

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the Queen's Head,
on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Keith Reeve (Chair), Stephen Woods (Vice-Chair) Jim Bennett, Tony Leech, and Nick Meade

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

- 1. Welcome** – The chairman welcomed those present at the meeting
- 2. To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Bone and Gunton
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – None
- 4. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th November 2017** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Bennett and seconded by Councillor Leech. **ALL AGREED**

5. Reports from District and County Councillors –

District Councillor Murray Gray reported the following:-

- That South Norfolk Council were communicating with Broadland District Council to try and join forces to save money and resources. One of the first things for a joint working partnership is that two Broadland DC planning officers are spending time at South Norfolk DC with representatives from South Norfolk DC's Development section spending time at Broadland DC which will be a one year trial.
- The Broadland/Norwich/SNC Greater Norwich Plan – the latest stage is out for consultation which started on Monday and is seeking views on the following:-
 - The broad housing numbers required to 2036
 - Six main distribution options for development growth; and
 - Policy issues such as air quality, landscape and affordable housing.
- On the website is an assessment of all sites put forward which around 600. Two Earsham sites have been assessed as amber and green which means they are suitable for development. The next stage will be to decide which sites will be included.
- Mention was also made of the Big Litter Pick, Long Stratton Leisure Centre refurbishment and a briefing taking place at SNC the following Tuesday for the Greater Norwich Plan,

County Councillor Stone sent a report in her absence which was available for councillors and public to view.

Police report – was read out by the Chairman which gave a precise of crimes in Harleston, Earsham and Beck Vale (not by individual village)

6. Update on plans for the village hall refurbishment and any agreed action – Councillor Woods reported that he was awaiting a response to the email he sent out recently to Taylor Wimpey.

7. Discussion on the sign on Milestone Lane and any agreed action – Councillor Meade reported that he was awaiting a response from Norfolk Council Council for permission to move the sign as discussed at the last meeting.

8. Resolution to set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2019 – 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 give the parish council the same amount of money for the forthcoming year but which would still increase the resident's council tax bill by 57p for the year. This is due to the decrease in the grant given by South Norfolk Council plus the extra costs expected for insurance (playground) and utilities. After some discussion, it was agreed to increase the precept by 3.6% which would put an extra 1.80p on the council tax bill annually and give the parish council an extra £345 for the year. Councillor Bennet proposed agreement to the rise to cover expected increased costs, and this was seconded by Councillor Leech.

**4 AGREED
1 ABSTAINED**

9. Resolution to agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting for 2018 – Members agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 7.30pm.

10. Discussion on the Christmas Best Decorated House donation and any agreed action – After a brief discussion it was agreed that the winner was Mr. Keith Penn. The clerk will contact Keith and ask him where he would like his donation to go.

11. Update on the defibrillator and cabinet, arrange installation, discuss training and any agreed action – The clerk reported that a name was needed as being the contactable responsible person for the defibrillator. Councillor Woods agreed to be that person. Further discussion ensued regarding training, and it was agreed to wait until the defibrillator was in place before that was arranged, but to aim for possibly April. It was agreed to ask Jayne Briggs (Heart2Heart) to do the training.

ALL AGREED

12. Update on the replacement of the sleeve for the zip wire and any agreed action – Members agreed that the replacement cost of £144.19 was too expensive and asked the clerk to find out if Cllr. Gunton had the original sleeve so comparisons could be made. The clerk was also asked to find out if the insurance would be void if a replacement was fitted by a member of the parish council instead of Sovereign Playgrounds, and in addition, to get a price for a replacement sleeve only with the council to fit and not Sovereign.

ACTION - CLERK

13. Discussion on councillor training at a cost of £10 per head with the Local Government Public Advisory Service – Councillor Woods would be the only attendee, so this was agreed. Proposed by Councillor Reeve and seconded by Councillor Bennett.

ALL AGREED

14. Resolution to agree the membership cost of £20 for the Norfolk Playing Fields Association – Agreement proposed by Councillor Reeve and seconded by Councillor Meads.

ALL AGREED

15. Discussion on new signage for the play area and litter bin and any agreed action – Deferred until the next meeting.

16. Discussion on the bye-laws for the playing field and any agreed action – Deferred until next meeting.

17. Discussion on recent flooding in the village and any agreed action – The clerk received emails from residents on Church Road regarding the flooding during the recent Flood Alerts which were issued for the Waveney Valley a few weeks ago. The Highway Rangers (NCC) have been asked to clear a blocked drain, and it has also been reported to the Highways Dept. for investigation. There is also a blocked drain on School Lane which needs reporting as well, which the clerk will do.

ACTION - CLERK

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

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL – None
NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL – None
BROADS AUTHORITY – None

19. Chairman's report – None

20. To receive reports from parish councillors (for information only) – None

21. To receive clerk's report (for information only) –

- 1. Collapsed footbridge and associated works** – Following on from November's report regarding an email from a nearby resident with concerns on the debris in the water near the collapsed bridge. I contacted the Environment Agency and passed these concerns on, and they in turn, have suggested a site meeting with Jeff Riches and myself (or a councillor if available) to discuss any works that are considered necessary. I have at the same time, contacted NCC to suggest that more could be achieved if the organisations spoke to each other in order to not just get the footbridges replaced, but also to address any issues with debris, dead trees in the water etc. I am awaiting a response from Jeff with regard to a meeting date, but wondered if any councillor/s would like to oversee this aspect of the overall project. All councillors expressed an interest in this.
- 2. The Society of Local Council Clerks subscription** – is due for renewal at a cost of £70 for the year. It is a valuable source of information and support for both clerk and council. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Leech and seconded by Councillor Bennett.

ALL AGREED

22. To approve items of expenditure invoiced since the November 2017 meeting and note balances – Payments for December 2017 and January 2018 were agreed. Parish council payments already made since the last meeting £168.76 (PC), £78.00 (PF) – cheques for signature £932.06 (PC). Agreement proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Bennett.

ALL AGREED

Balances in accounts as at 11th January 2018 were:-

Parish Council Current Account	£ 1,001.72
Savings Account	£ 29,829.65
Playing Field Current Account	£ 822.65
Savings Account	£ 4,212.49
Allotment Current Account	£ 150.00
Savings Account	£ 1,624.90

23. To be informed of significant correspondence and agree any action (list as circulated) - None

24. To discuss business for the March 2018 meeting - Milestone Lane sign, Refurbishment of village hall, new signage and bin for the playing field, bye-laws for playing field, precept, update on collapsed bridge meeting.

25. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 28th March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, The Street, Earsham

The meeting ended at 21.22pm

Signed

Date