

Earsham Parish Council

Minutes

**of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at The Village Hall
on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: Keith Reeve (Chair), Jim Bennett, Karl Gunton, Nick Meade and Stephen Wood

Also present: 9 members of the public and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

- 1. Welcome** - The chairman welcomed those present at the meeting.
- 2. To receive and accept apologies from those unable to attend** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Lynda Hamps
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – Councillor Meade declared interests in Item 11 and Item 13 - planning application no. 2015/2749
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2015** – Agreement of the minutes was proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Bennett
ALL AGREED

The meeting was adjourned at 7.03pm for members of the public to participate in discussion and reconvened at 7.13pm

A number of comments were received from those present on the planning application 2015/2867 which had been recently submitted. This is for the development of up to 20 detached and semi-detached two storey dwellings on Lodge Field, School Road, Earsham. Comments received included:-

- Two storey houses inappropriate when bordering existing bungalows
- Concerns on the increased volume of traffic on School Road
- Issues with existing standing water on School Road
- Pedestrian safety
- School Road too narrow and two way traffic unable to pass safely
- School already at maximum intake
- Overdevelopment of site

Councillor Gray was asked if Highways had been consulted on the plans to which Councillor Gray confirmed they had been. However, there was already a Highways objection to the plans, and South Norfolk Council would not wish to proceed with the application unless this was addressed. Councillor Gray confirmed that now was the right time to raise objections whilst the application was at the outline stage.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors – County Councillor Margaret Stone's report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting – no questions were raised by councillors.

District Councillor Murray Gray's read out his report which included the following:-

- £500 had been awarded to Earsham Football Club to go towards the cost of a grass mower
- Reviews were currently under way on constituency boundaries which will mean that parish boundaries may change

6. Update on plans for the village hall refurbishment – No update

7. Update on the works for the lane leading to the playing field – Councillor Bennett reported that it had been too wet so far, but was hoping to make temporary repairs in the very near future and would look to making permanent repairs in the spring.

8. To resolve to set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2017 and agree any action – The clerk had prepared a report showing the calculations on different percentage increases to the precept starting with a figure with no increase at all, which would leave the parish council £289 worse off for the year. After some discussion, it was agreed to increase the precept by 2% which would put an extra 92p on the council tax bill. Councillor Woods disagreed and suggested a slightly higher rise should be made to make up a shortfall. Councillor Reeve proposed a 2% increase which was seconded by Councillor Bennett.

**5 AGREED
1 AGAINST**

9. To resolve to agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting for 2016 – Wednesday 27th April 2016 was agreed by all members

10. To agree the winner of the Christmas best decorated house and agree any action – All members agreed that the winner was Mr. Keith Penn. The clerk will contact Mr. Penn and ask him which charity he would like his donation to go to.

Councillor Nick Meade left the room at 19.45 and returned to the meeting at 20.03pm

11. To discuss and consider a response for Planning Application – 2015/2867 – Lodge Field, School Road and agree any action – Following on from the public discussion, although in principle the councillors were in agreement with a development on this site, members also agreed with many of the resident's concerns on the proposed application. After some discussion it was agreed that the application as it currently stood, should be refused. The clerk was asked to compose a letter to Mr. Tim Barker, Planning Officer, outlining the reasons for refusal and pass on points raised at the meeting by both members of the public and councillors

12. Discussion on a letter received from Community Payback and agree any action – It was agreed to find out more information on the Community Payback scheme to see if it would be appropriate for any work in Earsham to be done and discuss again at a later meeting.

13. To be informed of any Planning Applications and Report of Decisions received since the last meeting:- The following was noted –

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL –

2015/2535 – Brambles, Marsh Lane, Earsham – To extend at the front to create a hall and WC and install a window on the ground floor to the side – **APPROVED BY SNC**

2015/2673 – Homefield, Marsh Lane, Earsham – Erection of detached garage

2015/2749 – Camphill Farm, Middle Road, Earsham – Change of use for the existing office building to be turned into a visitor centre and wine tasting room

2015/2342 – 12 Princess Way, Earsham – Single storey extension to dwelling following demolition of existing conservatory (revised application) - **APPROVED**

2015/1863 – River Farm, Old Harleston Road, Earsham – Change of use of ground floor to tea rooms and internal alterations. Change of use of land to caravan and campsite - **WITHDRAWN**

BROADS AUTHORITY – None to date

14. Chairman's Report – None

15. Reports from parish councillors and any agreed action –

Councillor Gunton – reported that Sam Dossett has cleared the overgrown allotments including the rotavating of them and the people who were on the waiting list for plots have been allocated them.

16. To receive clerk's report and any agreed action – The clerk informed the members of the following:-

- **Important Meeting of all South Norfolk Parishes - 6.30 for 6.45 p.m. on Friday 26th February 2016 at South Norfolk House**
An email has been received from David Hewer, David Moore and John Pennell who are the three elected representatives of South Norfolk on the Executive of Norfolk ALC and are jointly inviting all the Chairmen of Parish and Town Councils (as well as Parish Meetings) with their clerks to a meeting to be held at South Norfolk House at 6.30 for 6.45 p.m. Friday 26th February 2016 at South Norfolk House.
- As you will now be aware, SNC have gone paperless for planning applications which is going to change the way this parish council view the applications. Is everyone happy with viewing the applications online and emailing the clerk their responses by the required date? It was agreed to see how this method went and if it wasn't working very well, then to review the system of looking at the applications.
- A thank you has been received from the football club for getting the Playing Field sign put up on The Street, this was requested last year and I think we have been lucky in getting it made up and in place, despite all the financial cuts which are going on at the moment.
- Finally, I will be on holiday from Good Friday for two weeks which will mean my missing the last meeting. However, Tina Page, Administrator from Harleston TC has agreed to take the minutes if you are happy with this arrangement. All agreed to this arrangement.

17. To approve items of expenditure invoiced since the November 2015 meeting and note balances – Payments for December 2015 and January 2016 were agreed. Parish council payments already made since the last meeting £132.87 (PC) £2324.00 (PF) – cheques for signature £1057.59 (PC) £155.00 (PF). Agreement was proposed by Councillor Bone and seconded by Councillor Wood. **ALL AGREED**

Balances in accounts as at 24th January 2016 were:-

Parish Council Current Account	£1,730.01
Savings Account	£25,553.42
Playing Field Current Account	£1214.97
Savings Account	£2091.52
Allotment Current Account	£129.21
Savings Account	£1477.53

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

20. To discuss business for the January 2016 meeting – Path outside village hall – water leak, village hall improvements, lane leading to playing field, purchase of new bin.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.50pm and reconvened at 8.53pm for public participation

A member of the public asked for confirmation from the council on what grounds the previously discussed application was going to be refused, and informed the members that a list of objections would be required. The chairman confirmed that a list of objections would be made reflecting the concerns of the public and council.

A resident of the village asked if a new bin could be purchased for the Queen’s Jubilee area as the current bin had no lid on it and also asked if the football club chairman Peter Goodfellow could be written to asking him to remind dog owners that they were not allowed on the field. He also thanked the council for the two new trees on the playing field.

21. To confirm the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 30th March 2016 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

The meeting ended at 8.53pm

Signed

Date