

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 6th December 2012

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)
Mr Alan Spackman
Ms Hazel Lambert
Mr Ron Hodge
Mr Jeff Nicholls

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
Mr Keith Hudson
Mrs Hazel Scofield
Mrs Jenny Lloyd

CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Robin Carter

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 164 Apologies for Absence – DC Mr Terry Rogers, Mrs Marilyn Russell, and Mr James Woolstenholmes

Open Meeting

Item 165 Open Forum – No Public

Item 166 Ecops Report – The Clerk read out the latest Ecops report which highlighted the need for lights on bikes now that the nights are darker. There have also been a number of thefts at Willingham Road, Meadow Lane, Needingworth Golf Club and a theft of Diesel from Bluntisham Heath. There has also been some vandalism with a broken window on Hermitage Way and damage to a fence panel in the village and the bench at the back of the Village Hall.

Item 167 County Council and District Council Reports – CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that an application has been approved for removal of part of the old railway embankment and permission for new access whereby the cutting will be filled with several tonnes of imported soil which will result in many HCV movements at Needingworth. A section 106 agreement has been requested to exclude HCV movements through Pidley and Earith. The Saturday Whippet bus service is now up and running in Earith and its use will be monitored to see if this is a viable route. Therefore the “use it or lose it” question has been raised.

There has also been a series of bore holes made along the Willingham river road to assess the need for repairs. Several inconsistencies have been reported so far so a patch test will need to be made before any significant repairs can be made.

A letter has been issued to the St Ives Road Safety Committee to set out the procedure for any road safety issues. Any issues concerning road safety within Earith should be addressed to the Parish Council and dealt with via correspondence from the Parish Council and the County Council Highways Department. Correspondence received by the Highways Department directly from the St Ives Road Safety Committee will not be entered into.

DC Mr Robin Carter reported that car parking charges are to be reviewed and a public consultation is going ahead. Council benefits are still under review and those affected by cuts should make their views known.

The Chairman asked DC Mr Robin Carter to look into several matters concerning ownership of grassed areas and roads and paths, particularly Darford, Adelaide and Chapel Road.

The Chairman also asked the Council if the St Ives Road Safety Committee letter could be included as an agenda item and discussed within the meeting at item 175.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 168 Code of Conduct – Delegation powers to be granted to the Clerk regarding the decision for Dispensations as per the Localism Act 2012.

Parish Councillors are to declare disclosable pecuniary interests at each meeting as per the Localism Act 2012. If a Councillor wishes to speak and vote on any agenda item that they hold a disclosable pecuniary interest in then they will need to seek a dispensation to allow them to do this. The decision was then discussed to grant the Clerk delegated powers to deal with any dispensations that the Councillors requested.

Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the delegation of power to grant dispensations should be granted to the Clerk. All in favour.

- Item 169** **Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted.** The Council is requested to grant a general dispensation to all members of the Council to enable them to discuss any financial matters, including the setting of the precept and budget as per the Localism Act 2012. Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that this dispensation is granted. All in favour. Dispensation forms have been received and signed by all Councillors and the Clerk has granted that this dispensation is accepted as per the delegated powers given at agenda item 168.
- Item 170** **Councillors declaration of interest** – The Chairman drew the Councillors attention to the legal requirement that all interests should be declared following the Code of Conduct Localism Act 2012 c7.s27(3)(b). No declarations made.
- Item 171** **To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 1st November 2012**
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mrs Hazel Scofield seconded that the minutes should be signed. All in favour.
To sign minutes of Extra Ordinary Meeting held on - 16th November 2012
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that the minutes be signed. All in favour.
- Item 172** **Matters arising** – There were no matters arising.
- Item 173** **Planning** – Application Ref: 1201739FUL– Extend residential curtilage of no 70 High Street
Mrs Jenny Lloyd proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that this application is accepted as it will lead to improvements to the area. All in favour.
- Application Ref: 1201785FUL - Insertion of dormer window to replace velux window and first floor extension 42 Chapel Road
Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that this application is accepted as it would still be in-keeping with the street scene. All in favour
- Application Ref: 1201319FUL- Oak framed garage 44 Meadow Lane
This application was declined by the Parish Council but accepted by the District Council and the Chairman requested that Parish Council comments should be sent to the District Council concerning this decision. The Clerk is to respond to the HDC via letter requesting clarification of building and planning lines to enable future applications to be correctly evaluated.
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Clerk should write to HDC requesting clarification of planning guidelines. All in favour.
- Item 174** **Chairman’s Report** – The Chairman and Clerk attended a training course and presentation concerning the Localism Act 2012 which stipulated that dispensations should be sought if Councillors wished to comment on items on the Agenda which they held a disclosable pecuniary interest in. It was recommended at this meeting that delegated powers should be given to the Clerk to enable them to deal with these requests.
The Chairman also wanted to pass her thanks to Miss Ann Brennan, her daughter and Mr Ron Hodge for all of their hard work in sorting out the Christmas Lights in the tree outside the Village Hall. Extra emergency work was carried out following the severe weather experienced recently as several trees had been blown down along the Causeway and at the Pond and the Village Handy Man made sure that these trees were attended to and ensured that they were made safe as quickly as possible. There was also flooding again at Earith Bridge and the Council do sympathise with all residents and they will be issuing correspondence to the Environment Agency and Highways department concerning this as per agenda item 183.
- Item 175** **Parish Council Representatives Report – HCV and Road Safety** – Following the letter received by the St Ives Road Safety Committee and several emails received by the Chairman a decision is also needed concerning the issues raised within the letter. The Parish Council decided, following discussion, that all issues should be addressed to the Clerk who would then pass them to the Parish Council for discussion along with liaison with CC Mr Steve Criswell. It was also decided that a Parish Council representative would still attend the Road Safety meetings.
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this should happen from now on concerning any road safety issues raised regarding Earith. Mr Jeff Nicholls would report this back to the St Ives Road Safety Committee.
Ms Hazel Lambert reported that she attended a funding fair and she tabled a document which she had prepared which highlighted several major points raised at this meeting regarding funding streams and future possibilities for grant aid.
Mr Ron Hodge reported that he had noted that 22 trees along the causeway were either dead or diseased and that they should be attended to. He raised the question of who owned these trees and the Chairman is to check this out. The Chairman asked if this could be added as an agenda item in

January 2013 as remedial work needed to be carried out to the path. She also asked the Clerk to send a further letter to the Riverview concerning the overgrown ivy in the passageway. Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that JB Global had still not obtained an operating licence at the Minnaars site.

- Item 176** **Refurbishment of the Village Hall** – Clearing of moss on the roof and gutter repair. These items have already been dealt with. No action needed.
- Item 177** **Grass Cutting in Earith** –It was decided that the Parish Council should try and take over the County Council areas but not the District Council areas for grass cutting within Earith. Before the contractor is instructed the Clerk is to clarify the costings with the County Council. The tenders were discussed and the Council decided to carry on with the current contractor for another season as they have agreed to hold the current cost for the forth coming New Year. Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the current contractor should remain in place for the coming season. Renewals will be looked into in December 2013. All in favour
- Item 178** **Lights at the Recreation Field** – Miss Ann Brennan is to work with the electrician and cherry picker Company to arrange a convenient time for this repair to be carried out.
- Item 179** **Precept – Discussion re annual budgets** - The Clerk has prepared the precept budget and has asked the Parish Council to consider her suggestions for expenditure for the coming precept year. Several items were discussed including grass cutting, street lighting and preparations for the forthcoming Parish Plan renewal in 2014. Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the precept should be raised to £40,500 to cover these areas due to government cuts and requirements for the forthcoming years highlighted within the Localism Act 2012. All in favour.
- Item 180** **Local Plan 2036** – The Clerk highlighted the Governments planning documentation for the years up to 2036. Although Earith has not been designated as an area where major development will take place several areas around Earith such as Somersham and Wyton have been highlighted. Planning applications for major development such as the Minnaars Development are permitted under the “enabled exceptions” policy and this is still being discussed at present. The Parish Council would like to include the land North of Vermuyden in the Local Plan 2036 and the Clerk is to arrange for this to be considered.
- Item 181** **Risk Assessments and Playground Inspections** – The Clerk has obtained three quotations from companies who are able to carry out playground inspections. Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that Digley Associates should be instructed to carry out the Inspections at a cost of £80.00 for both sites. All in favour.
- Item 182** **Annual Donations – Poppy Appeal** – The Parish Council discussed the donations that should be granted this year. Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that a donation of £62.00 should be made to the Poppy Appeal. All in favour.
- Item 183** **Flooding at Earith Bridge and Road Closures** – The Clerk has received several emails from residents complaining about the road closure. The decision to close the roads rests purely with the Environment Agency and the Highways Department and the Parish Council are not responsible for the road being closed or the length of time that it is closed for. The Parish Council does sympathise with all residents concerning this problem and they are to write to both the agencies above regarding this matter. They are to comment on the fact that extra signage is needed to say Road Closed and Diversion signs should be erected to alert road users to alternative routes. They are also to request quicker response times for dealing with the erection and subsequent taking down of the barriers even in out of hours times so that the road is not closed for any longer than is needed for the health and safety of all road users. The Clerk is to write to the above agencies to highlight the areas covered by the Parish Council.

Item 184 Finance – a) Payments sign off

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 30 hrs. @ £9.94	298.20			LGHA1989,s.7
xx	Extra 2 hours re Day Centre	19.88			LGHA 1989, s.7
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		268.91	2463	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hrs. 8.5 hrs. @ £7.21	61.29			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		75.31	2464	
Inland Revenue	PAYE November 2012		71.20	2465	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self-employed monthly contract		100.00	2466	LGA1953,s.4
Mr M S Pink	Tree work at pond		195.00	2467	PHA 1936, s.260
EVA	Earith Echo		220.00	2468	LGA 1972, s.145
Mr Ron Hodge	Pond Maintenance		9.20	2469	PHA 1936, s.260
Viking	Office Stationery and stamps		87.76	2470	LGA 1972, s.226
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreaths		38.00	2471	LGA 1972, s.137
Herts & Cambs Ground Maintenance	Hedge Cut at Causeway		816.00	2472	OSA 1906, s.10
Tesco	Mobile phone and 1 st months rental		142.50	Debit card	LGA 1972 s.133
Zeon Webvertise	Domain name renewal cost		7.99	Debit card	LGA 1963, s.5
British Gas	Village Hall Gas		826.50	DD	LGA 1972, s.133
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		82.88	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	Total Spend for November 2012		£2,941.25		

Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that the finances should be accepted. All in Favour.

Item 185 Correspondence – The Clerk has received correspondence from residents concerning planning issues at the fishing lake and cars parking opposite the turning for Adelaide Walk. The Clerk is to respond as needed. All other correspondence as per the file.

Item 186 Items to report – Mrs Hazel Schofield reported that she is to stand down from the Council as of January 2013 so the Clerk is to advertise for a replacement Councillor in the New Year. Ms Hazel Lambert is to arrange for a leaving card for Mrs Spooner, head of Earith Primary School.

Item 187 Items for Future Meetings –Parish Plan, Parish boundaries between Bluntisham and Earith, White lining at the Recreation Field Car Park, Bench Replacement, Causeway and path refurbishment.

Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 3rd January 2013

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533 email mpinkearithpc@aol.com
These minutes are unadopted.

Date 10th December 2012

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