

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the
Village Hall, on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: District Councillor Brendon Bernard, one member of the public, Lynda Ling (Clerk)

1. Welcome – Cllr. Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend – County Cllr Margaret Stone and District Cllr. Brown

3. To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting – Cllrs Bennett and Meade both declared an interest under Item 5 – Councillor reports – update on Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Preferred Options Consultation (Cllr. Bennett's report)

4. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 31st July 2019 - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Reeve and seconded by Councillor Leech subject to a change to Item 6 with regard to the Queensway dog bin being straightened, the minutes should read Action SB and not KG **ALL AGREED**

5. Reports

Police - The chairman spoke of the new information giving contact details for local police officers which had been received that day by the clerk. Two errors were spotted on the information sheet and the clerk was asked to contact the new Beat Manager to ask them to be rectified. They were:-

- **Key Individual Networks** – Earsham Church is not mentioned at all although local parish churches were
- **District and Parish Council Contacts** – Cllr. Murray Gray is no longer the district councillor

District Councillor Report –Cllr. Bernard's report -

- The District Council is now reviewing the Norfolk Strategic Planning framework and Joint Inclusive Growth Strategy
- Population of Norfolk in 2016 - 891,000 projected to be 985,000 in 2036 – 10% increase.
- Population of South Norfolk - 133,000 in 2016 - 156,000 in 2036 – 18% increase
- 88% of the total population growth between 2016 and 2036 is in the over 65s category.
- Target for new housing by 2036 - 140,000 houses. South Norfolk has been deemed one of the best performing councils for providing affordable housing.
- South Norfolk and Broadland Councils have confirmed that all executive positions are now filled
- Chicken Roundabout wild flowers has been a great success.
- Western Link - The County Council has recommended and support the Option C for the Norwich Western Link.
- Gutters on the A143 between the chicken roundabout and Ellingham have been cleared.
- South Norfolk and Broadlands are reviewing their individual waste disposal policies, with the aim of having a joint policy which may produce a saving of around £700,000 per year.

County Councillor Report – Cllr. Stone submitted her report as follows:-

Schools set to extend nurseries under new early childhood and family service

- Four more schools are to grow their nursery and childcare places as part of the move to Norfolk's new early childhood and family service.
- The new service will be targeted at families that need extra support and provide services in local community venues and people's homes, reducing the need for stand-alone buildings. Norfolk

40 libraries across county now open for longer

- The scheme is called Open Library, and it gives customers, partners and community groups access even when a library is unstaffed. It was rolled out in June 2018, with 30 libraries initially and 10 new libraries, this year. To sign up for Open Library, people just need to talk to a member of staff who can add the access to their library card and give them a PIN number.

Chairman and Parish Councillors reports – The chairman reported the following:-

- Reports had been received on increased dog mess in the village.
- The Open Day at the Scout Hut was successful with three councillors being present
- The chairman has been invited to the Bungay Civic Celebrations and intends attending, the invitation was extended to members of the parish council as there was one spare place.

Cllr. Bennett – Spoke briefly about the Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan Consultation which is running from 18th September until the 30th October, and informed those present that there will be a public exhibition from 9am to 8pm in the Village Hall on 30th October 2019. It is intended to do a leaflet drop to inform residents of the exhibition. Cllrs. Bennett and Meade left the room whilst councillors discussed if their prior approval of Earsham Gravels application still stood, all agreed that they still supported the application. Cllrs Bennett and Meade were asked to re-join the meeting.

Cllr. Bennett also spoke of an item in the last minutes regarding the path outside the village hall. There was some talk of scarifying the surface but it looks likely that asphalt planings will be needed to fill in the holes. It was agreed to proceed with the work at an estimated cost of around £100.

Cllr. Reeve – Reported that the drain is still blocked on School Road and the Recycling Centre is looking untidy. Cllr. Reeve suggested keeping an eye on the bottle and clothing banks.

6. Village Items

- **Update on the collapsed footbridge** – No update
- **Update on the sign on Milestone Lane and School Road** – Cllr. Meade reported that the post has been moved and the proofs from Black Dog Signs received. Cllr. Bone suggested painting them in good weather and will be happy to do so once they are fitted. The School Road post still needs sourcing and a visit to a reclamation yard is intended.
- **Update on footpath outside the village hall** – Already covered.
- **The Sidings** – Update since letter went to residents - No update and it was agreed to remove from the agenda
- **Update on the WW1 Commemorative Plaque** – Cllr. Meade reported that he had received two quotes, one to make the WW1 plaque and the other for the commemorative plaque. One quote was for £340 in grey granite and the other for £692. It was agreed to purchase the £340 plaque which was proposed by Cllr. Leech and seconded by Cllr. Bennett. **ALL AGREED**
- **Litter Picking equipment update** – The clerk informed members that everything had been ordered and she was waiting for SNC to let her know when the items were ready for collection.
- **Planters for the village, costs and location** – The chairman had made this initial suggestion for this item and thought the triangle of grassy area could be made more welcoming. It was agreed to measure the area and discuss at the next meeting. Cllr. Bernard commented that there will be money available from November from councillor's allowance which may be able to pay for some planters. A further suggestion was that it could be unveiled on the May VE weekend.

7. Planning Applications – None

8. Streetlighting

- **Discussion on the streetlighting assets of the council and LED lighting** – After a brief discussion it was agreed to ask TT Jones if, after the new lighting assets are in place, the ones removed can be kept and stored. The clerk gave an update on the progress of the LED lanterns which have been upgraded to the latest type at no extra cost – the clerk is still awaiting information on when the LED's are to be fitted.

9. Finance

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the July 2019 meeting and note balances** – Payments already made – Parish Council - £736.82 – Playing Field - £283.97 – Allotments - £47.47
Cheques for signature at this meeting PC - £1862.86
Balances as at 25th September are:-

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Parish Council | £32,573.64 |
| Playing Field | £ 5,307.90 |
| Allotments | £ 1,267.82 |

Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Bennett and seconded by Cllr. Leech

ALL AGREED

- **Discussion on current reserves, relevance of headings and if changes need to be made** – The council discussed this briefly and it was agreed to look at this again and discuss at the next meeting.
- **Discussion on a Reserves Policy (originally discussed at the November 2018 meeting)** – The clerk was asked to send this again to councillors and include on the agenda at the next meeting.

10. Playing Field/Play equipment

- **Play equipment** - The new gazebo on the playing field was vandalised recently and the clerk had made enquiries to the insurance company as to the excess payable if the council wished to claim on the insurance (£250). In the meantime, Dan from Endeavour has carried out the repairs and will invoice the council.

11. Significant correspondence –

- **Invitation to consider applying for Parish Partnerships 50/50 initiative 2019/20** – A discussion was held on the possibility of investigating whether a sign at the junction of the A143 would be possible as it is a very dark junction – Norfolk County Council Highways would have to be consulted on the feasibility of this. The clerk to investigate and get prices on signs. **ACTION - CLERK**

12. Business for next meeting

- Reserves policy, reserve allocation, budget, plaque/plinth funding, village planters, litter picking equipment, gate post for allotments, tree's on playing field

The meeting was adjourned at 21.14pm and reconvened at 21.24pm for public comment

Mr. Hall made comment on the following:-

- **Road chippings on Queensway** – stones have been left on the side of the road after the road was resurfaced. Has been reported to appropriate council.
- **Playing Field trees** - The two trees on the playing field which were replaced recently are now either dead or unhealthy and Mr. Hall asked if they could be replaced. Cllr. Meade said that he would go and have a look to ascertain.
- **School Road** - The new estate on School Road has had a lot of brick weave put down and Mr. Hall wondered if a place could be found for a new tree planting scheme. Councillors commented that residents could be asked if they would plant tree's for environmental purposes and as there used to be a copse of trees in the corner of the playing field, perhaps this could be reinstated.

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

The meeting ended at 21.25pm

Signed

Date

