

Earsham Parish Council

Minutes

of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at The Village Hall
on Wednesday 26th November 2014 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: District Councillor Murray Gray and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

1. **Welcome** – The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting
2. **Apologies** – None
3. **Declarations of interest** – None
4. **Previous Minutes** - The Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Bone.

ALL AGREED

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

District Councillor report –

- Councillor Gray still has £200 to give to an organisation or group in Earsham from his District Councillors allocation.
- South Norfolk Community Awards – nominations are open until the 5th December and award winners receive £250 for the community group of their choice.
- Recycling –the new regime which came into being on October 1st is going well, an article appeared in the Link magazine regarding this.
- An analysis has been undertaken on the material in black bin liners which is predominately food waste. This costs £122 per ton to process which equates to each household paying £21.45 per year, so based on this, South Norfolk Council will be investigating the costs of the collection of food waste themselves in order to save money.
- The Gypsies and Travellers Consultation – landowners have come forward with 12 sites so far, some of which are an extension of existing sites.

Parish Crime Statistics- Cllr Hamps read out the parish crime statistics:-

September – 1 x theft other and 1 x theft from a motor vehicle

October – 1 x criminal damage and 2 x violence against a person

6. **Update on plans for the village hall refurbishment and any agreed action** – The chairman informed the members that a copy of the plans have been sent to Taylor Wimpey, and after a lengthy wait for a response, she had been informed that the proposed extension onto The Green will be looked into after the original documentation has been tracked down. Nick Woods (architect) has been contacted and asked to provide a cost for a full set of drawings of the proposed changes to the hall if Taylor Wimpey confirm they are happy for the proposed plans to go ahead.

Action – Cllr Hamps

7. Update on the new football pavilion, discuss the rent arrangements, payment of electricity and water services, and any agreed action – As the football pavilion is nearing completion an informal meeting between members of the council, the chairmen of both football clubs and interested parties had taken place earlier in the month, and it was agreed to put the following suggestions forward to full council for their consideration:-

- No rent would be charged this year for either football clubs. This is a form of compensation for the work and effort that had been put into getting the new pavilion build by Earsham Football Club, and the fact that Mettingham FC's costs are higher due to having to pay to play elsewhere. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Bennett.

ALL AGREED

- It was also agreed to put in meters to simplify the reading of the meters for the Football Club and Bowls Club, and these would be paid for by the parish council. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Bennett.

ALL AGREED

8. Discussion on the request to have an extra grass cut on the playing field at a cost of £65 + VAT and any agreed action – A request to have the grass cut on the playing field had been received by both football clubs, with Earsham FC agreeing to pay half of the cost if the members agreed to the proposal. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gunton and was seconded by Councillor Bone.

ALL AGREED

9. Discussion on a request from the pre-school group to have the tree branches trimmed which overhang the children's outdoor play area - The chairman informed the members that this request was received because of low hanging branches in the outdoor play area. After a short discussion, agreement to ask Sam Dossett for a price to undertake the work was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Hamps.

ALL AGREED

A further discussion took place on other issues surrounding the pre-school group and it was suggested that the village hall management committee contact the group to discuss this in more detail.

10. To note the Transparency Code update from NALC – The members had received a copy of the update with their agenda papers. The chairman read out a highlighted section of the Code and this which was duly noted by the members.

11. Budget requirements for 2015/16 - The clerk informed the members that one item of increased expenditure in the forthcoming year would be the insuring of the football pavilion. The insurance company had been contacted to find out probable future costs for the football pavilion once completed, and the premium estimate based on a value of £108,000, would be an increase of approximately £250 - £300 per annum. Additionally, now that the Playground Committee are in a position to look for funding for new play equipment, these increased insurance costs will also have to be considered for the future, although it is appreciated this may not affect next year's budget. An estimate of the increased insurance for any new playground items was also provided by the insurance company. After a brief discussion, the clerk was asked to contact the parish clerk to Alburgh Parish Council to find out how much their parish insurance increased by after they had their new playground equipment installed.

Action – Clerk

Councillor Reeve also spoke of the lanterns that came up for discussion at the July meeting. The clerk confirmed she would chase up TT Jones Electrical for a price.

Action - Clerk

12. To note the local government pay consultation – The clerk informed the members that an agreement had been reached by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services to award a 2.2% pay increase from January 1st 2015 along with a non-consolidated pro-rata payment to be paid in December 2014 – This was noted by the members.

13. To discuss and agree the annual renewal of SLCC for £87 and agree any action - Agreement to the renewal of SLCC at a cost of £87 was proposed by Councillor Hamps and seconded by Councillor Gunton.

ALL AGREED

14. To receive a verbal finance report – The clerk reported the following:-

- There is no unforeseen parish council expenditure so far this year with most of the spend coming in either on or under budget so far.
- There has been quite a lot of activity in the Parish Council Accounts and Playing Field Accounts due to the transferring of funds to facilitate the payment of invoices for the Football Pavilion, which has mostly been covered by grants also coming in. The parish council has had, however, to cover the payment of VAT on these invoices which has taken up to 12 weeks to recoup. As the project is nearing completion the monies spent on the pavilion so far amounts to £95,508.57 of which £89,508.90 came from grants, the difference of £4,999.67 was covered by the smaller cash grants which were paid into parish accounts before the project started. There is a total of £13,150 left in the grant coffers, £7,500 of which will be retained by the two biggest funders until completion and the signing off of the building.
- Parish council accounts as at 28th November 2014 were:-
 - Parish Council Current Account - £1400.26
 - Parish Council Savings Account - £27,404.53
 - Playing Field Current Account - £2002.78
 - Playing Field Savings Account - £2273.44
 - Allotment Current Account - £125.89
 - Allotment Savings Account - £1326.86

15. Consideration of a request from Richard Bacon MP to support a proposal for a Community Right to Reduce Speed and agree any action – The members had received a copy of the Richard Bacon MP's request with their supporting papers. After a brief discussion, the members decided that they did not want to support this request as they did not consider the lowering of the speed limit through the village, from 30 mph to 20mph to be necessary.

**6 AGREED
1 DISAGREED**

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

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL

- a) **2014/1852 – Bridge at Fen Farm (Flixton) South of Church Road, Earsham** – To construct a cattle bridge over the River Waveney – **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**

- b) **2014/2140 – Upper Green Farm, Middle Road, Earsham, Bungay** – Stable and covered shed; covered horse washdown and store; concrete hardstanding – Approved by Earsham Planning Group

BROADS AUTHORITY – new applications

- a) **BA/2014/0315 and 0361/LBC and HOUSEHOLDER – 51 Staithe Road, Bungay** – Erection of single storey rear extension

17. Chairman’s Report – None

18. Reports from parish councillors and any agreed action –

Councillor Bone – reported that 8 old tyres have been dumped, along with garden waste, on Old Harleston Road, and a fridge which has been dumped on Marston Moor. Problems have also been reoccurring on Kingsway with anti-social behaviour being experienced by residents.

Standing orders were suspended at 8.50pm and reconvened at 8.55pm so District Councillor Gray could comment on the anti-social behaviour

Councillor Reeve – reported that the hedge still needs cutting back at the end of the village. It was agreed that Councillor Bennett would speak to the resident concerned. Councillor Reeve also reported that there has been flooding at Temple Bar where works were undertaken recently.

Councillor Gunton – reported that the hedge at the allotments needed cutting back, this had previously been undertaken by Stephen Revell

Councillor Meade – reported that the Scout group were still looking for somewhere to place the bin for collecting cardboard

19. Clerk’s report – The clerk reported the following:-

- **South Norfolk Council – 2015-16 Parish Precepts** - In July, Cabinet agreed that they would continue to pass all grant funding received from Central Government in respect of the cost of Council Tax Support, down to Parish and Town councils. At this stage they do not know exactly how much the grant will be, however as in previous years it will be allocated dependent on the estimated amount of Council Tax Support to be awarded to residents in each parish. Precept forms, grant and tax base information are expected via e-mail in the week commencing 15th December. The deadline for returning the completed forms will be 23rd January and it has been requested that if possible the precept setting meetings should be held in early January 2015.
- **Email from Playgroup regarding cars outside village hall and fire alarm testing** – This was discussed during Item 9.
- **Kingsway** – Works have been completed by Highways to alleviate the flooding in the cul-de-sac. So far no correspondence or phone calls about flooding has been received, but time will tell as to whether the work has made any difference.
- **Planning Applications** – South Norfolk Council have sent an email to say that from 1st December, they will be sending out plans at a much reduced size of either A3 or A4, whichever is the most appropriate for the specific application being consulted on.
- **Renewal of Microsoft Office 365** – The renewal of the Office programme which is used for Earsham parish work has now expired and the annual cost to renew the package is £59.99 – Agreement for the purchase of the software was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Bennett.

ALL AGREED

- **River Waveney Trust** – Have been successful in being awarded an Awards for All grant (The Waveney – Waterway to the Future) of £9997 to set up a Youth Section to run in conjunction with the already successful programme for school children and youth organisations at the River Waveney Study Centre, Earsham. £1000 has been set aside to re-scape the centre’s overgrown lake
- **Hedging and Tree for Playing Field** – The hedging whips are now with SNC and will need picking up from Long Stratton on Friday 28th November, and Councillor Bennett kindly agreed to collect them. Arrangements for the planting of them will need to be made, the clerk will make enquiries as to whether it could be done free of charge by local tree wardens

Action – Clerk

20. Payment of accounts - Payments for October and November 2014 were agreed. Parish council payments already made since last meeting £333.58 (PC) £28,593.19 (PF) – cheques for signature £683.67 (PC) £2799.55 (PF) and £64.77 (Allots). Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Bone.

ALL AGREED

21. Significant correspondence and any agreed action (list as circulated) –

Item 4 – NCC’s budget and priorities for 2015/18

Item 5 – NCC’s – Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils – the county council has allocated £200,000 on a 50/50 basis to fund schemes put forward by town and parish councils to deliver projects that are priorities for local communities. The closing date for proposals is 30th January 2015. The council were interested in finding out more information on SAM 2 which is the mobile speed activated machine. The clerk was asked to find out more details regarding cost etc.

Action – Clerk

Item 3 on additional correspondence – Letter of Appeal from the Norfolk Rotary Club regarding a request for financial support from parish councils as the funding for the installation of smoke alarms for the most vulnerable residents is being withdrawn in April 2015.

22. Business for the January 2015 meeting – SAM 2 (NCC application), Budget & precept

24. Date and time of the next meeting – Wednesday 28th January 2015 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

The meeting ended at 9.29pm

Signed

Date