

Earsham Parish Council

Minutes

of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at
Earsham Church Room on Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Lynda Hamps (Chair), Keith Reeve (Vice Chair), Jim Bennett, Scott Bone, Karl Gunton, and Stephen Wood, County Councillor Tony Tomkinson, District Councillor Murray Gray (Cllr Gray left the meeting after Item 10 to attend another meeting), Lynda Ling (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

1. **Welcome** – The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** – were received and accepted from Councillor Nick Meade (family commitment)
3. **Declarations of interest** – None
4. **Previous Minutes** - The Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 6th November 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record pending the addition of two amendments. *County Councillor* Murray Gray to be changed to District Councillor Murray Gray and the clarification of Cllr Reeve's comment regarding the replacement tree to read 'that if a tree is removed then another must be planted although not necessarily in the same place'. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Reeve and seconded by Councillor Gunton.

ALL AGREED

5. District and County Council Reports and crime statistics –

District Council News – Councillor Gray reported:-

- £100,000 has been made available by South Norfolk Council for parishes who would like to progress significant projects next year
- The Neighbourhood Board have money available for projects for the coming year
- There is a new Funding Officer at South Norfolk Council to replace Meryl Harding
- Community Speedwatch Camera – is currently available for use by villages

County Council News – Councillor Tomkinson reported:-

- The next round of the Construction Fund is ready to be launched, however, you need to have everything in place i.e. planning permissions, surveys, quotes before you can apply
- RAF Coltishall – The purchase of the base is nearly complete and will cost approximately £1 million to complete the infrastructure and refurbish the buildings. The majority of the land will be turned over to agricultural use and the runway may be used to house photovoltaic cells.
- Norse – Is a wholly owned subsidiary of Norfolk County Council and currently employs 5,700 people in Norfolk. They have contributed £46m to the finances of the council and have 80 apprenticeships available. There is also a fund available to support private companies to help with apprenticeship schemes.
- Fire & Rescue Service – Discussions have taken place on whether the service should respond to automatic fire alarms, evidence of a fire may have to be substantiated before the service will attend

- City deals scheme – Funding for economic development. Norfolk County Council are working with teams from South Norfolk Council and Broadland to put forward proposals to attempt to get some of this funding from the government.
- The dualling of the A11 has now commenced

Parish Crime Statistics - Cllr Hamps read out the parish crime statistics for the months of November and December 2012 which included :-

November 2012 – 2 x Burglaries - dwelling
December 2012 – 1 x Burglary – non-dwelling

6. Resolution that the Parish Council delegates the power to grant dispensations to the Clerk. The power rests with the relevant authority under section 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011 and the basis is set out under section 33 (2) – The Chairman reminded the members of the DPI's from the last meeting and the dispensation forms they signed. Agreement to the resolution as stated was proposed by Councillor Hamps and seconded by Councillor Bennett

ALL AGREED

7. Proposed improvements to the Village Hall and any agreed action – The Chairman told the members that a meeting with Mikey Bentley from South Norfolk Council was scheduled for later this month to discuss what funding opportunities may be open to the council for improvement to the village hall. One of the aspects which would need to be proven before any funding could be accessed, is evidence that consultation with the residents of the parish has been undertaken and their views and support has been sought for any improvements. To this end, the clerk had prepared a ten question survey and the members were asked for their opinions. All agreed that it was a comprehensive questionnaire and agreed in principle with the wording of the document and suggested that an extra paragraph be added to explain why the survey was being done. Agreement to proceed with the consultation was proposed by Councillor Hamps and seconded by Councillor Bone.

ALL AGREED

8. Discussion on correspondence from NCC for parishes to submit bids to help make small improvements such as footways, improved crossing facilities and PROW's and any agreed action - After a brief discussion it was decided that any improvements in the village would be too high a cost for the parish council, as Norfolk County Council would support only up to half of the cost of successful bids.

9. Proposed works on the lane which leads to the playing field and bowls club and any agreed action – Due to inclement weather the work is still outstanding and will remain so until the weather is drier

10. Flooding on the village hall car park and any agreed action – The Chairman informed the members that a contractor had been out to look at the drain and had removed a lot of leaves and debris from the collection chamber. This had improved the drainage slightly but the recommendation from the contractor was to try to get a working party together to clear the car park and the top of the drain of leaves, which would save on labour costs or alternatively get a quote to have the drain water jetted. Councillor Bone offered to have a look at the drain and ascertain the situation.

Action – Cllr Bone

11. Resolution to agree a budget and set the precept for year ending 31st March 2014 – The clerk informed the members that following the Government consultation, which closed in September and the subsequent announcement at the end of November, parishes will now have a reduced tax base on which to set their precept. To soften this impact, South Norfolk Council has given parishes a grant to 'top up' the reduced precept this year.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed by members that it was unacceptable for the parish council to increase the council tax charge, when both County and District Councils had effected a 0% increase/decrease. Councillor Bone proposed to keep the council tax charge the same to the residents with a precept request of £11,674, this was seconded by Councillor Bennett. The grant of £2234 from South Norfolk Council will increase the total parish funding for the financial year ending 31st March 2014 to £13,908.

ALL AGREED

The clerk reported that the budget figures will remain much the same as the current financial year with the addition of two items.

- **Village Hall Car Park** – In view of the current flooding problems, £200 has been allocated to this heading should the need arise for further works
- **Village Hall refurbishment** – Over the last couple of years there has been funds reserved for the relocation/refurbishment of the village hall. In November 2012 the council agreed not proceed at that time with the relocation of the hall and associated facilities, but did agree to upgrade the current village hall with possibly an extension to enlarge it. Costs such as a building survey and possible planning costs would need to be covered initially, with further funds available to progress the project further, should external funding be successful. To this end, it was suggested that a budget of £10,000 be allocated to this heading.

The clerk answered some questions which were raised by the members, and agreement to accept the budget as written was proposed by Councillor Hamps and seconded by Councillor Woods.

ALL AGREED

12. Renewal of annual subscription of Norfolk Link and any agreed action – It was agreed to renew the subscription at an annual cost of £35. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Gunton.

ALL AGREED

13. Date of Annual Parish Meeting – The Chairman suggested Tuesday April 9th 2013 for this meeting which was agreed by all.

14. To be informed of any Planning Applications and Report of Decisions received since the last meeting:-

Report of Decisions – 2012/1807 – 2 and 8 The Street, Earsham – To fit insulated rendering system to the external envelope of the properties – Mr. Jason McCormick –
APPROVED BY SNC

Planning Applications – 2012/2178 – Earsham Church of England Voluntary Aided First School – Development of single storey extension to provide extra toilets and washing facilities – **THIS APPLICATION HAS NOW BEEN WITHDRAWN from South Norfolk Council's Planning and will be determined by Norfolk County Council**

The above was noted

15. Chairman's report – None

16. Parish Councillor reports –

Councillor Gunton – No issues to report

Councillor Bone – Councillor Bone reported that he had cleaned the War Memorial before Remembrance Sunday.

Councillor Hamps – Councillor Hamps informed the members of an email which she had received from Peter Goodfellow, Chairman of Earsham Football Club, in which he outlines the content of a meeting he recently had with Gavin Lemmon from the Norfolk FA. The purpose of the meeting was to enquire about available funding and what criteria would need to be met in order to facilitate new changing rooms to be built on parish council land next to the playing field. A number of issues have been raised however, which will need to be discussed at length at the next parish council meeting, however, the members indicated that they are supportive of the investigative work Peter Goodfellow is carrying out.

Councillor Bennett – Councillor Bennett spoke of the email which had been circulated by the clerk from a resident who expressed her concerns at the speed in which cars travelled along the A143, especially when residents are trying to cross the road. Bob Edwards, the Highways Engineer for South Norfolk had replied to the concerns very comprehensively, but there was nothing that Highways could do at this time. Councillor Bennett suggested getting in touch with the department that deals with footpaths.

17. Clerk’s report and any agreed action – The clerk had circulated the report with the supporting paperwork so members had time to read it. The only additions to the report was

- the reporting of a fault with a streetlight – column 27 – which had already been attended to by the electrical contractors
- online submission of the Annual Return to the Charity Commission on behalf of the defunct Earsham Playground Group
- it was decided by the members that this year, the allocation of £20 for the Xmas best decorated house would be split between two properties and they will receive a £10 prize each to be donated to the charity of their choice. Councillor Hamps proposed the spending of £20 for this purpose which was seconded by Councillor Bone. **ALL AGREED**

18. Payment of accounts - Payments for November and December 2012 were agreed. (See list on final page). Parish council payments already made since last meeting £394.30 – cheques for signature £919.92 (PC) £20.51 (PF). Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Hamps. **ALL AGREED**

19. To be informed of significant correspondence and any agreed action (list as circulated)
– None

20. Business for January 2013 meeting – The refurbishment of the village hall, football club changing facilities, replacement of trees, and Ron Page’s book of the history of Earsham

Meeting adjourned at 8.58pm and reconvened at 9.11pm

The resident who attended the meeting asked if Ron Page’s History of Earsham book would be published. The Chairman replied that this item will be put on the agenda for the next parish meeting for discussion, but in the meantime enquiries will be made regarding the copyright.

21. The date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday, 5th March 2013 at 7.30pm at the Earsham Church Room

Signed

The meeting ended at 9.12pm Date

Accounts and payments information for 8th January 2013 meeting			
<u>Payments already made since last meeting</u>			
	<u>Earsham PC</u>	<u>Playing Field</u>	<u>Allotments</u>
EON - streetlighting for November (DD)	£ 50.10		
EON - streetlighting for December (DD)	£ 48.48		
Clerk's salary and allowance for December 2012	£ 295.72		
	_____	_____	_____
	£ 394.30	£ -	£ -
	_____	_____	_____
<u>Cheques to be signed at the meeting on 8th Jan 2013</u>			
Clerk's salary and allowance for January 2013	£ 295.72		
HMRC - November, December 2012 and January 2013	£ 198.60		
EON - Pavilion		£ 20.51	
Clerk's expenses - November and December 2012	£ 25.10		
Clerk's expenses - January 2013	£ 25.29		
S. Cox - VH drain clearing	£ 19.60		
TT Jones Electrical - Streetlighting maintenance for Jan, Feb and March 2013	£ 300.61		
Best decorated house prize	£ 20.00		
NALC - Norfolk Link subscription	£ 35.00		
	_____	_____	_____
	£ 919.92	£ 20.51	£ -
	_____	_____	_____
<u>Balances as at 31st December 2012</u>			
Parish Council current account	£ 7,758.87		
Parish Council savings account	£ 14,419.78		
Playing Field current account		£ 1,197.63	
Playing Field savings account		£ 2,562.43	
Allotment current account			£ 515.65
Allotment savings account			£ 535.93
	_____	_____	_____
	£ 22,178.65	£ 3,760.06	£ 1,051.58
	_____	_____	_____