

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the
Village Hall, on Wednesday 28th November 2018 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: District Councillors Murray Gray and Brendon Bernard, Rev. Chris Hutton, 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 members unable to attend** – None
3. **To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – Cllr. Bennett declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7, Cllr. Meade also declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 and Cllr. Bone declared an interest in Item 8
4. **Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th September 2018** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Reeve and seconded by Councillor Leech **ALL AGREED**

5. Reports

- **Police** - The chairman read out the crime figures for November which covers Harleston, Earsham and Beck Vale as well as a request from the police for volunteers for Crimestoppers.
- **County Councillors Report** - None
- **District Councillor Report** – Cllr. Gray introduced his colleague District Councillor Brendon Bernard, who would in all likelihood be Earsham PC's District councillor after May 2019 as Earsham and the surrounding parishes would become a two-member ward.
Cllr. Gray went onto the report the following:-
 1. The collaboration between SNC and Broadland District Council has commenced with a joint managing director in place and some shared staff
 2. The start of the budget process has also begun
 3. Claire Maynard from the Scouts has contacted Cllr.Gray regarding funding (item 8) – however as the next funding round will be in July next year, no funding is available until then
 4. Hempnall Cross-roads – the planning application has been submitted and hopefully approved within the next few weeks
 5. GNLP – No more sites added under Regulation 18 for Earsham
 6. A query has been raised on the School Road, Earsham development application regarding the amount of affordable housing, SNC policy is 33% for affordable housing and the development falls short of that figure.

Chairman and Parish Councillors reports –

Chairman – Reminded councillors to look at Christmas lights decorations on houses in the village so a winner could be chosen for the annual competition

Cllr. Gunton – Reported that a litter bin lid was missing in the lay by at the end of the village, Cllr. Wood would look at it and report back to the clerk. The new bin has been fitted by Dan Chater from Endeavour. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent, Cllr. Gunton to forward on the contact details to the clerk.

Cllr. Bennett – reported that he had attended the Joint Parish Meeting recently held at Denton Village Hall, and wanted to report to council that thanks had been given to Earsham PC for agreeing the boundary changes earlier this year.

Clerks Report – The clerks report highlighted the following:-

1. **Parish Boundary Changes** – This has affected 9 properties in Earsham with 5 properties being affected by having a new address. This would mean a change in the council tax based on 2018/19 figures of £-27.04
2. **Playground Slides** – Confirmation has been received that Sovereign who installed the playground equipment last year, that they will repair/replace the cracked slides during the week ending 14th December.
3. **Norwich Western Link** – Comments being invited on the creation of a western link to improve travel between the A47 and the western end of Broadland Northway and to tackle transport problems in the area. More information is available online or by going to one of the staff events taking place in local communities throughout the consultation period. All information is available on www.norfolk.gov.uk/nwl. Consultation ends at midnight on Friday 18th January 2018

6. Presentation – Presentation from Rev. Chris Hutton regarding the near full churchyard, funding and the request for assistance. Chris gave councillors some background as follows:-

- There is limited space within the consecrated churchyard and before too long there will be no space for burials, which presents two options. The first option will be to close the churchyard and transfer authority for the cost of maintenance to the local authority, namely the parish council.
- The second and preferred option would be to consecrate the Marston Bequest Land (next to the present churchyard) which is owned by the church. Last year planning permission to extend the churchyard was submitted but ultimately had to be withdrawn as a result of a preliminary findings report which said that an archaeological survey was needed at a cost of £5,718 to the church. The site has been deemed a site of high archaeological significance.
- South Norfolk Council has been asked to prepare a report to detail what the next step should be however the church's architect thinks they will request a further dig at a cost of around £5,000 - £10,000 before landscaping costs. The parish council is being asked if they had any funds to help with the cost or if they could apply themselves to SNC for funding.

Cllr. Gray commented that money will be available from SNC from next summer. After further discussion it was agreed that the clerk would look into any funding streams that may be available. The clerk commented that the maintenance of the closed churchyard would fall to the parish council to fund, however the parish council was not legally obliged to supply a cemetery once the churchyard was closed. The parish council do have the power to do so if they so wish, but it is not a requirement.

7. Local Plan Reviews, Consultations and Schemes

- Update on the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review – Cllr. Bennett informed the council that a decision has now been delayed until March
- Parish Partnership Scheme 2019-20 – After consideration, it was agreed there were no suggestions for this scheme this year.
- GNLP – No additional sites have been added.

8. Village Items

- Update on the collapsed footbridge – This is still being considered by NCC

- Update on the signs for Milestone and School Lanes – Cllr. Meade reported that NCC have now extracted the Milestone Lane post and delivered it to Cllr. Bennett today. Cllr. Meade is waiting for quotes to come in.
- Update on the footpath outside the village hall – Deferred
- Update on the village hall refurbishment – Deferred
- Discussion on the WW1 Commemorative Plaque, consider the required works for installation and if required, agree an unveiling – Cllr. Meade had done some research into where exactly the airfield was in the village and discovered that the site in Earsham was a night landing ground with just enough space to take off and land. Cllr. Meade felt that consideration should also be given to commemorating Violet Hubbert (VC) who, due to her bravery and quick actions, saved lives by preventing a disaster when bombs fell from a train. It was agreed that a plaque of this nature could be sited with the WW1 plaque and a brief discussion was held on the materials that could be used for this. Cllr. Meade agreed to look at the cost of a plaque, find suitable wording for it and bring back to council for further discussion.
- Parish Magazine – The clerk has received an email from the treasurer of the parish magazine asking for any thoughts to aid the magazine during difficult financial times, which is due to a loss in the number of advertisers which has resulted in a loss of around £1000 over a four-year period. After a lengthy discussion, Cllr. Leech proposed supporting the magazine with a further donation of £100 for this year and also suggested that extra effort be made to get more advertisers on board. Seconded by Cllr. Gunton.

ALL AGREED

Standing orders were suspended at 8.51pm and reconvened at 8.52pm for a comment from Cllr. Gray

- Scout Group request to act as a 3rd party contributor for funding application to WREN – A discussion was held on this subject with the parish council being fully supportive in any effort to help the Scout group. However, Cllr. Gray reported that the landfill site at Aldeby was now closed and so the funding which the Scout group were relying on would not be available. The clerk said she would contact Claire Maynard to advise her of this and what the future plans for funding would be.

9. Planning Applications - none

10. Streetlighting

- Discussion on the streetlighting assets of the council and a way forward for replacement of obsolete lanterns and columns – The clerk read out TT Jones Electrical response to the queries arising from the last meeting regarding the request for a 'demo' LED lantern being fitted so councillors could look at the brightness and suitability of it for the village. For the cost of one hour's labour, the contractors were happy to fit a lantern in a place of the councils choosing so they could decide on the colour setting and colour temperature. It was also suggested that should the parish council go ahead with these replacements, that a start should be made on The Street first as it is used more and has a heavier traffic flow. The decision to go ahead was agreed by all.

11. Finance

- Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the September 2018 meeting and note balances – Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Gunton.
- Budget setting for 2019/2020 and Reserves and setting a reserves policy – These decisions will be made at the January meeting so that councillors have had time to digest the information.

ALL AGREED

Balances in bank accounts as at 26th November 2018 were: -

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|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Parish Council Current Account | £ 2,036.69 |
| Savings Account | £ 35,510.95 |
| Playing Field Current Account | £ 803.71 |
| Savings Account | £ 4,000.00 |
| Allotment Current Account | £ 375.15 |
| Savings Account | £ 876.85 |

12. Playing Field/Play equipment and Earsham Football Club

- Update (if any) on an investigation on having a borehole on the playing field – No update
- Update on play equipment as reported at the last meeting – Included in Clerks report
- Dogs on the playing field – Email received from Peter Goodfellow informing the council that dogs are fouling on the field and the No Dogs signs are being ignored. It was suggested mentioning this again in the parish magazine, however it doesn't help when dogs are allowed on the field during football matches.

13. Significant correspondence –

- Further information on GNLP additional sites added under Regulation 18
- Email from Rev. Chris Hutton
- Email from Claire Maynard regarding parish council acting as 3rd party contributor for funding

14. Business for next meeting

- 2019/2020 budget, village hall refurbishment, streetlights, village hall path, precept and reserves

The meeting was adjourned at 9.25pm and reconvened at 9.28pm for the member of the public to ask Rev. Chris Hutton why waste was not removed from the graveyard – Rev. Hutton responded to the question

15. Date of the next meeting – Monday 14th January 2019 at 7.00pm in the Queen's Head

The meeting ended at 21.32pm

Signed

Date