

## Earith Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council E-Meeting Held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 by Zoom

**Present – Councillors**

Mr Steve Edwards (Chairman)  
 Ms Hazel Lambert  
 Mrs Marilyn Russell  
 Mr Alan Spackman  
 Mr Nick Tindall

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)  
 Mr Jeff Nicholls  
 Mr Allan Till  
 Mrs Paula Brown

CC Mr Steve Criswell

0 member of the public

Mandy Pink – Clerk

**Due to the Covid19 Government Lockdown measures the Earith Parish Council meeting was held via a video conferencing link, the Agenda was published on the Parish Council Website and emailed to the 68-member Newsletter Subscriber List. This means that at least 80 Households were notified of the Parish Council E-Meeting. Approximately 12% of the Village of Earith.**

**Item 141 Apologies for absence – Mr Keith Hudson, Mrs Louise Reay, DC Mr Jon Neish**

**Open Meeting**

**Item 142 Open Forum –** No comments from Earith Residents

**Item 143 Ecops Report –** None

**Item 144 County Council and District Council Reports**

District Council emailed report noted.

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that the Covid Hubs are still up and running and they will continue after the pandemic to help with post pandemic issues. Further to the question from Cllr Hudson regarding the white lining in the disabled bays in Edwards Walk. This has been re-reported and should be moving forward shortly. All the design work for the Wheatsheaf Crossroads has now been completed and it is hoped that improvements to this junction can be made by the end of this year. Work is ongoing for the B1050 and it is hoped that a design and project for improvements can be moved to a shovel ready state so that funding can be allocated. This is a priority for the Highways Department and this stage is likely to cost in the region of 6-7 million even before any improvement works are looked at.

Cllr Lambert asked CC Mr Criswell for his reasoning regarding his recommendation to reclassify the A1123 to a "B" road. Cllr Criswell said that the reasoning was complex, but the decision had been very carefully considered.

Several Councillors questioned CC Criswell regarding the flooding issues in the Village and in particular the non-communication of information from all the relevant authorities to the Clerk. It was requested that the Clerk is informed of the road closures due to flooding as they happen so that warning can be given to the Village. The problem of cars still traversing the closed road and entering the flood waters was raised and this will be looked at. Extra measures should be put in place at either end of the closure to prevent vehicle movements when the road is closed.

*Cllr Criswell left the meeting at 7.58pm*

**(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 Chairman 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 – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Cllr Nicholls asked for an amendment to be made to the January minutes. Agenda Item 137 should read HCV Group and not the Road Safety Group. These amendments will be made so that the Minutes can be signed by the Chairman.

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the minutes are agreed and should be signed when Full Council resumes.

Resolved - All in favour

- Item 148 Planning** – Application 20/02471/HHFUL – Innisfree, Chapel Road – Demolish existing garage and construct single storey side extension.  
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that the Council have no objections to this planning application.  
Resolved - All in favour
- Item 149 Planning Reconsultation** – E/3003/18/CM – Willow Hall Farm, Haddenham – Construction of irrigation reservoirs – The Clerk had emailed the paperwork prior to the meeting and it was decided by Council, following a brief discussion, that the reconsultation amendments did not alter the concerns already raised by the Council. Therefore, the original comments stand, and the Clerk is to email the Planning Officer to reiterate this point.  
Mr Allan Till proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Clerk should email the Planning Officer stating no change to comments raised previously.  
Resolved - All in favour
- Item 150 County Council Consultation on Local Validation List requirements to be noted by Council** – The Clerk had emailed the Consultation paperwork to the Council for noting. All agreed.
- Item 151 Parish Council Facebook Page to be considered as a Noticeboard one way form of communication**  
The Clerk asked the Council to consider the use of a Community Facebook Page to be used as a noticeboard only. No communication will be entered into on the Facebook site and any comments must come via the normal Parish Council email or website channels so that GDPR and the Social Media Policy are complied with.  
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the Clerk could organise a Facebook Community Page for the Parish Council to act as a Noticeboard only.  
Resolved - All in favour
- Item 152 Village flooding update from the Chairman** – The Chairman reported that he had been out and about in the Village and had spoken to some residents about the flooding problems and they are now aware that flooding is not an issue that the Parish Council is specifically responsible for. The decision to close the road and gates rests with the County Council under the guidance of the Environment Agency. He has also tried to raise awareness of riparian rights for householders who have ditches running alongside their property as these watercourses should be cleaned and maintained by the Homeowners. The District Council are compiling a list of flooded areas and he accompanied the Clerk on a Village walk about so that they could map the blocked drains and flooded areas in the Village. The flood maps and a three-page report were also submitted with other areas being reported as they are made known to the Clerk. The District Council are now working with the leading authorities to highlight the biggest problem areas so that they can be investigated. The County Council are now investigating approximately 750 areas and have based the investigations on a priority system depending on the severity of the issues raised. The Clerk advised the Councillors that they could check if the road is closed by using the webpage <https://isearithbridgeopen.com>. This is a community page and is updated by residents. There is also the website for One Network UK that shows all traffic related areas including road works etc for the whole country so this can be used to check the status of all the roads in the UK. This is updated almost immediately. <https://one.network/uk>
- Item 153 New Village Hall project update** – Cllr Lambert gave the Council a brief overview of the project so far. The Clerk has drafted a letter for residents in the area adjacent to the proposed possible new site and these letters will be sent out when some draft plans are available as this will all limit the choice of location depending on the type of building required. The Village Hall Group will now look to work on some plans that can be viewed by all so that this project can begin to move forward again.  
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that plans should be drawn up.  
Resolved - All in favour
- Item 154 Finance** –
- a) Payments to sign off
  - b) Online Salary payments for February to be made as standard
  - c) Chairman to note bank statement. To be signed when Full Council resumes
- a) Ms Hazel Lambert proposed, and Mr Steve Edwards seconded that the payments should be signed off.  
Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for February – Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed, and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the payments should be made. Resolved – All in favour
- c) Bank statement noted and to be signed when Full Council resumes

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>Chq</u>	<u>Powers</u>
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 75hrs @ £18.05	1353.75			LGHA1989,s.7
	Clerks Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
	Mobile phone monthly rental not taxab	12.00			LGA 1972, s.133
		total less tax	1253.14	online	
Mrs C Shook	Cleaner 5.5 hrs @ 10.16	55.88			LGA 1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ 10.16	25.40			LGHA1989,s.7
		total less tax	81.28	online	
Mrs J Law	Caretaker January		100.00	online	LGA 1972,s.133
Inland Revenue	PAYE January 2020		226.86	online	LGA 1972,s.112-119
Mr MS Pink	Parish Handyman		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
MSP Services	Village Maintenance		355.00	online	PHA 1936, s.260
SLCC	Books x 4 Charities and Public Parks		84.02	online	LGA 1972, s226
Parish Council Website	Website Hosting charge		144.00	online	LGHA1972,s.266
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection Rec		20.15	DD	Litter Act 1983,ss.5,6
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection V Hall		10.08	DD	Litter Act 1983,ss.5,6
Zoom	Zoom meetings monthly cost		14.39	DD	LGA 1972, Schd 12
CNG	Village Hall Gas		75.67	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	Total spend for January 2021		2,514.59		

Cllr Spackman reported that he had been told that there was a lot of litter in the ditch at the corner opposite the Allotment site on Colne Road and in the ditch running up Meadow Drove to the Industrial Estate. The Clerk informed him that any litter of this kind can be reported as fly tipping and he should advise anyone contacting him that fly tipping can be reported online on the District Council website. Details regarding the online report tool can be found in the Earith Echo. Cllr Spackman asked the Clerk to organise an information article in the Echo about litter and how to report it. The issue of Dog Waste was also discussed as it does appear to be coming more widespread in the Village and this can be included as an article in the Echo as well.

**Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533**  
**These minutes are unadopted**

**email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com**  
**Meeting closed at 8.48PM**

**Meeting Dates 2021**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Mar, 1<sup>st</sup> April,**  
**May date to be decided depending on elections**

**[www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk)**

**Date of Notice – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021**