

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the
Village Hall, on Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: District Councillor Murray Gray, County Councillor Margaret Stone, District and County Councillor Barry Stone, 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** – None
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 30th January 2019** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Gunton **ALL AGREED**

5. Reports

- **Police** - The vice-chairman read out the police report for February and March which covers Harleston, Earsham and Beck Vale – the figures quoted covered the whole area and did not itemise Earsham
- **District Councillor Report** – Cllr. Gray reported the following:-
Confirmation of SNC's increase of £5 on the council tax bill to residents
A managing director has been appointed in relation to the combining of SNC and Broadland District Council's services, other senior staff will have to reapply for the new posts.
SNC are currently seeking nominations for volunteering awards, the closing date is 28th April.
There are eight categories and it is open to everyone.

Cllr. Reeve asked Cllr. Gray if the planning permission for Lodge Field had been passed as it appeared that footings were being put in, Cllr. Gray said that he would check it out on behalf of the parish council.

- **County Councillors Report** – Cllr. Stone reported the following:-
Cllr. Stone commented that it was lovely to be at the meeting, her year of Chairman of NCC has been a busy one, and continued to update members on some of the things that has occurred during her term in office. Cllr. Stone then informed members that a lot of background work had been done to ensure that the replacement of the footbridge will go ahead this year. Two bridges will be put in as a result of other schemes coming to fruition. Geoff Hall, member of public thanked Margaret for all her support in getting this result, which was echoed by Cllr. Bennett, who thanked her on behalf of the parish council.

The conversation turned to the recent news that All Hallows at Ditchingham was under threat of closure, and both Cllrs. Stone gave a breakdown of facts in relation to the hospital which were:-

1. Three authorities commission beds at All Hallows, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council and Yarmouth & Waveney Council.
2. The hospital has given 147 years of service to the community and NCC are very keen to support it, Norse Care is owned by NCC which is run as a limited company so it may be a possible group to administer it.
3. In 2016 an inspection was made and an unannounced visit to check if suggested changes had been made. There was no impediment for management, nursing and nutrition so it is a good time to sort out the funding. As it a valuable service for the community, it is hoped that it can continue in some form. It costs around £700 per day to run.

Chairman and Parish Councillors reports –

Chairman – Reported the following:-

That road chippings are still loose on the road from Earsham to Bungay and need to be swept up again.

ACTION – CLERK

A complaint has been received about a car driving across the grass onto the car park from the village hall lane.

Atlantic Superstore site is up for auction, the website says it is suitable for residential properties, however Cllr. Gray commented that it may be in flood zone site and the guide price is £200,000.

Cllr. Meade – There is an increase of litter in the parish which has been reported to SNC but nothing has been done, Harleston Road had dumped tyres and cuttings on it. Cllr. Woods responded that he has seen a mattress and Hoover in a dyke at Ditchingham recently.

Cllr. Bennett – Reported that the Minerals and Waste Consultation is now going to the June Committee for the Waste Plan Consultation.

Clerks Report –

Roadworks - Notification has been received that roadworks are being done in Waveney Crescent by Anglian Water, there may be disruption from 25th to 29th March 2019.

Annual Accounts - I have completed the accounts for the year ahead of schedule as the final direct debit payment came out of the account last week. The closing balances in the accounts are listed on the payments list and a draft copy of the accounts are attached. These will come back to the May meeting for approval after being internally audited.

Annual Parish Meeting - letters have been sent out to all organisations and groups that normally attend. An agenda is included in your pack, along with a copy of draft minutes from last year.

Election info – You will find a timetable for the election processes amongst your paperwork, along with a nomination paper for submission to South Norfolk Council if you are intending to continue with the Parish Council.

6. Presentations – None

7. Charity Commission – Following the decision made at the last parish council meeting to dissolve the charity which had been formed for the playground equipment many years ago, the clerk reported that she has had the charity removed from the Central Register of Charities which took effect from 8th February 2019.

8. Village Items

- **Update on the collapsed footbridge** – This item was discussed during the County Councillors report.
- **Update on the signs for Milestone and School Lanes** – Cllr. Meade reported that the letters have been ordered and the post is back, a further discussion was held on the paint to be used.
- **Update on the footpath outside the village hall** – Deferred
- **Update on the village hall refurbishment** – Cllr. Leech commented that new heaters have been sourced which should amount to £650, any monies left over will be put towards the footpath outside the village hall.
- **Discussion on the WW1 Commemorative Plaque, consider the required works for installation and if required, agree an unveiling** – Still being designed
- **Joint Parish Meetings** – The clerk informed members that she had been contacted by another parish clerk who said that Alburgh PC and Denton PC had suggested that the Joint Parish Meetings should cease to take place as it was getting more difficult to get people to attend and some questioned the value of them. After a brief discussion, councillors agreed with the neighbouring parish councils and asked that the clerk relay that information to them.

9. Planning Applications –

2019/0022 – Listed Building Consent – 14 Station Road, Earsham – Removal of external false chimney breast and rear existing window, including alterations to provide new rear access and internal alterations to kitchen – **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**

10. Streetlighting

- **Discussion on the streetlighting assets of the council and LED lighting** – Deferred

11. Finance

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the January 2019 meeting and note balances** – Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Leech
ALL AGREED
- **Resolution to appoint an internal auditor for end of year accounts** – The clerk informed members that Jackie Ellis has indicated that she is willing to complete the internal audit for the parish council again this year. It was agreed to pay Jackie £60 for her services. Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Gunton and seconded by Cllr. Bennett.
ALL AGREED

12. Playing Field/Play equipment and Earsham Football Club

- **Update on play equipment as reported at the last meeting** – The clerk reported that the new slides were in place and works completed. However, Sovereign Playgrounds had sent a quote for the repair of the basket swing which appeared to have frayed rope on one part of it, the quote was for £1,070.45. Cllr. Gunton commented that he would look at it and try and come up with a solution as the quoted price was too much.
- **Condition of roadway to playing field** – An email had been received from Peter Goodfellow asking when the road was going to be repaired. Cllr. Bennett commented that it was hoped it would be done before Easter. The area at the end of the Bowls Clubhouse still needed to have some work on it to make the area good, councillors will take a look at it.
- **Basketball hoop removal** – Peter Goodfellow has asked when the basketball hoop will be removed, it was agreed to look at an alternative place for the hoops siting and the end wall of the pavilion was suggested.

13. Significant correspondence –

- Information received on forthcoming elections

14. Election

- **Forthcoming Election and timetable** – The clerk informed members that a nomination pack and timetable was included in their supporting paperwork, and she had the electoral register with her if anyone needed their own or a neighbour's register number.
- **Decision on date of AGM in May** – The clerk informed members that as it was an election year, there was a prescriptive timeframe during which the meeting must take place. It was decided that Wednesday 8th May at 7.30pm would be acceptable to all.

15. Business for next meeting

- streetlights, refurbishment of fingerposts on School Lane, running club usage on the playing field, annual return

16. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Earsham

The meeting ended at 20.55pm

Signed

Date

