

## Earith Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chair)  
Mr Jeff Nicholls  
Mr Nick Tindall  
Mr Alan Spackman  
Ms Hazel Lambert

Mr Nev Clements  
Mr Keith Hudson  
Mr Alan Till  
Mrs Paula Brown  
Mr Michael Barbour

CC None

DC Mr Paul Hodgson-Jones (*joined at 8pm*)

Public - 1

Mandy Pink – Chief Executive

**Item 176 Apologies for absence** – CC Charlotte Lowe, DC Mr Jon Neish, Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chair)

**Item 177 Open Forum** – A resident gave some background timeline information about planning application 26/00211/CLED to be discussed at Agenda 185.

**Item 178 Ecops Report** – No report

**Item 179 County Council and District Council Reports**

County Council – Emailed report forwarded to Council and noted.

District Council – Cllr Hodgson-Jones reported that there had been a budget meeting at HDC, and the last full council meeting had been held prior to the elections in May. The Local Government Reorganisation is still ongoing. The Parish Council was asked to respond to the current consultation. The CEO has put notices on the boards to inform the residents. Four options have been put forward to Cabinet for consideration. Options A, B, D and E have been put forward. Option C was not supported. Information about the consultation and options noted can be found at <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

The Parish Council asked the CEO to complete the consultation on behalf of the Council in support of Option E.

**(Close open Meeting)**

**(Open closed section of Meeting)**

**Item 180 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted** – None.

**Item 181 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 182 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the minutes are agreed.

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

**Item 183 Demolition of the Village Hall - Contractor information to be noted - Agreed by the Village Hall Working Group** – The CEO informed the Full Council of the Contractors who had been assigned to the Village Hall project and agreed by the authorised working group.

**Demolition** – MK Demolition and Reclaim

**Surfacing** – FDC Civil Engineering

**Planters and Seating** – Plantscape UK

The demolition and surfacing contractors were selected based on location and knowledge of the specific requirements of the area. The planting contractor has worked with the Council for many years and provides the Village with seasonal decorations.

The costings for the project were also agreed but are still subject to change, following the demolition, as the state of the area underneath the current Hall could not be determined by the contractors at this present time. The current costs stand at approximately £141,500. The money for the project will come from the Village Hall Reserve and the General Funds and is already held by the Council.

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Contractors are agreed and noted by Full Council.

**Resolved** – All in favour

Mr Nev Clements proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the current costings are agreed and noted by Full Council, but they are subject to change based on the findings following the demolition.

**Resolved** – All in favour

**Cllr Clements reported that he had removed the copper piping in the Hall and had sold it for £100 and he would like the money raised to be donated to the Preschool.**

Mr Nev Clements proposed, and Mr Michael Barbour seconded that the donation be made as stated.

**Resolved** – All in favour

**Cllr Brennan had also raised £100 by selling the tables from the Hall to the Baptist Church and the CEO confirmed that the money had been received and would be used for the project.**

The Council expressed thanks to Cllrs Clements and Brennan.

**Cllr Lambert expressed her thanks to the CEO and asked the Full Council to acknowledge the vast amount of work that has already been carried out on this project and the amount of work that is still needed to bring this project to a close.**

Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the CEO had worked hard to facilitate the Village Hall Project up to this point and would need to continue to work hard to finalise it this year.

**Resolved** – All in favour

- Item 184** Contractor Framework Agreement to be noted by Council - Agreed by the Chief Executive and the Chair – The CEO gave a brief description of the standard construction industry Agreement based on the NEC 3 principle – Agreed and noted by Council.
- Item 185** **Planning** - Application Reference - **26/00211/CLED** - 53 High Street - Lawful development certificate to confirm use of a single dwellinghouse with ancillary accommodation (Class C3) which has become lawful over time.  
Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Allan Till seconded that the application is recommended for acceptance with no objections.  
**Resolved** – All in favour.  
**Planning** - Application Reference - **25/00478/FUL** - Car Park, Village Hall - Discharge of conditions 3,6 & 8  
Mr Michael Barbour proposed, and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that the application is recommended for acceptance with no objections.  
**Resolved** – All in favour.
- Item 186** **Parish Council Representatives Report –**  
**Road Safety** – No report, meeting next week.  
**Allotments** – See Agenda item 190.  
**Rights of Way (RoW's)** – No report.  
**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – No report.  
**Village Pond** – No report.  
**Health and Safety** – No report.  
**Brice Aggregates update** – No report.  
**Skeeles update** – No report.  
**Village Car Parks** – No report.
- Item 187** **Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – No report
- Item 188** **Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – No report.
- Item 189** **Annual Parish Meeting date to be set between 1st March and 1st June 2026 - Proposed date Thursday 23rd April at 7pm –**  
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the APM should be held at Rectors Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7pm. The CEO would arrange this.  
**Resolved** – All in favour.
- Item 190** **Allotment tenant request to install 4-5m posts for growing crops to be considered** – The CEO informed the Council that a resident wanted to install some tall posts on an allotment plot to grow hops. Cllr Spackman had researched the growing of hops and had found out that the roots could be invasive and good maintenance with possibly root barriers would be needed. Cllr Clements stated that the posts and crop would need to be removed from the plot by the plot holder if they vacated the plot. If they did not do this then the Council would clear the plot and charge the plot holder for the clearance costs involved. Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Nev Clements seconded that posts could be installed, and crops grown with the conditions noted above adhered to.  
**Resolved** – All in favour.  
The CEO had also received a request from an allotment holder to erect a shed on plot no.8. This request had been received too late to be an Agenda item, but the CEO asked the Council to consider granting permission in principle (PIP) now so that the plot holder could carry on clearing the plot and that this would be an Agenda item for ratification in April.  
Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that PIP would be granted now with ratification in April.  
**Resolved** – All in favour.
- Item 191** **Internal Audit by Auditing Solutions to be agreed - Proposed date w/c 13th April 2026 – Noted by Council.**

- Item 192 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off.  
 b) Online Salary payments for March to be made as standard.  
 c) Chair to sign bank statement.
- a) Mr Michael Barbour proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the payments should be signed off.  
**Resolved** – All in favour.
- b) Online salary payments for March to be made as standard.  
 Mr Nick Tindall proposed, and Mr Nev Clements 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	1842.60			LGHA1989,s.7
	Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
		total less tax	1510.44	online	
Mrs C Shook	PC Staff Member buildings & maintenance	109.52			LGA 1972,s.133
		total less tax	94.32	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE February 2026		385.71	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
Mr N Clements	Pond Maintenance		20.00	online	PHA 1936, s.260
Rectors Hall	Rental of Meeting Room - Quarterly		78.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133
NEC	Framework Contract Small Works		41.50	online	LGA 1972, s.226
Hunts DC	Planning application fee		383.00	online	LGA 1972, s.133
NALC	National Annual Conference		102.00	online	LGHA1989,s.7
Great Ouse Valley Trust	Membership Renewal		40.00	online	LGA 1972, s.143
Parish Council Websites	Website maintenance and domain		36.00	online	LGHA1972,s.266
Amazon	Stationary		11.99	dcard	LGA 1972, s.133
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		50.74	DD	PHA 1936, s.260
	Total spend for February 2026		3,126.20		

Mrs Mandy Pink – Chief Executive 07724 666 703  
 These minutes are adopted

email: clerk@earith-pc.gov.uk  
 Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Meeting Dates 2026  
 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
 7<sup>th</sup> May (Pavilion)  
 4<sup>th</sup> June

www.earith-pc.gov.uk

Date of Notice – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026, Rectors Hall, 7pm**