

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 7th March 2024

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)
Mr Jeff Nicholls
Mr Alan Spackman
Mr Nick Tindall
Mr Michael Barbour

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
Ms Hazel Lambert
Mr Nev Clements
Mr Keith Hudson
Mrs Paula Brown

DC's Mr Jon Neish, Mr Paul Hodgson Jones
Public 1

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 168 Apologies for absence – CC Mr Steve Criswell, Mr Allan Till

Open Meeting

Item 169 Open Forum – A resident reported that the drain cover at Cooks Drove has still not been repaired and is a health and safety hazard. The Clerk has reported this to the Highways Department and the Chairman will also report it to County Councillor Criswell. Parking on the pavements along the High Street is also an issue and the Chairman will report this to the Police.

Item 170 Ecops Report – None

Item 171 County Council and District Council Reports

County Council – Report received by email noted by Council. The Chairman drew attention to the main points and noted that improvements to the Wheatsheaf crossroads have been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

District Council – DC Mr Jon Neish spoke at length about the Green Bin Waste Subscription service which will come into force on 1st April 2024. If you have not subscribed to the scheme, then your green bin will no longer be emptied. Food waste is no longer accepted into your green bin and must be placed in your grey bin ready for collection.

DC Mr Paul Hodgson Jones reported that the District Council budgets have been agreed and have been increased by the maximum allowance along with other increases from the Police and the Combined Authority. Cllrs Hudson and Brennan again raised concerns about Darford Car Park maintenance and Edwards Walk Car Park trees. These matters will be investigated, and reports made if needed. The Chairman will email asking for an update. Trees in Edwards Walk car park have been investigated but they do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Tree Officer although they sit on Huntingdon District Council owned land.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 172 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

Item 173 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 174 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 1st February 2024.

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Michael Barbour seconded that the minutes are agreed.

Resolved - All in favour by those that attended the meeting. Minutes signed by the Chairman.

Item 175 Planning - Application Reference 24/00092/HHFUL - 23 Greenfields - Conversion of car port to living accommodation. Erection of rear single-storey extension.

The Council discussed this application and agreed that the recommendation should be for approval as there are no objections to be made.

Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that this application is accepted.

Resolved – All in favour.

Item 176 Parish Council Representatives Report –

Road Safety – Cllr Nicholls attended the meeting in February. Minutes will be circulated when received.

Allotments – Cllr Spackman reported that many plots are currently waterlogged.

Rights of Way – No report.

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report.

Village Pond – Cllr Brown reported that a new padlock is needed on the inner gate.

Health and Safety – The Clerk reported that H&S visits will need to be made prior to the play inspections in April.

Hanson update – No report.

Skeeles update – Cllr Tindall reported that the Charity finances are good and use of capital as well as interest payments was discussed to enable more grants to be provided.

Village Car Parks – Darford and Edwards Walk car park maintenance is being looked into by the District Council.

- Item 177 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – A resident has asked the Parish Council to visit the hedges at 29 Chapel Road, 64 Greenfields and the cottage next to the footpath by the old doctor's surgery.
- Item 178 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – Please see comments raised during the Open Forum item 169.
- Item 179 Annual Parish Meeting date to be agreed** – The Clerk put forward two dates for consideration and Thursday 18th April was agreed. 7pm at the Pavilion.
- Item 180 Village Christmas Decorations to be discussed** - Cllr Tindall had previously asked the Council to consider changes to the Village decorations. It was agreed that the decorations will remain on the High Street as this is the main thoroughfare for the Village and the decorations could be seen by all. A tree will be positioned at the Pond with lighting if a favoured spot can be found.
- Item 181 Earith Town Estate request for funding to be discussed and agreed if needed** – The Clerk has received a request from Earith Town Estate for a donation amount of £2,500 to help with ongoing administration of the Charity. The Council have already included this figure in the budgets going forward and no donation request was made in 2023. The Charity currently uses interest payments to cover administration costs for the upkeep of the recreation field and pavilion but extra works to the windows, heating and lighting have depleted funds and a boost is needed in 2024. Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mr Nev Clements seconded that the donation is provided.
Resolved – All in favour.
- Item 182 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off.
b) Online Salary payments for March to be made as standard
c) Chairman to sign bank statements.
- a) Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the payments should be signed off.
Resolved – Eight in favour. (2 abstentions)
- b) Online salary payments for March to be made as standard.
Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the payments should be made.
Resolved – All in favour.
- c) Bank statement to be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>Chq</u>	<u>Powers</u>		
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 75hrs @ £20.90	1567.50			LGHA1989,s.7		
February	Clerks Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5		
	Mobile phone monthly rental not taxab	12.00			LGA 1972, s.133		
	total less tax		1441.25	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		
	total less tax		97.84	online			
Mrs J Law	Caretaker February		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133		
Inland Revenue	PAYE February 2024		281.61	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119		
Garden Tamer	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4		
Earith Timber Products	Fence repair at Rec		5394.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10		
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		22.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133		
Morelock	battery for MVAS signs		86.40	online	Local Govt & rating Act 1997, S.31		
OVW Partnership	Renewal fee		40.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10		
SLCC & ALCC	Membership Renewal		238.00	online	LGA 1972, s.143		
One Garden	Shed for Pond		249.99	dcard	PHA 1936, s.260		
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		
Hunts DC	Green Waste Collection V Hall annual fee		50.00	DD	Litter Act 1983,ss.5,6		
EDF	Electricity General Estate		308.00	DD	PHA 1936, s.260		
Microsoft	Office 365 annual cost		59.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266		
	Total spend for February 2024		8,549.31				

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

email: earithparishclerk@outlook.com
Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Meeting Dates 2024
4th April
2nd May
6th June