

Earsham Parish Council

Minutes

of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at Earsham Church Room on Tuesday 2nd July 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Lynda Hamps (Chair), Keith Reeve (Vice Chair), Jim Bennett, Scott Bone, Karl Gunton, Nick Meade and Stephen Wood

Also present: District Councillor Murray Gray, Jacinta Webb (Saffron Housing), Geoff Doggett (Waveney Valley Trust), 3 members of the public and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

1. **Welcome** – The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting
2. **Apologies** – None
- 3 **Declarations of interest** – Councillors Meade and Bennett both declared an interest in Item 15

The meeting was adjourned at 7.39pm and reconvened at 7.51pm for public participation

Jacinta Webb spoke to the parish council members regarding another scheme by Saffron Housing to provide an additional 5 homes in addition to the recently completed development in School Road. The proposed scheme would be situated on their land at Dukesway and the rear of Station Road and would consist of 3 x 1 bedroom 2 person bungalows, each with 2 parking spaces, 2 x 1 bedroom 2 person houses, each with 2 parking spaces, plus 1 new parking space in front of each of the existing 8 bungalows, plus 8 new visitor parking spaces as a substitute for the 8 Saffron garage plots. A new Type 3 turning head large enough for dustcarts, fire engines, removal lorries etc. would also be created. Jacinta informed the members that they intend to hold an information event for residents in a few weeks, probably around 3pm – 5pm. One of the residents present expressed his view that people returning home from work after 5pm would miss the event and lose their opportunity to view the proposal. Jacinta agreed to see if it could be changed to a later time to accommodate workers returning home from work. Councillor Gunton asked if local residents would have priority for the homes, and Jacinta assured the members that this was the case. The chairman thanked Jacinta for her presentation and Jacinta left the meeting.

4. **Previous Minutes** - The Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday May 7th 2013 and May 28th were approved and signed by the Chairman. Agreement to both sets of minutes was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillors Woods and Hamps.

ALL AGREED

5. **District and County Council Reports and crime statistics** –

District Council News – Councillor Gray reported:-

- Grants – Following on from May's report on available grants, Councillor Gray informed the members of a project called Your Neighbourhood Your Choice, which is makes monies available from the new homes bonus. The total amount available is £822,000 which is to be divided into 5 neighbourhood areas.
- South Norfolk on Show – This will be taking place on Sunday 19th July at South Norfolk Council

Parish Crime Statistics - Cllr Hamps read out the parish crime statistics for the months of May and June 2013 :-

May 2013 – 4 x criminal damage

June 2013 – 4 x burglary non-dwelling, 3 criminal damage, 1 drugs offence, 1 theft from a motor vehicle, 3 x other theft and 2 x violence against a person – 14 in total

6. Waveney River Trust – Presentation by Geoff Doggett – The Chairman introduced Geoff Doggett to the members of the council, and Geoff thanked the council for allowing him to attend the meeting to update them on who the Waveney River Trust were, how they came into being and the taking over of the Otter Trust building/land and the hopes for the future. After an informative presentation, Geoff answered a number of questions from the members about the Waveney Trust Study Centre (Otter Trust building) and handed out some brochures. Cllr Hamps thanked Geoff for attending, and Geoff left the meeting.

7. Proposed football pavilion, the progress so far and any agreed action – The Chairman read out an email from Peter Goodfellow (who is currently on holiday) which gave an update on the current status of the proposal. The planning application is currently with South Norfolk and is going through the consultation period which will end on Wednesday 17th July when a decision will be made on whether to approve the application or not. At the last meeting, mention was made of a memorial tree near the proposed site of the pavilion and after investigation, Peter found that the tree is in memory of Ronnie Trudgill. Contact will be made with his family on Peter's return from holiday to ask their views on planting a new tree with a new plaque.

8. Proposed improvements to the Village Hall and any agreed action – Councillor Gunton reported that he had spoken to an architect as agreed at the last meeting, and the architect will attend the village hall for an inspection and give his opinion on what improvements would be possible. The Chairman suggested arranging a meeting one evening with members of the council in attendance to give their views. The Chairman also informed the council that she had received some information from the Earsham Trust, which indicated that they may be in a position to make a donation towards the refurbishment. The Chairman will make enquiries as to whether there is a time limit to the offer and the amount.

ALL AGREED

Action – Cllr Hamps

Action - Cllr Gunton

9. War Memorial condition and any agreed action – Following a letter from Mr. John Archer asking the council if they would consider refurbishing the war memorial, all the members of the council agreed that it was important to do so. Councillor Gray advised that grants are available from the War Memorials Trust and South Norfolk Council for this type of work, and it was agreed that the clerk should contact both organisations to find out more information. It was also agreed to write to Mr. Archer informing him of the council's decision.

ALL AGREED

Action – Clerk

10. Agreement on the cost of Earsham's History Book and any agreed action – The clerk gave a breakdown on the costs to the council to reproduce the History Book for residents. Two options had been considered, one involving colour photocopying the book, which would breakdown to a cost of £12.50 per copy (based on 25 books being sold) or to print the book on the clerk's printer. The cost for the latter was nearly £5.00. The members agreed to proceed with the second option and fix the cost of the book to the public at £5.00

ALL AGREED

Action – Clerk

11. Pre-application response to Durrants regarding a proposed residential dwelling north of Kingsbridge, Church Road and any agreed action – The members did not think there was anything of note that Durrants needed to be informed of on this site.

12. Earsham Bypass Channel walls and any agreed action – The clerk read out an email which had been received from the Environment Agency regarding a recent OPUS survey which had been carried out on all EA owned structures, and it had been found that some fencing was required along both left and right bank (downstream of the arched bridge). This also included the area where the Jubilee bench seats had recently been installed. The EA were seeking the council's permission to raise the top horizontal timber up to the top of the vertical posts to be in line with the latest British standards that have to be followed. A toe board and mesh would also be required, again to comply with British standards, and similar fencing would need to be installed along the whole length of the concrete wall. The members all agreed that this was necessary and asked the clerk to respond accordingly to the EA

**ALL AGREED
Action – Clerk**

13. Resolution to renew the Norfolk Playing Fields Association membership and any agreed action – Agreement to renew the membership at a cost of £20 was proposed by Councillor Hamps and seconded by Councillor Bennett.

ALL AGREED

14. Anti-social behaviour on the playing field and any agreed action – Councillor Hamps informed the members that she had spoken with PC Tim Tyler, and discussions with outside organisations were ongoing. Councillor Gunton also informed the members that he too had spoken to the police when he reported the latest damage to the playground equipment, and was assured that if anyone called 101 to report offenders, the information would be totally anonymous. After some discussion, it was agreed to approach the magazine editor with a view to putting that information in the parish magazine.

Action – Clerk

15. Planning Applications and Report of Decisions received since the last meeting:-

South Norfolk Council - 2013/1027 – Playing Field north of The Retreat, The Street, Earsham – Demolition of existing mobile/portacabin changing rooms and construction – FOR INFORMATION ONLY, NO COMMENT REQUIRED

Broads Authority – BA/2013/0131/CCP – Variation of condition no. 1 of PP C/2009/7016 to extend duration of mineral extraction to 11th August 2016 and restoration to be completed by 11th August 2018 – NO OBJECTIONS – COUNTY COUNCIL APP.

The above was noted by members.

16. Chairman's report – The Chairman reported that she had attended the press launch of the Waveney Valley Trust

**17. Parish Councillor reports –
Councillor Gunton –**

- had reported the vandalism on the Timberline equipment to the police and despite the extensive damage, had managed to repair it
- the baby swings were now fitted
- had attended the recent official opening of the Alburgh playing field with his family
- that the nettles on Church Path were overgrown

- that there was an overgrown hedge obscuring the view of the road to motorists at the entrance to the village. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the owner of the hedge if it proved to be on private property, or communication with Highways if not

Councillor Reeve –

- asked if enquiries be made to Highways regarding the lack of footpath between two houses at one end of the village, which made it particularly difficult for parents taking their children to school as they had to cross the main road to avoid the area, then cross back again to get to the school
- also asked if Highways could be contacted to ascertain if something could be done to refurbish the cat's eyes on the road heading towards Bungay. New cat's eyes had been put in place following the recent bridge repairs while the remaining ones are in need of repair

Councillor Hamps –

- reported that she had received an email from a parent at the primary school asking if something could be done about the congestion in School Road, and suggested widening the road and possibly have parking bays around the estate green. Councillor Hamps had responded to the email advising the resident that this was not a parish council decision and further investigation would be needed to see if some sort of solution could be found.

Councillor Meade –

- reported that he had received a complaint about the number of trucks using Church Road to get to Atlantic Stores. Councillor Reeve informed the members that it was a condition of Atlantic's planning permission that HGV's had to use Church Road, rather than the only other route which was School Road

Councillor Woods –

- had reported an overgrown hedge at the bottom of Station Road to the clerk, who confirmed that it had been reported to the Highway Rangers

Councillor Bennett –

- had spoken to someone in the village who asked if a dog bin outside their property could be relocated. This was briefly discussed and members agreed that it could be moved to the opposite side of the road if required.

18. Clerk's report – The following was reported by the clerk:-

- the playground inspection report had been received, and although some remedial works had been highlighted, there was nothing flagged up above low to medium risk
- the baby swings had been installed the previous Friday, and the final cost was £613.20. The insurance monies received had been £614.45 so there was no extra cost to the council.
- The VAT payment had been received with a total of £959.16 being claimed back. This consists of £719.76 allocated to Parish Council and £239.40 to Playing Field.
- Ron Page's History Book – is now on the website and so far there has been 9 orders for books

19. Payment of accounts - Payments for May and June 2013 were agreed. (See list on final page). Parish council payments already made since last meeting £1,053.09 (PC) £34.60 (PF) and £67.06 (Allotments) – cheques for signature £1,803.23(PC) and £850.30 (PF). Agreement was proposed by Councillor Bone and seconded by Councillor Bennett.

ALL AGREED

20. To be informed of significant correspondence and any agreed action (list as circulated)

- An email had been received from Norfolk County Council requesting information on the parish lighting assets
- Information on the Neighbourhood Board

24. Business for September 2013 meeting – Village Hall, next stage for the proposed Football pavilion, School Road and the congestion problem, Saffron Housing and the proposed five affordable homes

The meeting was adjourned at 9.25pm and reconvened at 9.27pm

There was a brief discussion with one of the residents regarding issues already discussed during the meeting

21. The date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday, 3rd September 2013 at 7.30pm at the Earsham Church Room

SignedL. Hamps.....

Date3rd September 2013 ..

The meeting ended at 9.54pm