

**Earsham Parish Council**  
**Minutes**  
**of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the Village Hall,**  
**on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Keith Reeve (Chair), Stephen Woods (Vice-Chair), Jim Bennett, Scott Bone and Karl Gunton

**Also present:** Lynda Ling (Clerk), District Councillor Murray Gray and 3 members of the public

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 Leech and Meade
3. **To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – Cllr. Bone declared an interest in Item 6.
4. **Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Bennett. **ALL AGREED**

**5. Reports from District and County Councillors –**

District Councillor Murray Gray reported the following: -

- The Community Awards are now open for nominations with a total of 8 awards in all. These comprise of Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year, Community Group of the Year, Lifetime Community Hero, Community Wellbeing Champion or Group of the Year, Community Fundraiser of the Year, Environmental Champion of the Year, Business Community Champion of the Year. The closing date is 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 for nominations.
- The Community Action Fund is also now open for applications until the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Local District Councillors are responsible for receiving, considering and proposing applications for funding from the fund of between £1,000 and £15,000.
- Wortwell Picnic site – NCC has offered Alburgh Parish Council the site for the price of £10,000, and Alburgh have increased their precept slightly to help find the funds to purchase this land.
- Planning applications for the Long Stratton By-Pass and 1800 new homes has been submitted to SNC for consideration.

**County Councillors report** – was read out by the Chairman, which included items on infrastructure projects (including the Hales and Hempnall crossroads), parish partnership funding and NCC plans for council tax.

**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. Discussion on a request from the 1<sup>st</sup> Earsham Scouts Group for funding towards a new HQ hut and agree any action** – Cllrs. Gunton and Bennett both felt that the scout group should be supported in some way, but there was nothing in the budget for this year to support this.

Standing orders were suspended at 7.44pm and reconvened at 7.45pm so that District Councillor Gray could comment on the application submitted by the Scout group to SNC.

After some discussion it was agreed that a letter pledging £500 should be sent to Treasurer, but only once the planning permission for the new hut has been passed by South Norfolk Council. The clerk to write to the treasurer advising this. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Gunton and seconded by Cllr. Reeve.

**ALL AGREED**

**7. Discussion on the sign on Milestone Lane, costs and any agreed action** – Cllr. Bennett reported that he had met with Cllr. Meade and Norfolk County Council and as there was nearby cabling, NCC were not happy for the parish council to move the post, it needs the Highways contractor to do the work and this will be done. A quote for sandblasting the post has been received for £120.00. The chairman asked if there was any cost to be considered for NCC to which Cllr. Bennett said none had been mentioned.

**8. Discussion on the email from NCC regarding the cancellation of the replacement footbridge and any agreed action** – Members discussed the huge cost of the replacement bridges (NCC's plans had included the replacement of a second bridge which was uneconomically viable to repair, so the plan was to replace it along with the collapsed footbridge). The clerk informed members that she was in email contact with the parish's County Councillor, who was also trying to find other means to get the original bridge repaired. The chairman suggested waiting to see what the outcome was of Margaret's (county councillors) investigations and to defer to a future meeting.

**9. Discussion on the consultation on the draft Norfolk Access Improvement Plan and any agreed action** – The clerk informed members that on receipt of the plan, she had contacted Margaret Stone, to voice her feeling of irony that Earsham had been sent the plan (which includes footbridges etc) when the parish council had just been informed that the collapsed footbridge works was no longer going ahead. Margaret was unaware of the draft plan being sent out and agreed with the clerk that it was inappropriate given the news that Earsham had just received. Margaret has asked senior officers at NCC to look at the collapsed footbridge again and try and come up with some suggestions on how to get the works completed via funding through external sources.

**10. Discussion on the condition of the footpath outside the village hall and any agreed action** – The chairman commented that this subject had been raised as the result of an email from a resident, however the weather was not suitable to rectify the path at the time of the enquiry. The discussion then turned to the disabled access ramp which was built alongside the village hall and the suggestion was made that this could be continued further to make a path and the lane could be levelled out and filled during the drier weather. Cllr. Bennett and Gunton will have a look at the work required and do the necessary concreting.

**11. Update on the defibrillator training and any agreed action** – It was confirmed that the training would take place immediately prior to the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and that £150 be donated to Heart2Heart in thanks for the cabinet and training. Agreement proposed by Councillor Bone and seconded by Cllr. Gunton.

**ALL AGREED**

**12. Update on the replacement of the sleeve for the zip wire and any agreed action** – Cllr. Gunton informed members on why it would be better for the playground company to do the work required and said the Playground Committee will pay the £144.10 for the replacement sleeve.

**13. Discussion on new signage for the play area and consideration of the purchase of a new bin** - Cllr. Gunton commented that at this time of year, the area isn't used as much so the bin doesn't overflow with litter. It was suggested contacting SNC to find out if they would empty a second bin on the play area and if so, a standard sized floor standing bin could be purchased. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Gunton.

**ALL AGREED**

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

**15. Discussion on the GNLP and any responses the parish council wishes to put forward** – The clerk has emailed councillors over the previous weeks with this information and no comments were felt necessary for the consultation.

**16. Discussion on an email regarding a commemorative plaque for the airfield at Earsham and any agreed action** – The clerk read out the contents of the email and afterwards members spoke of the location of the airfield and agreed it would be a good thing to have a plaque there to mark the area. The clerk to contact the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust to agree and find out if they expected a donation.

**17. Update on the village hall refurbishment** – Cllr. Wood was still waiting for a response from his last email and will circulate once a reply was received.

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

**SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL** –

**2018/0245** – 20 The Green, Earsham – Mr. Stuart Hunt -Proposal – Attached lean to garage

**2018/0470** – Lexington, School Road, Earsham – Mr. Tom Brown - Proposal – Erection of shed/workshop

**2018/0575** – 10 Waveney Crescent – Mr. & Mrs. P. Long - Proposal – Rear extension and garage

**2018/0593** – Earsham Wetlands Centre, Old Harleston Road, Earsham – Mr. Ben Potterton – Proposal - Retrospective change of use from Otter Centre to Native Wildlife and Heritage Breeds Centre, including change of former machinery shed and office to farm shop and butchery, children's play area to multi use agricultural building.

**NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL** – None

**BROADS AUTHORITY** – None

**19. Chairman's report** – The chairman reported that a resident from School Road had commented that there appeared to be no logical reason why there would be a proposed path on his side of the road when people have to cross to the other side.

Standing orders were suspended at 9.01pm and reconvened at 9.02pm so that District Councillor Gray could comment on the application submitted for the Lodge Field to SNC, which was to say that outline planning permission had not been given yet and SNC were awaiting the full permission application.

The chairman also reported on the caravan that is parked in a layby. Cllr. Gunton said he had asked the occupant what his plans were, to which the occupant had responded that he would be there temporarily and his father lives in the village. A further discussion took place on the fly tipping in the layby which would only get worse once the recycling centres had imposed a charge on items taken there for disposal.

**20. To receive reports from parish councillors (for information only)** – Cllr. Gunton reported on an email which the clerk had sent out to members regarding a discounted rate being available if there could be a reduction in the number of times the dog bins were being emptied, (see clerks report). Cllr. Gunton to check the bins for usage and report back at the next meeting.

It was also asked if it would be possible to acquire some dog signs from SNC (plastic with a peel off back) – the clerk to enquire.

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

- I have had an email from a resident asking what is happening to the fence outside the village hall as it is now looking dilapidated and needs removing. Any update please? *Cllr. Gunton to ask someone who enquired about the fence months ago if he still would like to have it.*
- I forwarded on an email on Thursday last week regarding a discount scheme for dog bins and wondered if there were any thoughts on whether this would be workable in the village. Cllr. Gunton responded to the email and asked whether there was a possibility that signs could be ordered to be used just outside the main village area, where there is quite a lot of dog mess on the verges.
- Since the agendas went out last week, we have had an email from SNC regarding the Community Governance Review (forwarded to you last Saturday) which informs you of the district council's decisions. I have put the relevant information in your paperwork for you to read and view the map. I have also emailed SNC to find out how many properties have been lost with the losing of a slice of Earsham to Denton and have been told that they are redefining the boundaries and working on new maps, so the information regarding the loss of properties relating to Earsham will be available within the next couple of months.
- Could someone have a look at the allotment tap and water meter please? I emailed Karl and Tony about it a couple of weeks ago and Tony went over to the allotments to have a look but has been unable to locate either.

**22. To approve items of expenditure invoiced since the January 2018 meeting and note balances**  
 – Payments for February and March 2018 were agreed. Parish council payments already made since the last meeting £1408.76 (PC), £1503.11 (PF) – cheques for signature £934.64 (PC). Agreement proposed by Cllr. Bennett and seconded by Cllr. Reeve. **ALL AGREED**

**Balances in accounts as at 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were: -**

Parish Council Current Account	£ 742.57
Savings Account	£ 27,000.00
Playing Field Current Account	£ 432.68
Savings Account	£ 5,586.77
Allotment Current Account	£ 173.00
Savings Account	£ 1,625.65

Members asked if it was known when the tree stump from Princess Way would be removed as the invoice has been paid. Cllr. Gunton to make enquiries.

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

**24. To discuss business for the May 2018 meeting -** Milestone Lane sign, Refurbishment of village hall, new signage and bin for the playing field, bye-laws for playing field, litter bin for layby

**Standing orders were suspended at 21.24pm and reconvened at 21.34pm for public participation**

The chairman commented on the drains at either end of School Lane and the need for their clearance.

A member of public commented that the discussion on the purchase of a bin for the layby was not on the agenda. Members commented that another bin could be purchased, the same type as previously discussed for the playing field. The clerk to get prices.

The hedge at the end of the village needs trimming back again, Cllr. Bennett agreed to speak with the resident.

A new post is required for the allotments. Cllr. Gunton agreed and said the parish council will pay for it, needs discussion at the next meeting.

Jeff Riches, who has been in contact with the clerk regarding the channel where the collapsed footbridge is located, spoke about the fish being unable to get out of the channel during the summer.

**25. Date of the next meeting –** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, The Street, Earsham

The meeting ended at 21.35pm

Signed .....

Date .....