Steve Edwards proposed, and Mr Nev Clements seconded that this application is refused.  
**Resolved – All in favour.**
- Item 135 Parish Council Representatives Report – The Chairman informed the Council that the Saywell Charity meetings should be resumed soon as there is now a new Vicar in post at St Marys.**  
**Road Safety** – Cllr Nicholls did not attend the meeting but stated that the main topic discussed was the Wheatsheaf Crossroads. The Minutes will be emailed when they are received.  
**Allotments** – The Clerk will update the Council representatives regarding vacant plots. The rear and front hedge have been maintained.  
**Rights of Way** – Cllr Lambert informed the Council about a one-day teams meeting workshop being held by the Ouse Valley Way Trust on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Upgrading of the pathway and ideas about this will be discussed. They have been awarded a grant from the postcode lottery to enable works to be carried out. There is also to be a Sustrans meeting to pass on information concerning walking and cycling in the area and the infrastructure to enable this.  
**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – No report.  
**Village Pond** – No report. Cllr Brown is waiting for an electrician to install sockets in the new electric cabinet sited at the Pond.  
**Health and Safety** – No report  
**Hanson update** – No report  
**Skeeles update** – Cllr Brennan informed the Council that there have been six bursaries made following the current round of applications. The school have also received some funding. All bursaries have been paid. Cllr Tindall also attended the meeting.  
**Village Car Parks** – No report. Cllr Clements informed the Council that there is a transit type van parking on the grass at Orchard Crescent and it is causing damage to the area. The Clerk will inform the District Council about this issue as they are the owners of this grass.
- Item 136 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – Cllr Brennan reported that the hedge along the Dr's surgery footpath and the hedge at George Corner need to be attended to. A visit will be made to the homeowner along the footpath. The Clerk will ask the Village Handyman to maintain the hedge at George Corner.
- Item 137 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – Cllr Brennan reported that there is a lot of standing water near the shop. The Clerk informed the Council that the Highways Authority have certain criteria considering the length of time water should be left standing on the road before any intervention takes place. A resident has raised concerns about the parked cars on the High Street. Those parking near to the shop are causing problems for residents. The resident has been informed that they need to bring this to the attention of the Police or the Highways Department. Cllr Lambert will mention this when she attends the meeting with the Police.
- Item 138 Village Handyman position update including grass cutting** – The Clerk, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman has appointed a new Village Handyman who will also attend to the Village grass cutting and other Village Groundsman type jobs that become apparent over the year. The Clerk will liaise with the Contractor to allocate jobs as she is the immediate line manager. All groundsman jobs will be ok'd by the Chairman or Vice Chairman and then passed to the contractor for action to be taken. Cllr's Spackman and Clements, who have been attending to these works until a new contractor is appointed, still require some more time to complete works. The Clerk is to inform the insurance company that volunteer work will be actioned in the New Year.

**Item 139 Council Budget to be set and precept agreed** – The Clerk tabled a draft budget via email for the Council to consider prior to the meeting. The Council discussed the budget items and would like to think about making some possible changes to the Christmas decorations in the Village. This will be an item for discussion in the New Year. The budget line for Christmas Lights was therefore increased by £500 for the coming year and might possibly increase when the budgets for 2025/2026 are set next year. With this increase added to the budget the precept needed to maintain the Village for the coming year was agreed on at £68,000.

Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Michael Barbour seconded that the precept is set at £68,000 for the 2024/2025 budget year.

**Resolved – All in favour**

**Item 140 Planning meeting update** – The Chairman informed the Council that the Village Hall group had met with the Architects and Planners, and they were informed by the Head of Planning at the District Council that the planning application for the New Village Hall to be sited on the Recreation Field was refused and this site could only be considered again once all other possible sites had been investigated. The Council, after a lengthy discussion agreed to stop any further action being taken to provide a new Village Hall. The Clerk will note this in the Chairmans report that is included in the Earith Echo to inform the Village. If any resident does have any comments to make concerning this decision, then they need to send these comments to the Clerk so that they can be passed to the Council for review. Comments can be made by post or email.

**Item 141 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off.  
 b) Online Salary payments for December to be made as standard (November salaries have already been paid)  
 c) Chairman to sign bank statements.

a) The Clerk informed the Council that a late invoice for £19.73 had been received and this would be scheduled to be paid now and then listed in the payments for January.

Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the payments should be signed off.

**Resolved – All in favour.**

b) Online salary payments for December to be made as standard.

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

**Resolved – All in favour.**

c) Bank statements signed by the Chairman.

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 75hrs @ £19.90	1492.50			LGHA1989,s.7
October	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 October		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE October 2023		256.55	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		22.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133
Fast Hosts	Domain Name Registration 2 years		28.78	Debit Card	LGHA1972,s.266
Community Heartbeat	Annual Support Year 7		151.20	online	PHA 1936, s.234
Impressions Printers	Echo issue 69 - Printing		654.00	online	LGA 1972, s.142
Mrs K M Pink	Echo issue 69 - Editorial		200.00	online	LGA 1972, s.142
CPRE	Membership Renewal		36.00	online	LGA 1972, s.143
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
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 75hrs @ £20.90	1567.50			LGHA1989,s.7
November	Clerks Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
	Back dated payrise	525.00			
	Mobile phone monthly rental not taxab	12.00			LGA 1972, s.133
		total less tax	1787.36	online	
Mrs C Shook	Cleaner 5.5 hrs @ 12.63	69.47			LGA 1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ 12.63	31.58			LGHA1989,s.7
	Back dated payrise	56.00			
		total less tax	142.64	online	
Mrs J Law	Caretaker November		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE November 2023		544.15	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Garden Tamers	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		22.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133
EBC RBL	Donation to Local British Legion		75.00	online	LGA 1972, s.137
Viking	Stationary		92.92	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Advanced Security	emergency call out		114.00	online	Local Govt & rating Act 1997, S.3
Plantscape	Provision of Christmas Lights		3030.00	online	LGA 1972, S.137
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
	Total spend for October and November 2023		9,037.86		

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

email: [earithparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:earithparishclerk@outlook.com)  
Meeting closed at 9.32pm

Meeting Dates 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> January  
1<sup>st</sup> February

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

Date of Notice – 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023