

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 3rd April 2025

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chair)
Ms Hazel Lambert
Mrs Paula Brown
Mr Jeff Nicholls
Mr Michael Barbour

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chair)
Mr Alan Spackman
Mr Nick Tindall
Mr Allan Till
Mr Keith Hudson

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County Councillor – None

Guest Speaker – Mr Graham Campbell, Chair, Ouse Valley Way Trust

Mandy Pink – Chief Executive

District Councillor - Mr Jon Neish

Item 1 Apologies for absence – CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Paul Hodgson-Jones, Mr Nev Clements

Open Meeting

Item 2 Open Forum – Mr Graham Campbell, Chair, Ouse Valley Way Trust gave an update on the Ouse Valley Way WOW walk scheduled for 20th July 2025. The footpath is looked after by a maintenance group and other working parties and improvements are being made to enhance the riverbank walk from Earith to St Neots. Area hubs are being set up to help with administration of the walk and more information can be found at the website www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk.

Item 3 Ecops Report – No report from Ecops.

Item 4 County Council and District Council Reports

County Council – No report.

District Council – Cllr Neish gave a brief update on the HDC new waste recycling strategy. He will chase up the HDC Operations Department concerning the lack of maintenance at the Darford Car Park.

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

Item 5 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

Item 6 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 7 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 6th March 2025.

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the minutes are agreed.

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

Item 8 Planning - Application Reference – 25/00478/FUL - Demolition of Earith Village Hall and expansion of existing amenity area.

Mr Nick Tindall proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the application is recommended for acceptance as the Village needs the added amenity space and parking area and it is a well thought out scheme that has been requested by the Residents following a Village survey.

Resolved – All in favour.

Item 9 Parish Council Representatives Report –

Road Safety – Cllr Nicholls reported that Minutes will be circulated. The main topic of conversation centred on the Wheatsheaf crossroads.

Allotments – Cllr Spackman reported on various plots. This will be discussed in June by the Council.

Rights of Way – No report.

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – See Agenda item 14.

Village Pond – No report.

Health and Safety – See Agenda item 14.

Brice Aggregates update – No report.

Skeeles update – Cllr's Brennan and Tindall reported that an interim meeting was held to decide on a change in timetable for applications. Grants will now be decided in January rather than November.

Village Car Parks – No report.

Item 10 Update on Parliamentary roundtable meeting with Huntingdon MP Mr Obese-Jecty.

Cllr Tindall represented Earith Parish Council at a Parliamentary roundtable meeting on Monday 31st March. Notes have been circulated. He reported that it had been a good meeting. The MP was aware of all the issues raised and is doing what he can to bring about changes if possible.

Item 11 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made – No new reports for action.

Item 12 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken – Some white lining has been reinstated around the Village and some potholes have been repaired. Weed spraying and Street sweeping have also been carried out.

Item 13 HDC Local Plan - Additional Call for Sites information - New site added in Bluntisham.

The Chief Executive reported that a new site has been added to the HDC Local Plan call for sites in Bluntisham. The field opposite the Churchyard in Bluntisham has been put forward for consideration.

Item 14 Playground Inspection Reports to be noted - Maintenance work to be scheduled.

Further to the latest Playground Inspection Reports the Chair and Chief Executive will walk around the sites to assess the maintenance needed and repairs will be scheduled if needed. Everything is in good order and the Parish Council are looking after the sites well.

Item 15 Date for Annual Parish Meeting to be confirmed - Suggested date Thursday May 22nd 2025.

The date was agreed. The Chief Executive will organise the meeting.

Item 16 Internal Auditor - Auditing Solutions Limited - to be noted – Noted by Council.

Item 17 External Auditor as appointed by the Smaller Authorities Audit Association (SAAA) based on County - PKF Littlejohn - to be noted – Noted by Council.

Item 18 Closure of Building Society Account to be confirmed.

The Chief Executive asked the Council to consider closing the Building Society Account holding the main reserve funds for the demolition of the Village Hall so that funds could be used when the District Council have decided the application. The monies will be placed in the existing Lloyds Bank Account so that they can be accessed online.

Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Building Society Account is closed and that the funds are transferred to the Lloyds Bank.

Resolved - All in favour.

Item 19 Finance – a) Payments to sign off.
b) Online Salary payments for April to be made as standard.
c) Chair to sign bank statement.

The Chief Executive has received late invoices concerning grass cutting and Cllr expenses and requested that the Council include the payments along with those scheduled below. The invoices will be added to the payments list in April.

- a) Mrs Paula Brown proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the payments should be signed off. Including the noted invoices above.

Resolved – All in favour.

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

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown 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	1614.00			LGHA1989,s.7
	Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
		total less tax	1473.72	online	
Mrs C Shook	PC Staff Member buildings & maintenance	106.08			LGA 1972,s.133
		total less tax	101.88	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE March 2025		291.26	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
Garden Tamer	Vegetation overgrowth maintenance at the High Street		350.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Impressions Printers	Echo issue 75 - Printing		620.00	online	LGA 1972, s.142
Mrs K M Pink	Echo issue 75 - Editorial		200.00	online	LGA 1972, s.142
Seagrave Inspection S	Playground Inspections x 2		252.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
Earith Town Estate	Rental of Meeting Room		22.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133
Post Office Service	Postage costs re car park at Village Hall		8.35	dcard	LGA 1972, s.226
Sutton Tree Services	Tree work at Hall		1440.00	online	PHA 1936, s.260
Viking	Stationary		102.52	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Hunts DC	Planning application fee		359.00	online	LGA 1972, s.133
CAPALC	Membership Renewal		534.76	online	LGA 1972, s.143
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
Hunts DC	Green Waste Collection V Hall annual fee		50.00	DD	Litter Act 1983,ss.5,6
EDF	Electricity General Estate		60.06	DD	PHA 1936, s.260
Source for Business	Village Hall Water & Sewerage		63.38	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	Total spend for March 2025		6,251.43		