

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the
Village Hall, on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: District Councillors Murray Gray and Brendon Bernard, two 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 members unable to attend** – Cllr. Bennetts apologies were received and accepted
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 Monday 14th January 2019** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Leech **ALL AGREED**

The meeting was adjourned at 7.42pm and reconvened at 7.46pm to allow a member of the public to ask questions on CIL monies received by the parish council from South Norfolk Council. The clerk responded by confirming the amount of CIL monies received so far by the parish council (£2631.01) and the percentage of the total monies coming from developments paid to the parish amounts to 15% (subject to a maximum of £100 per dwelling – index linked)

5. Reports

- **Police** - The chairman read out the crime figures for December and January which covers Harleston, Earsham and Beck Vale – the figures quoted covered the whole area and did not itemise Earsham
- **County Councillors Report** - None
- **District Councillor Report** –Cllr. Gray reported the following:-
 1. South Norfolk Council has not finalised their budget yet but it is thought that Band D properties will rise from £145 to £150
 2. Electric car charging points have been installed on Bullock Fair Car Park in Harleston
 3. Work at Hempnall crossroads have started for the building of the roundabout. Cllr. Gray was asked for an approximate timeline for the project, which Cllr. Gray estimated that it would be finished in the autumn.
 4. Cllr. Gray also confirmed that he would not be standing again come the May elections after serving the parish for 28 years. Parish Councillors thanked him for all he has done for the parish.

Chairman and Parish Councillors reports –

Chairman – Reported that road chippings are again loose on the road from Earsham to Bungay and need to be swept up again. The property at the end of the village needs the hedge cutting back again, the owner to be contacted and asked to trim back

Cllr. Meade – Reported that District Cllr. Bernard had sent him some information on the savings that LED lanterns could give the council, which was approximately £15 per lantern per annum.

Clerks Report – None

6. **Presentations** – None

7. **Charity Commission** – The clerk informed members that the Annual Return was due to be submitted to the Charity Commission which has been the case over the last 8 years whilst she has been clerk, however, now that the play equipment has been installed and fundraising has stopped, the question was asked if the charity for the Playground Committee was still required. After a short discussion, it was agreed to deactivate the charity as there is no reason for it to continue. Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Gunton and seconded by Cllr. Bone **ALL AGREED**

8. **Village Items**

- **Update on the collapsed footbridge** – The clerk read out an email from County Councillor Margaret Stone which gave an update on discussions so far on the collapsed footbridge. A meeting had been held with Andrew Hutchinson a couple of days beforehand and it was looking promising that Suffolk may support the removal and replacement of both bridges. They have recently been awarded some funding from the government to use on Highways and want to use it on supporting pathways. Although it is in the very early stages of discussion, if it all goes ahead they would look to starting the work in the summer. A meeting will be held on February 11th and further information may be forthcoming after that.
- **Update on the signs for Milestone and School Lanes** – Cllr. Meade reported that the post from Milestone Lane has now been sand blasted, painted white and is ready to be put in place. The work is being done by NCC and Cllr. Meade is waiting for a date for when they will be available to continue the work. The wood and letters have been ordered with Black Dog Signs doing the signage. Some letters from the School Lane sign will be used to refurbish the other post.
- **Update on the footpath outside the village hall** – Cllr. Leech informed members that this item had been discussed at a recent Village Hall Management Committee meeting and will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting. Cllr. Leech said that the heating will be improved by the VHMC but there is not enough funds to put a porch on the building leading from the car park – this will be discussed again to investigate options
- **Update on the village hall refurbishment** – this item was covered by feedback from VHMC
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – Members agreed on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm to hold the APM
- **Discussion on the WW1 Commemorative Plaque, consider the required works for installation and if required, agree an unveiling** – Cllr. Meade read out some wording for the plaque to commemorate Violet Hewitt, however some further research needs to be done on it. Cllr. Reeve thanked Cllr. Meade for the wording. The conversation turned to what could be done in terms of an unveiling and who could be asked to do it, this is ongoing and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Christmas best decorated house** – After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Bone that Keith Penn should be the recipient of the prize which was seconded by Cllr. Meade. The clerk to contact Keith and find out which charity he wished the prize to be allocated to. **ALL AGREED**

9. **Planning Applications** - none

10. **Streetlighting**

- **Discussion on the streetlighting assets of the council and LED lighting** – Following discussions from the last meeting, when it was agreed to fit a demo light in The Street, a conversation followed about the suitability of it now it's fitted. The clerk reported that the fitted lantern was too bright as the colour temperature was over 4000 kelvin and had contacted the contractor to make them aware of this, and they have now sent another quote for a lantern which conforms to G4 regulations.

This lantern has been used successfully with an English Nature project and has a 50% lumen dimming from midnight to 5.30am. This lantern is £299 excluding VAT which is based on 10 units being ordered. A long discussion ensued about the savings that could be made on electricity against the initial investment of £2999. The clerk commented that Harlestone TC were undergoing a similar situation and had a 3000 kelvin lantern fitted on the Bullock Fair Car Park if councillors cared to go and look at it for comparison purposes. It was agreed to do this and discuss again at the next meeting.

11. Finance

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the November 2018 meeting and note balances –** Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Leech and seconded by Cllr. Bone **ALL AGREED**
- **Budget setting for 2019/2020 and Reserves and setting a reserves policy –** Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Gunton subject to two alterations to the budget which was presented. The alterations are:
 1. The budget for sign refurbishment be increased from £300 to £500
 2. Insert a budget of £500 for the memorial plaques and plinths

The conversation then turned to the reserves and creating a reserves policy. The clerk explained that it would make more sense to plan for the future by creating a reserves list so that the council could put money away each year for replacements and repair of council assets, it was agreed that this is a good idea and the clerk said she would now work in more detail and bring a draft back to a future meeting of the council.

Balances in bank accounts as at 29th January 2019 were: -

Parish Council Current Account	£ 988.81
Savings Account	£ 32,278.64
Playing Field Current Account	£ 793.94
Savings Account	£ 5,047.90
Allotment Current Account	£ 488.04
Savings Account	£ 877.17

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 –** The clerk reported that she had received an email from Sovereign Playgrounds to say that the new slides would be delivered shortly and would be fitted as soon as possible after that.

13. Significant correspondence –

- Email giving update on footbridge from Margaret Stone, County Councillor

14. Business for next meeting

- streetlights, refurbishment of fingerposts on School Lane, and precept and reserves

15. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Earsham

The meeting ended at 21.13pm

Signed

Date