

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 5th December 2024

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chair)
 Ms Hazel Lambert
 Mr Michael Barbour
 Mr Jeff Nicholls
 Mr Keith Hudson

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chair)
 Mrs Paula Brown
 Mr Nick Tindall
 Mr Allan Till

Public 4

County Councillor – Mr Steve Criswell

Mandy Pink – Chief Executive

District Councillor - Mr Jon Neish

Item 141 Apologies for absence – DC Mr Paul Hodgson-Jones, Mr Nev Clements, Mr Alan Spackman

Open Meeting

Item 142 Open Forum – A resident asked the Council to clarify the position regarding yellow lines at Bridge End. The Chief Executive outlined the LHI Bid process and declared that the Parish Council will not be putting in a bid this year for changes to yellow lines.

Item 143 Ecops Report – No report

Item 144 County Council and District Council Reports

County Council – Cllr Criswell confirmed that work to the A1123 at the Bluntisham end will be part of the crack sealing and patching programme in the 2025/2026 maintenance schedule and should happen next Summer. Meadow Lane is waiting to be white lined and is on the schedule now. This work is weather dependent. Improvements to Earith Causeway are being investigated. Cllr Criswell introduced Cllr Charlotte Lowe who is currently a District Councillor for Warboys. She will be standing for election to the County Council in May. Cllr Brennan asked for clarification on the end date for work to the Chatteris Road. Cllr Criswell was expecting the work to end on the 9th December but the Chair stated that he had been notified of an extension for works until the 19th.

District Council – Cllr Jon Neish stated that he was still trying to find out who is responsible for the lease at the Village Hall car park. Mr George McDowell from Operations is talking to the Estates Department to see who can deal with handing back the lease to the Parish Council who own the land. Cllr Neish has also chased up maintenance work to the Darford car park. There may be a rise in the precept at District level because of a new bus proposal.

(Close open Meeting) (Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 145 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

Item 146 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 147 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 7th November 2024.
 Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Michael Barbour seconded that the minutes are agreed.
Resolved - All in favour by those that attended the meeting.

Item 148 Planning - Application Reference - 24/01927/LBC – 87 High Street – Re-building of dovecote following the collapse of the original.
 Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the Parish Council have no objections to this application. **Resolved** - All in favour.
Planning - Application Reference - 24/01926/HHFUL - 87 High Street – Re-building of dovecote following the collapse of the original.
 Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the Parish Council have no objections to this application. **Resolved** - All in favour.

Item 149 Parish Council Representatives Report –

Road Safety – Cllr Nicholls had circulated the recent Road Safety Meeting Minutes via email to the Council.

Allotments – Volunteer works have not been actioned at the Allotment so an extension for work was requested via The Chair for December. The Chief Executive said that this was not acceptable, and the work should be rescheduled for the end of January/beginning of February due to weather concerns. The Chair will request new paperwork from the Volunteers.

Rights of Way – No report.

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – No report.

Village Pond – Cllr Brown reported that the Christmas tree will be installed tomorrow. Thanks were given to Cllr Brown and her team of Volunteers.

Health and Safety – No report.

Hanson update – No report.

Skeeles update – Cllr Tindall reported that Trustee details are being updated at the Charity Commission and that seven grant applications have been submitted and are all valid applications. The period for applications may be extended next year to make the application process easier.

Village Car Parks – Cllrs Brennan and Nicholls visited the Village Car Parks and reported on the state of the solar lighting. There are two lights in the Chapel Road car park that need cleaning and some tree work actioned. Cllr Brennan will deal with this. There are three lights in the Darford car park that need replacing. The Chief Executive is to order some more. The lights in Hereward and at the back of School Road are working well.

Item 150 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made – New reports regarding tree work at Meadow Drove to make the 30mph sign more visible. The Chapel Road path to the shop and the Darford car park path are to be looked at. The hedge at the back of 3 Cooks Drove is to be investigated.

Item 151 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken – No new reports. Cars are still parking inconsiderately at Vermuyden. Civil enforcement parking patrols will be deployed in Villages following the launch of the scheme in St Ives and St Neots.

Item 152 Installation of bins by HDC for electrical waste in Earith to be considered – The Council discussed the proposal, by HDC, to install a bin for small wired electrical appliances waste removal at length and decided that the Village does not have a focal point for the installation with good access and they were also worried about other items being dumped that did not fit the specified category. Miss Ann Brennan proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that a bin was not needed in Earith. **Resolved** – All in favour.

Item 153 Budget and Precept 2025 – 2026 setting to be agreed - The Chief Executive had tabled the draft proposal to the Council prior to the meeting. A rise of £4,000 to the precept was discussed which included an increase in the cost of grass cutting within the Village and the installation of a community amenity area at the old Village Hall site. A precept of £72,000 was requested based on a budget of £123,415. Mr Keith Hudson proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the Chief Executive can request a precept of £72,000 from the District Council. **Resolved** – All in favour.

Item 154 Finance – a) Payments to sign off.
b) Online Salary payments for December to be made as standard.
c) Chair to sign bank statement.
a) Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Michael Barbour seconded that the payments should be signed off. **Resolved** – All in favour.
b) Online salary payments for December to be made as standard. Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Mr Allan Till seconded that the payments should be made. **Resolved** – All in favour.
c) Bank statement signed by Chair.

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Salaries	1964.50			LGHA1989,s.7
November	Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
		total less tax	1717.98	online	
Mrs C Shook	PC Staff Member buildings & maintenance	141.36			LGA 1972,s.133
		total less tax	129.96	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE November 2024		434.42	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Giff Gaff	PC mobile monthly sim		10.00	dcard	LGA 1972, s.133
Garden Tamer	Parish Handyman		280.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
Earith Town Estate	Rental of play area at Recreation Field		750.00	online	OSA 1906, 3.10
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		33.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133
Post Office Service	Postage costs re Land Registration		15.30	dcard	LGA 1972, s.226
Ligna Consultancy	Tree Survey		330.00	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Burleys	Provision of Christmas Lights		3060.00	online	LGA 1972, S.137
The Christmas Tree Fir	Tree at pond 9-10ft		135.00	dcard	OSA 1906, 3.10
Maldon Chandlery Ltd	Pond Hose		93.35	dcard	PHA 1936, s.260
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
SSE	Village Hall Electricity		229.05	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	Total spend for November 2024		7,250.56		

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07724 666703
These minutes are adopted

email: clerk@earith-pc.gov.uk
Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Meeting Dates 2025
9th January
6th February

www.earith-pc.gov.uk

Date of Notice – 4th January 2025