

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the
Village Hall, on Wednesday 31st July 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: District Councillors Brendon Bernard, Chris Brown, County Councillor Margaret Stone, three members of the public and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

- 1. Welcome** – The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and went on to thank ex-chairman Keith Reeve for the four years of service to the council.
- 2. To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend** – Councillors Bennett and Meade sent their apologies which were accepted.
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – Cllr. Bone declared an interest in Item 7 last bullet pointed item - Scouts
- 4. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2019** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Reeve and seconded by Councillor Leech **ALL AGREED**
- 5. Matters arising from previous minutes** – None

The meeting was suspended at 7.32 and reconvened at 7.33 to allow a member of the public to ask a question

A member of the public asked if there was any plan in place for the maintenance of the plaque once in place, the chairman responded that this would be looked at in due course.

6. Reports

- **Police** - The chairman read out the police report for June which covers Harleston, Earsham and Beck Vale – the figures quoted covered the whole area and did not itemise Earsham.
- **County Councillor Report** – Cllr. Stone covered the following in her report:-

The Task & Finish Committee are looking at transport across the region convening a committee tasked with reviewing all transport in rural and urban areas. We continue to subsidise some routes and also subsidise the Bordahopper.

Road Side Grass Cutting - A few years ago, we implemented an 'intermittent cutting' policy on these roads. This meant that grass-cuts were focussed on bends and junctions and the full length of the roadside verges were cut less frequently.

As this was reviewed a few years ago there are no current plans to change the cutting policy. However, we are producing a pollinator action plan which will likely reopen discussions on verge management.

NDR – Norwich Western Link - Having considered the consultation responses alongside other crucial information, such as transport benefits, environmental effects, value for money and impacts on local communities, we have recommended Option C, a new 3.9 mile dual carriageway road, as the best overall solution and preferred route for the Norwich Western Link.

Parish Partnerships - We continue to offer some matched funding for Highways schemes such as Speed Activated Monitoring SAMs and other highways furniture like Gateway structures as you enter Villages. There is also a much larger sum available but competitive, and/or shared within my Division of Clavering equating to £6,000.

- **District Councillor Reports** –Cllr. Bernard gave a brief report:

- a) No deal exit from the EU has been discussed
- b) Broadland/SNC have funds available to employ 2 people to address any issues arising from joint working with all executive positions now filled
- c) Chicken roundabout is a big success with wildflowers having been planted

District Cllr. Brown reported –

- a) He was looking for projects for grants from his members fund
- b) SNC are looking at various options for long term empty housing
- c) Cllr Murray Gray has been made an Honorary Alderman for South Norfolk

Chairmans report –

The chairman reported that sadly the village fete was a wash out, however the litter pick which was arranged at the previous parish meeting was very good with a good turnout. There has been a fallen branch on the playing field which was dealt with by Covered in Green. The Book on The Green is in need of cleaning.

Councillor reports –

Cllr. Reeve – reported that the footpath needs strimming between the village and 5 Acre Lane, clerk to contact SNC **ACTION - CLERK**

Clerks Report –

Litter Picking equipment - To help Parishes remain clean & tidy and encourage community participation, SNC are looking for councils, community centres or groups to act as hubs for the provision of litter picking equipment throughout South Norfolk. Essentially it would involve storing a small supply of equipment that is available for groups to borrow without having to travel to South Norfolk Council to pick them up.

Additionally, SNC have received some grant money to allow community groups to have their own equipment – up to £200 worth of equipment can be claimed free of charge. Is this something you would like to get involved with, and if so, some discussion needs to be had on where the items will be stored, in addition to the records that will need to be kept when items are lent out to volunteers.

After a brief discussion it was agreed to go ahead with becoming a litter picking hub and the clerk was asked to apply for the funding. **ACTION – CLERK**

An email has been received from a resident asking if the dog bin in School Lane/Queensway could be straightened as dog bags are in danger of falling out. Cllr. Gunton agreed to straighten it. **ACTION – SB**

7. **Village Items**

- **Date for next litter pick** – It was agreed that this should wait until the clocks go forward and the parish council has the litter picking equipment agreed in the clerks report.
- **Update on the collapsed footbridge** – This is ongoing but there are no updates at this time.
- **Update on the signs for Milestone and School Lanes** – Cllr. Bone reported that the post has been done, and just waiting for the ‘arms’
- **Update on the footpath outside the village hall** – The Village Hall Management Committee have approached Cllr. Bennett to level off the road.

- **The Sidings** – The letter to residents of The Sidings had been sent as requested, and had met with some negative comments about residents taking responsibility for the upkeep of the strip of land recently discussed. A letter was handed to the clerk and chairman by Cllr. Stone who had been given it by someone outside the village hall which asked some questions relating to the general upkeep going forward. Further discussions are required on this and will be discussed again at the next meeting.
- **Discussion on the WW1 Commemorative Plaque, consider the required works for installation and if required, agree an unveiling** – Deferred
- **Scouts email regarding parish council support (agreed March 2018)** – Agreement to honour the promise of £500 was agreed. Original decision was proposed by Cllr. Gunton and seconded by Cllr. Reeve.

8. Planning Applications –

- **2019/1320 – Former site of New Atlantic Country Superstores, Earsham Mill, Church Road, Earsham – Mr. Ian Swift** – Proposal: Change of use to gymnasium. Application type – Change of Use – Members comments varied from concerns for increased traffic to accepting it is a good service to the village
- **2019/1328 - 12 The Street, Earsham – Mr. Richard Bullen** – Proposal: Second storey extension above the existing single storey rooms. New pitched roof to existing conservatory. New obscured window to east side of existing bedroom to new toilet
Application type – Householder – Members had no comments to make

Members noted the planning applications and comments (if any)

9. Streetlighting

- **Discussion on the streetlighting assets of the council and LED lighting** – After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to purchase 10 x LED lanterns starting with The Street (7 lanterns) and completing where possible a complete road with the remaining 3 lanterns. Agreement to order 10 units at a cost of £299 each was proposed by Cllr. Gunton and seconded by Cllr. Leech

ACTION - CLERK

10. Finance

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the May 2019 meeting and note balances** – Parish Council payments already made £236.82 – Playing Field payments already made £102.00 Cheques for signature at this meeting PC - £1645.09, PF - £434.98 and Allotments £44.93

Parish Council	£34,379.74
Playing Field	£ 6,558.28
Allotments	£ 1,059.81

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

ALL AGREED

Finance report – The total balance in the accounts was £41,997.83 with no unexpected expenditure so far this year. Over the summer holidays it may be an appropriate time to think about any projects or works that you consider need doing for next year, these can be discussed in September with a view to finalising the budget in November 2019.

Signatory on the accounts – It was agreed to add the chairman Stephen Wood to the signatories and to set up BACS payments online. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Gunton, seconded by Cllr. Leech.

4 AGREED

1 ABSTAINED

Annual renewal of NALC (Norfolk Association for Local Councils) – Agreement to pay £220.27 for renewal was proposed by Cllr. Gunton and seconded by Cllr. Bone

ALL AGREED

11. Playing Field/Play and Earsham Football Club –

- **Discussion on the use of the playing field and in particular the football pitch** – This item came about as a result of a small group of people using the football pitch to practice – the football club were unhappy with the situation as it was believed it was a Under 9's group from Bungay. Calls have been made and conversations held and this is now believed to have been sorted out. It was believed that the running club pay for the use of the grounds and it was agreed to email Cllr. Meade to find out if this was so.
- **Discussion on request from the football club regarding a contribution towards the insurance and maintenance of the grass cutting equipment** – The chairman read out the email from the football club chairman and after some discussion it was agreed to propose donating £300 towards the above costs. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Bone and seconded by Cllr. Leech

ALL AGREED

12. Correspondence –

- Parish Partnerships 50/50 Scheme
- Information on the Police's Summer Tour – Visiting Earsham on Monday August 19th 2019

13. Business for next meeting –

- Fingerposts, Village Hall footpath, footbridge, plaques, litter pick equipment update, The Sidings update

The meeting was adjourned at 21.13pm and reconvened at 21.32pm

A member of the public spoke about the Environment Agency and the possibility of a sluice being taken out.

It will cost the church in between £40k - £50k to extend the churchyard so for the moment they will just be using the current open churchyard

Endways – the hedge needs cutting back again – it was agreed to ask Cllr. Bennett to speak with the owner

Some tree's have been cut down at The Mill.

Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Earsham

The meeting ended at 21.34pm

Signed

Date