

Earsham Parish Council

Minutes

**of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at The Village Hall on Wednesday
28th May 2014 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Lynda Hamps (Chair), Jim Bennett, Scott Bone, Karl Gunton, Nick Meade

Also present: District Councillor Murray Gray, County Councillor Margaret Somerville and 1 member of the public

1. Election of chairman – Councillor Bone proposed Councillor Hamps be elected for another year which was seconded by Councillor Bennett. ALL AGREED

2. Election of vice-chairman – Councillor Hamps proposed Councillor Reeve be elected for another year which was seconded by Councillor Gunton. ALL AGREED

3. Apologies from members unable to attend – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Reeve and Woods (holiday).

4. To receive any declarations of interest in particular to matters to be raised at this meeting – Councillor Meade declared an interest in item 16.

5. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th March 2014 – Councillor Meade proposed agreement which was seconded by Councillor Bennett. ALL AGREED

The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum 10 minutes) for items to be discussed on the Agenda only – A member of the public thanked the council for their objection to plans for two houses on Princess Way and clarification was given on the comments made by the planning group

6. Reports from District and County Councillors, and Parish Crime Statistics – District Councillor Gray gave his report as follows:-

- As district councillor he has £1000 to spend between five parishes, this will be for funding assistance to local groups
- Community Action Fund has a total of £25,000 available, any applications for funding need to be for over £2000
- The plans for Princess Way will not be decided by the delegated officer, but must go to Committee

County Councillor Margaret Somerville introduced herself to the council and apologised for previous absence, which had been due to ill health and proceeded to give an update on Norfolk County Council news.

Crime statistics for March 2014 were:- 1 x burglary non-dwelling, 2 x criminal damage and 1 x violence against a person

Crime statistics for April 2014 were:- 1 x theft other

7. Updates on the proposed refurbishment to the village hall, play group usage and any agreed action – The chairman informed the members that South Norfolk Council are willing to negotiate with Wilcon/Taylor Wimpey, to get the covenant removed from the agreement regarding The Green and that funding may be available to pay for the plans to be drawn up from South Norfolk Council. It was agreed that Councillor Hamps will contact the architect to find out the costs involved and also to contact District Councillor Brian Riches who may be able to assist with the funding required. Councillor Hamps will also speak with the preschool group regarding the village hall fees. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Bennett. ALL AGREED

Action – Cllr Hamps

8. Updates regarding the proposed new build football pavilion, electricity and water connections (with Bowls Club) and any agreed action – Councillor Hamps read out a report from Peter Goodfellow which informed the council of the following:-

- The old pavilion has now gone and disposed of and the new building started. The foundations and the damp proof course are in place and the outer brick walls have been started. It is hoped to get the walls built up to roof height by the end of next week.
- Vandalism has occurred on the site and it would be appreciated if people could keep their eye on the site if they are in the vicinity
- The football teams continue to do well, the first team finished in 3rd place and are promoted to Division 5 of the Anglian Combination League next season. The Reserve Team finished 9th in their league so will remain in Division 2 Lowestoft League next season

It had been suggested previously that it may be a good idea to look at getting separate meters installed in the new football pavilion as it will be on a shared system with the Bowls Club. The clerk had investigated this as requested, and found that although electricity meters were inexpensive to purchase, a separate water meter would cost over £1000 as a new water connection would be required. It was agreed to check with the bowls club before a decision was made.

9. The refurbishment of the war memorial, improvements around the memorial, and a request for website feedback from the conservation company and any agreed action – The total amount raised for the refurbishment of the memorial totalled £1402, of which the cost of the conservation works amounted to £917.20 leaving a balance of £484.80. It was proposed by Councillor Bone to spend up to £400 on planters with the remaining amount spent on compost and plants. This was seconded by Councillor Hamps. ALL AGREED.

It was also agreed to seek John Archer's permission to use his letter to the council, as a testimonial for Inspire Conservation's website, in which he praises the work of the conservationist. ALL AGREED

10. To approve the accounts for 2013/2014 – Agreement was proposed by Councillor Bone and seconded by Councillor Bennett. ALL AGREED

11. To resolve to sign off sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return – Agreement was proposed by Councillor Bennett and seconded by Councillor Bone subject to clarification of a question by the clerk. ALL AGREED

12. To resolve to agree the playground inspection company and any agreed action – The clerk had received a quote from David Bracey regarding the playground inspection for this year which was £65 + VAT, the same as last year. This is a cheaper quote than from RoSPA. Included in the inspection will be a report and a risk assessment of each item of play equipment with photographs, plus photographs of any failures to EN1176 and any maintenance issues.

A risk assessment of the whole play area will also be given. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Bone and seconded by Councillor Gunton. ALL AGREED **Action – Clerk**

13. Purchase of a new gate for the allotment site and any agreed action – It was agreed that Councillor Gunton would seek some prices for a replacement gate for discussion at the July meeting.

14. To discuss 2 subscriptions which are due for renewal:-

- Norfolk Association of Local Councils - £164.18
- Norfolk Rural Community Council - £20.00

Agreement to renew the two subscriptions was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Bennett. ALL AGREED

15. Resolution to agree the insurance payment of £721.35 and any agreed action – This payment has been reduced to reflect the demolishing of the football pavilion. ALL AGREED

16. Discussion regarding the Sprake & Kingsley solicitor's letter re the land at the Jubilee seating area and agree any action – It was agreed that Councillor Meade would email the other members of the council a copy of the letter for discussion at the July meeting.

17. To discuss Marston Moor, remedial works required and any agreed action – Despite repeated requests and emails, this problem still remains unresolved. The clerk has e-mailed the County Councillor for assistance who will chase this up on the parish council's behalf.

18. Fly/bill posting around the village and any agreed action – It was agreed that councillors would remain vigilant and remove posters as and when they see them, possibly telephoning the culprits and asking them to remove their advertisements. ALL AGREED

19. Resolution to agree the purchase of a new lantern and cabling for Column 4 in Elms Close and any agreed action – Councillor Hamps informed the members that following a report to the electrical contractors that Col. 4 in Elms Close had stopped working, it had been found that the lantern was blowing fuses and no repair could be made. It was recommended by the electrical contractors to replace the lantern, cabling and the concrete column's current sleeve with new. Since the quote had been received, the column has been referred to UKPN for checking. The members agreed that the works were necessary, however, that the invoice should not be paid until the lantern is working again and reassurance has been sought that the work was necessary in the first place. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Hamps. ALL AGREED

20. To be informed of any Planning Applications and Report of Decisions received since the last meeting:- The following items were noted.

Report of Decisions – South Norfolk Council

2013/0375 – Ivy Farm, Marsh Lane, Earsham – Proposal is to install replacement windows to property – Application type – Listed building consent – **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**

2013/0324 – Lodge Farm Barn, Church Road, Earsham – Proposal is for an amended application for raised ridge to link to same level as bedroom wing and replacing part of the roof following approved application 2012/0778 – **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**

Norfolk County Council

Earsham Quarry, Bath Hills Road, Earsham – Variation of condition 1 of PP C/7/2012/7002 to allow the continued disposal of processing silts into lake adjoining plant site to form shallows suitable as reed beds use of Silt Ponds until 11th August 2018 – Earsham Gravels Ltd. – Letter received from NCC asking for any parish council and resident observations. Full submission documents can be found on the web page
<http://eplanning.norfolk.gov.uk/PlanAppDisp.aspz?AppNo=C/7/2014/7013>

21. To receive the Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported the following –

- Complaints had been received about the growth of weeds and grass on the playing field which is encroaching into residents' gardens, it was agreed to ask Sam Dossett to clear the overgrowth and also to look into getting costs for regular strimming on the playing field and anywhere else in the village where it is required. **Action – Cllr Hamps**
- It was agreed that councillors and volunteers would take part in a litter pick on Sunday 8th June at 10am and to organise a village clean-up for Sunday 31st August at 10am. It was agreed to put this in the village magazine asking for volunteers and to contact Mikey Bentley at SNC to arrange to borrow some litter-pick equipment. **Action – Clerk**

22. To receive reports from Parish Councillors and agree any necessary action - None

23. To receive Clerk's report and agree any necessary action – No report due to clerk's sick leave

24. Payment of invoices – Payments for April and May 2014 were agreed. Parish council payments already made since the last meeting - £2078.76 (PC) £888.00 (PF) and £63.27 (Allotments)

Cheques for signature - £2596.97 (PC) £1103.35 (PF). **ALL AGREED**

25. Significant correspondence and any agreed action (list as circulated) – A letter received from John Archer (re War Memorial) was read out and it was suggested that a copy of the wording be put in the parish magazine after John's permission has been sought.

26. To discuss business for the July meeting – Solicitor's letter regarding Jubilee seating area, allotment gate, and replanting of tree's on the playing field.

The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum 10 minutes) – A member of the public asked if the trees are to be replaced near the bowls club on the playing field. It was agreed that this would be looked into.

27. To confirm the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 30th July 2014 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Earsham

Signed

Date

The meeting ended at 9.13pm
