

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 1st August 2024

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chair)
Mrs Paula Brown
Mr Nev Clements
Mr Allan Till
Mr Michael Barbour

Ms Hazel Lambert
Mr Nick Tindall
Mr Jeff Nicholls
Mr Alan Spackman

CC Mr Steve Criswell
DC Mr Paul Hodgson Jones

Public 2

Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 67 Apologies for absence – Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chair), Mr Keith Hudson, DC Mr Jon Neish.

Open Meeting

Item 68 Open Forum – The Church Warden noted that there is to be a Hog Roast at the Church on Sunday 3rd August 2024.

Agenda item 79 – Brief summary of the issue to be discussed was given by the Homeowner. The Chair agreed to bring the Agenda item forward so that the County Councillor present could make comments.

Item 69 Ecops Report – No report

Item 70 County Council and District Council Reports

County Council – CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that weed spraying had taken place in the Village on 15th July. The Secretary of State has approved the Planning Appeal for the Envar Incinerator.

District Council – DC Mr Paul Hodgson-Jones reported that there are now three different party MP's for the Huntingdonshire Area. The Conservative MP for Huntingdon has already raised questions in the House regarding Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and the Envar Incinerator. The next Council meeting will be in October. Cllr Tindall asked a question concerning Housing Targets and Cllr Hodgson-Jones stated that Housing numbers have increased in Huntingdonshire and the Green Belt Regulations have changed.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 71 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

Item 72 Councillors declaration of interest – The Chair 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 73 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 4th July 2024.
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the minutes are agreed.
Resolved - All in favour by those that attended the meeting.

*******Item 79 Moved forward at the request of the Chair *******

Item 79 Resident request re submitting an LHI bid for an Environmental Weight Restriction at Bridge End due to safety issues with streetlights – The Chair invited County Councillor Criswell to speak about this point. Cllr Criswell noted that the resident has reported a problem with HGV vehicles mounting the pavement and breaking the streetlight which is causing Health and Safety issues for residents. Bridge End already has a Highways sign stating that the road is unsuitable for HGV's however a TRO for a weight restriction could also be considered, and the Parish Council can apply to the County Council for this. It can be financed by a Local Highways Initiative Bid but the next round of funding will be later this year and this might not give enough time to gather evidence to allow a submission. The Parish Council will need to nominate an alternative route for HGV's which would probably mean re-routing around Greenfields. Traffic surveys will need to be held to find out how many HGV's are using the road and where their final journey destinations are. Normally the County Council would require three surveys to be carried out over a year but it might be possible to demonstrate the need for a weight restriction in other ways. The Clerk will liaise with the Highways Team for further information. Cllr Lambert asked the resident if their main worry was damage to the lamppost and the resident stated that he was concerned for his family, property and vehicles because HGV's are regularly causing issues in Bridge End. Cllr Clements stated that better signage and white lining in all areas of the Village should be investigated. The Meadow Lane Junction with Colne Road is in need of action as is the Junction with Cooks Drove and Meadow Drove. The Chair suggested that a project team should be set up to work with the County Council to see what can be done. An LHI Bid could then be submitted next year if the gathered evidence proves that there is a

problem in Bridge End.

Mr Steve Edwards proposed, and Mr Michael Barbour seconded that a project team is set up and this will be an Agenda item for next month.

Resolved - All in favour

- Item 74 Planning - Application Reference - Appeal 24/00038/REFUSL - Land at the Nurseries Earith Road - To be noted** – Noted by Council.
- Item 75 Parish Council Representatives Report –**
Road Safety – Minutes to be circulated when they are received.
Allotments – Cllr Spackman noted that progress had been made with the vacant plots and the garden plots are being worked on.
Rights of Way – Cllr Lambert reported that Footpath no2 from Bluntisham to Earith is overgrown and she asked the Clerk to contact the landowner so that maintenance work can be carried out.
Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report.
Village Pond – No report.
Health and Safety – No report.
Hanson update – No report.
Skeeles update – Cllr Tindall reported that the next meeting will be in November.
Village Car Parks – No report.
- Item 76 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – Visits have been made to 193 and 100 Greenfields and remedial work has been carried out. New reports to note are the Lavender Hedge in Greenfields and the Hedge along the garages in St Marys. The hedge in St Marys belongs to the garage owners and will be reported online so that the County Council can issue notices.
- Item 77 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – No new reports.
- Item 78 Resident question concerning ground maintenance at ETE car park** – A resident has emailed comments concerning the maintenance work carried out to the Earith Town Estate car parking area. The resident along with other homeowners in Bridge End would like only a small area to be maintained of approximately 3m as they would like this area to be a re-wilding area. The Parish Council will refer this item to the Trustees of Earith Town Estate. This area is a car park and not a re-wilded meadow.
- Item 79 Agenda item moved at request of Chair. Please see above.**
- Item 80 Great Ouse Valley Trust Project to be discussed** – The Council discussed the project proposals and noted that the Earith part of the GOVW is very short and in a flood plain. It is under water for most of the year so making any improvements to this area will not provide any benefit to Earith residents and GOVW users.
- Item 81 Accounts first quarter (April to June) to be noted** – Noted by Council
- Item 82 Personnel Matter – Job title amendment** – The Chair asked the Council to consider an amended job title for the Clerk as the role is undervalued and misunderstood by many as the scope of the job is vast and it is a qualified position. A job title amendment to Chief Executive Officer will emphasise the executive level of responsibilities needed to provide full control of the Council as a result of increasing governmental requirements.
 Mr Steve Edwards proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the job title is amended to Chief Executive Officer.
Resolved – eight for and one against that the job title is amended.
- Item 83 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off.
 b) Online Salary payments for August to be made as standard.
 c) Chair to sign bank statement.
 a) Ms Hazel Lambert 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.
 Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Nick Tindall seconded that the payments should be made.
Resolved – All in favour.
 c) Bank statement signed by Chair.

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>Chq</u>	<u>Powers</u>
Mrs K M Pink	Salaries	1567.50			LGHA1989,s.7
July	Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
	Mobile phone monthly rental not taxable	12.00			LGA 1972, s.133
		total less tax	1452.14	online	
Mrs C Shook	PC Staff Member buildings & maintenance	101.05			LGA 1972,s.133
		total less tax	97.84	online	
Mrs J Law	Caretaker July		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE July 2024		270.72	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Garden Tamer	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
Garden Tamer	Grass Cutting		450.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Garden Tamer	General H&S Village Maintenance		486.93	online	LGA 1972,s.133
James Waters	Grass Cutting		60.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Earith Timber Products	Maintenance at High Bridge		378.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		11.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133
Viking	Stationary		50.85	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Reids playground repair	Skatepark repair		888.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection Rec		21.67	DD	Litter Act 1983,ss.5,6
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection V Hall		10.83	DD	Litter Act 1983,ss.5,6
EDF	Electricity General Estate		51.46	DD	PHA 1936, s.260
Microsoft	Office 365 annual cost		59.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
SSE	Village Hall Electricity		68.44	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	Total spend for July 2024		4,607.87		

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07724 666703
These minutes are adopted

email: clerk@earith-pc.gov.uk
Meeting closed at 8.52pm

Meeting Dates 2024
1st August
5th September
3rd October

www.earith-pc.gov.uk

Date of Notice – 31st August 2024