

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 6th August 2026

Present – Councillors

Mr Steve Edwards (Chair)
Mrs Paula Brown
Mr Alan Spackman

Mr Nick Tindall (Vice Chair)
Mr Nev Clements
Mr Jeff Nicholls

CC None

DC Mr Paul Hodgson-Jones

Public 7

Mandy Pink – Chief Executive

Chairman to request a two-minute silence to honour the loss of Councillor Miss Ann Brennan
All Councillors stood up to respect and honour Councillor Brennan.

Item 61 Apologies for absence – CC Charlotte Lowe, DC Mr Jon Neish, Mr Allan Till

Open Meeting

Item 62 Open Forum – Resident commented on Agenda item 78 giving a brief overview of the club and the need for a grant.
Resident commented on Agenda item 74 giving a brief overview of the need for a memorial bench.
Thanks were given to the Council for the help and support shown to the family following the very sudden loss of Councillor Brennan.

Item 63 Ecops Report – No Report.

Item 64 County Council and District Council Reports – County Council – No report.
District Council – Cllr Paul Hodgson-Jones reported that the Local Governance Review will take longer to decide for Cambridgeshire following cabinet level decisions regarding the process. The Local Plan is progressing well and should be decided soon.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 65 Appointment of Vice Chair to be agreed – Mr Nicholls proposed Mr Tindall for the position of Vice Chair. Mr Nicholls proposed, and Mr Steve Edwards seconded that Mr Nick Tindall should be appointed Vice Chair for Earith Parish Council. Mr Nick Tindall agreed to take on the position. The CEO will look for training and provide dates. The Council congratulated Mr Tindall.
Resolved – All in Favour

Item 66 Councillor Responsibilities to be agreed – Mr Jeff Nicholls will join the Finance Group and any other vacancies will be filled when there is a full council.

Item 67 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received, and decisions granted – None.

Item 68 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). – Cllr Brown declared an interest in Agenda item 79.

Item 69 To agree minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 2nd July 2026.
Mr Nev Clements proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the minutes are agreed.
Resolved - All in favour by those that attended the meeting.

Item 70 Planning – Application Reference 26/01380/HHFUL - 18 Cooks Drove - Replacement roof including dormer windows to create first floor living accommodation – Concerns were raised regarding overlooking and privacy from the side dormers. The home currently is a single storey semi-detached bungalow, and the addition of an extra storey could cause overshadowing and privacy issues for the surrounding properties.
Mr Nick Tindall proposed, and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that this application is recommended for acceptance if the concerns above are considered in the decision.
Resolved – All in favour.

Item 71 Parish Council Representatives Report –
Road Safety – Cllr Nicholls emailed the Minutes from the last meeting.
Allotments – Cllr Spackman reported that plots 16a, 16c and 18a are not being looked after and need a letter.

Rights of Way (RoW's) – The Earith to Bluntisham pathway is restricted at one end. The CEO reported that this had been reported to the ROW team who have confirmed that the correct width is being maintained and no further action can be taken.

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – H&S repairs have been actioned. Issues with the skatepark are ongoing and barriers are being erected to stop the use of the end half pipe until repairs can be made. Other pathway construction will be considered in September as the current pathways cannot be maintained as they are currently constructed due to ground shrinkage.

Village Pond – moved to September.

Health and Safety – See above comments re Field.

Brice Aggregates update – No report.

Skeeles update – Cllr Tindall reported that the next meeting is at the end of September.

Village Car Parks – The CEO reported that the current car park being constructed following the demolition of the Village Hall is progressing well and should be finalised soon. All works are on schedule and within budget.

Item 72 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made – New reports noted at 102 Greenfields, 2A School Road and opposite 15 Colne Road. Visits will be scheduled.

Item 73 Drains, Roads, and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken – No new reports.

Item 74 Memorial Bench Application to be discussed – The CEO informed the Council that the memorial bench request will need to be decided by the Earith Town Estate Charity who look after the Recreation Field and a Trustees meeting will be called to determine this issue. Parish Council support was requested. Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mr Nev Clements seconded that the Parish Council approve this request. The CEO will contact ETE to arrange a Trustees meeting.
Resolved – All in Favour.

Item 75 Allotment complaint - Burning of fires to be discussed – Cllr Clements walked the site on the day after the reported fires at the allotment and could not see any evidence of fire. Therefore, it is not technically possible to determine if the fires came from the site or if they originated from any home in the Village, other surrounding agricultural enterprises or from another Village. The CEO will respond to the resident to state these comments.

Item 76 Pond repairs to be considered - Item to be moved to September to allow quotes to be obtained.

Item 77 Earith High Bridge maintenance to be discussed – The CEO informed the Council that the application to formally register High Bridge as a Parish owned piece of land has been refused by the Land Registry because the land is owned and recognised as being attributed to Cambridge County Council. The CEO therefore asked the Parish Council to consider removing this piece of land from the Village maintenance remit.
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the land should no longer be maintained at the Parish Council expense.
Resolved – All in Favour

Item 78 Hornets Rowing Club Grant Application to be discussed – Further to the Grant Application and the residents briefing in the open forum the CEO informed the Parish Council that, because, the club only has possibly 4 out of 50 members who are Earith Residents then the Parish Council cannot recognise this grant application as the power to spend money for this is regulated by the Local Government Act 1972, s.137 which states that monies can be spent for all, or the majority, of the Village. Therefore, this power cannot be used in this instance. If the Council agree to the grant, then they will be acting Ultra Vires or outside of the law.
Resolved – The Parish Council accepted the CEO's advice and refused the application as they do not have a power to authorise this spend. The CEO will contact the grant applicant to inform them of the Parish Council decision.

Item 79 Proposed Minor Amendment to the Needingworth Quarry Traffic Routing Agreement to be discussed – The CEO had forwarded emails concerning this matter to the Council for consideration. The minor amendments proposed would be to allow right hand routing from the quarry at Needingworth for customers in Sutton and Haddenham which would result in increased HGV movements along the A1123 Earith High Street. The Parish Council do not support this proposal because the road infrastructure is not good enough to support the extra movement and noise, vibration and extra congestion and pollutants would be hazardous to village amenity for Earith residents. Extra loads would also need to traverse the Sutton and Willingham roads which are both "B" roads and repairs are outstanding on all roads within this proposal. The Parish Council have authorised the CEO to comment on behalf of Earith Parish Council to state lack of support for this amendment if the proposal cannot be considered within the current meeting dates for the Council.

Resolved – Agreed by all those attending the meeting.

Item 80 External Auditor Report to be noted - Closure of AGAR review for 2025 2026 – The CEO reported that the External Auditor had signed off the AGAR for 2025 2026 with no comments to be noted – Closure of the Audit will be noted on the Parish Council website www.earith-pc.gov.uk. Cllr Nicholls asked the Council to give thanks to the CEO for another excellent Audit Report.

Item 81 Finance – a) Payments to sign off.
b) Online Salary payments for August to be made as standard.
c) Chair to sign bank statement.

a) The CEO asked the Council to consider late invoices for Duck food totalling £28.80 to be included in the payments for August.

Mr Alan Spackman proposed, and Mrs Paula Brown seconded that the extra invoices can be included.

Resolved – All in favour.

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mr Nick Tindall seconded that the payments should be signed off.

Resolved – All in favour.

b) Online salary payments for August 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 signed by Chair.

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>Chq</u>	<u>Powers</u>
Mrs K M Pink	Salaries	1665.00			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	87.52	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE July 2026		392.51	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	Village H&S maintenance		175.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
MC Garden Maintenance	Grass Cutting		1020.00	online	OSA 1906, s.10
HDC	Election costs May 2026		192.58	online	LGA 1972, s.6-7
Rectors Hall	Rental of Meeting Room		78.00	online	LGHA 1972,s.133
PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor Charge		378.00	online	LGA 1972, s226
Information Commission	Renewal of data protection registration		52.00	online	LGA 1972, s.288
Viking	Stationary		47.38	online	LGA 1972, s.133
FDC Civils	Surfacing works V Hall interim paymt		75390.00	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Burleys	Seating and Planters V Hall		10396.80	online	LGA 1972, s.133
Collier Turf	Village Maintenance		70.25	dcard	OSA 1906, s.10
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection Rec		22.97	DD	Litter Act 1983,ss.5,6
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection V Hall		11.48	DD	Litter Act 1983,ss.5,6
EDF	Electricity General Estate		47.19	DD	PHA 1936, s.260
Microsoft	Office 365 annual cost		84.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
Dropbox	renewal annual cost		199.00	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
	Total spend for July 2026		90,446.11		

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

email: clerk@earith-pc.gov.uk
Meeting closed at 8:54pm

Meeting Dates 2026
3rd Sept
1st Oct
5th Nov

www.earith-pc.gov.uk

Date of Notice – 29th Aug 2026