Earsham Parish Council

Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at The Village Hall
on Wednesday 22nd July 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Keith Reeve (Chair), Lynda Hamps (Vice-Chair), Jim Bennett, Scott Bone, Karl Gunton and Stephen Wood, one member 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 – Councillor Nick Meade (holiday) & District Councillor Murray Gray (prior commitment)

3. To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting - None

4. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th June 2015 – Agreement of the minutes was proposed by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Bone. ALL AGREED

5. Reports from District and County Councillors, and Parish Crime Statistics – No reports. The chairman read out the crime statistics:- May – 1 x criminal damage & 1 burglary non-dwelling June – 1 x burglary dwelling & 1 burglary non-dwelling

6. Update on plans for the village hall refurbishment and agree any necessary action – Councillor Hamps reported that Renata Garfoot at SNC will discuss the land transfer of The Green with Taylor Wimpey and another visit by the architect will be required to measure out the car park. It was agreed that that any building works should not encroach too much on The Green and a discussion needs to be held with the pre-school group to advise of the forthcoming proposed plans. Cllr. Hamps to speak to both Karen from the preschool and the architect.

   ACTION – Cllr Hamps

7. Update on the works for the lane leading to the playing field, discuss and agree any necessary action – It was agreed that the lane needs the remedial works doing as soon as possible and the purchase of pole mounted two speed signs needs to be agreed. The clerk had investigated the cost previously, and 12” x 12” signs would amount to £11.53 each, it was agreed to purchase 2 at that price. Councillor Bennett would investigate the cost of painting a speed limit on the ground.

   ACTION - Clerk

8. To discuss a request by the football club regarding the siting of a storage container on the playing field and agree any necessary action – Councillor Meade had, prior to his holiday, been in contact with his father who owned the land in question and discussions and an agreement had been reached with the football club.
9. Renewal of the grounds maintenance contract for the playing field, alternatives for consideration and agree any necessary action – The playing field grounds maintenance contract is due for renewal in November, however, the chairman of Earsham Football Club put forward for consideration some time ago, the club taking over the cutting of the playing field, which it was suggested would save the parish council money in the long term. This was discussed at length and idea's put forward on potential costs, however, it was decided to contact the football club chairman first with a view to finding out what exactly they were offering and any conditions which may be applied to any agreement.

   ACTION - Clerk

10. Discussion on the lease agreement with the football club, conditions of use, payment of electricity and water and any other clauses as appropriate and any agreed action – A lengthy discussion took place and it was decided that an informal meeting should take place between representatives of Earsham FC, Mettingham FC and the parish council. Tuesday 8th September was the suggested date, and the clerk was asked to contact the necessary representatives to arrange.

   ACTION - Clerk

11. Discuss the clean & visual inspection defect list for streetlights and agree any necessary action – It was suggested by Councillor Gunton that a copy of the Norfolk County Council street asset list be sent to him so he can ascertain which columns in the village belong to county and which belong to the parish council. Some confusion had arisen because of the numbering system used on the columns and needs to be clarified.

   ACTION – Clerk

   ACTION – Cllr Gunton

12. Discussion on the Parish Partnership Scheme Initiative and agree any necessary action – The clerk brought to the attention of the council, that the Parish Partnership Scheme would continue next year 2016/17 and asked for councillors to think if there was any projects in the village that would qualify for the scheme for further discussion at the next meeting.

   ACTION – All Cllrs

13. Discussion on the footway from the village towards Bungay and agree any necessary action – Complaints had been received from members of the community regarding the overgrown hedge at the end of the village belonging to a resident. The clerk was asked to write a letter to the resident to bring to their attention that people are having to step into the road to navigate the footway which is particularly dangerous for those with pushchairs or toddlers.

   ACTION – Clerk

The clerk was also asked to contact Highways to complain about the broken pathway which starts at The Elms and continues towards Bungay. This has been reported previously.

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

   SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL

   a) 2015/1455/1456 – Music Room, Earsham Hall, Norwich Road, Earsham – Mr. J. Meade – Extension to music room in association with change of use.

   BROADS AUTHORITY – None to date
15. Chairman’s report – The vice-chairman informed the meeting of the following:-

- A field fire had recently broken out in the village
- The Queen’s Head had received the award of Village Pub of the Year – councillors extended their congratulations to Councillor Hamps
- The church are looking for someone to project manage and raise funds to extend the churchyard within the next 3 years

16. Reports from parish councillors and any agreed action –

Councillor Gunton reported that the fence on the playing field, bypass side, needs replacing near to where the proposed storage unit is to be placed by the football club. It was agreed to get the fence seen to and ask Sam Dossett to cut back the footpath nearby. Councillor Bennett has some heras fencing he is willing to lend until the work is completed.

Councillor Hamps reported that she and Councillor Woods would be looking at a replacement tree for the playing field before the next meeting and invited Mr. Hall (member of the public) to join them in the decision making process because the tree will be to the front of Mr. Hall’s property. Mr. Hall accepted the offer.

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

- Contact had been made by a lady from Elms Close asking if the tree on the playing field behind her fence could be felled as it was dead – it was agreed that this would be looked at.

18. To approve items of expenditure invoiced since the May 2015 meeting and note balances – Payments for June & July 2015 were agreed. Parish council payments already made since the last meeting £1183.31 (PC) £910.53 (PF) – cheques for signature £4290 (PC) £1188.00 (PF). Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gunton and seconded by Councillor Bennett. ALL AGREED

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

20. To discuss business for the September 2015 meeting – Parish partnerships, football club meeting, clean & visual inspection, and village hall

The meeting was adjourned at 9.26pm and reconvened at 9.29pm for public participation

- Mr. Hall asked if the nettles around the Jubilee seating area could be attended to as it was overgrown
- ‘No Dogs Allowed’ signs should be put on the playing field to enforce the rules – Cllr Gunton said he would ask Atlantic Superstores what the cost was and the purchase of a couple of signs was proposed by Councillor Hamps and seconded by Councillor Gunton. ALL AGREED

21. To confirm the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 30th September 2015 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Signed ........................................

Date ..................................................