

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the
Village Hall, on Wednesday 29th January 2020 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: County Councillor Margaret Stone, 4 members 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** – District Cllrs. Brown and Bernard and Parish Cllr. Bone
3. **To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – Cllr. Gunton declared an interest in Item 9 relating to discussion on the parish magazine
4. **Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2020** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Leech and seconded by Councillor Bennett **ALL AGREED**

The meeting adjourned at 7.32pm and reconvened at 7.36pm

A member of the public raised concerns regarding Queensway and commented that it was poorly lit. Another member of the public asked if the allotment hedge was going to be cut. Cllr Gunton responded that Cllr. Meade had already discussed this with a view to getting the work done, Cllr Meade confirmed he would investigate further about the length of hedging which appears not to have been completed.

5. Reports

Police - None

District Councillor Report – None

County Councillor Report – Cllr. Stone reported the following:-

Collapsed Footbridge – NCC has reviewed the programme and the more detailed proposals are:

- 1 Removal of the collapsed bridge and construction of new foundations over summer 2020.
- 2 Installation of footbridge in September 2020.

Site access still needs to be finalised via third party land and Environment Agency consent gained, however landowners are supportive and EA will view removal of an obstacle in the watercourse positively. These need to be secured before placing an order for which the lead-in for manufacture is some 17 weeks. During that period item 1 above can be proceeded with.

Cllr. Stone said she appreciated how important this scheme is for both parish council and the local community, and will of course keep the parish council regularly updated as we move into the delivery phase.

Boundary Review - The boundary commission is currently reviewing the division arrangements for Norfolk County Council. This review was triggered as a result of over 30% of current divisions being outside the 10% variance required, leading to elector inequality.

Following on from a successful submission for Norfolk County Council to continue to have 84 councillors NCC are now due to submit the proposal for the scheme for the 84 divisions.

The large number of divisions which need to be re-sized has required NCC to start with a clean sheet and design new schemes to meet the spread of electorate today and in the future (to 2025). All Divisions will represent between 8,000 and 9,000 electorate

NCC's budget proposals - are based on increasing council tax by 3.99%. If council tax is not increased this year, an extra £16.3m of savings would have to be found next year.

1.99% Basic Council Tax

2% Adult care precept

Consultations – Two consultations currently taking place are on Transport and Railways – further information can be found on the Norfolk County Council website.

Chairman and Parish Councillors reports – None

Clerk's Report –

- The clerk recently attended a Town and Parish Briefing for the Greater Norwich Local Plan at South Norfolk Council offices. The next stage of the consultation runs from 29th January 2020 to 16th March 2020 and people are invited to submit their comments on sites that have been earmarked as preferred sites and those that are not. Village clusters will be subject to a separate consultation which will be instigated by South Norfolk Council during 2020.

6. Village Items

- **Update on the collapsed footbridge** – Covered under County Councillor report.
- **Update on the sign on Milestone Lane and School Road** – Cllr. Meade reported that he had picked up the fingerposts that day and they will be painted in the drier weather. A fingerpost for the School Lane post is still being sought. The chairman commented that he had details of someone who could manufacture fibreglass fingerposts if required.
- **Update on footpath outside the village hall** – Deferred.
- **Update on the WW1 Commemorative Plaque** - Cllr. Meade informed members that the stonemason has come up with a design but further consideration needs to be given to the size and brickwork. Cllr. Bennett has looked at potential sites with Cllr. Meade and both agreed that the placement of the plaques need to be away from the edge of road just off the A143 near the slip road. Permission will need to be sought from NCC Highways.
- **Update on planters for the village** – Cllr. Leech informed members that he had been successful in getting £350 from District Cllr. Bernard's parish allocation of funds which has to be spent within 12 months. A discussion ensued with regard to design, and Cllr. Wood confirmed he would visit the site and measure for accuracy.

ACTION – Cllr. Wood

- **Update on Millennium unedited film** – Cllr. Meade confirmed that he had taken the video cassette to the company who would be transferring the film onto DVD, it will need editing at some point however.
- **Best Decorated House at Christmas** – After a brief discussion it was agreed to award the £20 prize donation to charity to Mr. Hambling of The Street. The clerk will contact Mr. Hambling and ask him his charity of choice. Proposed Cllr. Reeve and seconded Cllr. Wood

ACTION - Clerk

7. Planning Applications – None

8. Streetlighting

- **Update on streetlighting assets of the council and changeover to LED lanterns** – The clerk appraised the members of the lanterns still to be replaced to LED (18 in total) and had negotiated a discount of £40 per lantern with the electrical contractors if the parish council wished to complete the replacement works in the village. There is currently over £11,000 in CIL money which is ringfenced for supporting the infrastructure in an area where new development is taking place, so replacing the old streetlighting falls within that remit and new LED lanterns would certainly be an acceptable use of this money. It is estimated that up to two-thirds of current spend on electricity for streetlighting could be saved by making the change, as well as the environmental benefits. After further discussion it was agreed to proceed with the purchase of 18 new lanterns at a total cost of £4,662.00 and the cost to come from CIL monies held. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Gunton, seconded by Cllr. Bennett

ALL AGREED

9. Finance

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the November 2019 meeting and note balances** – Payments already made – Parish Council - £2140.57– Playing Field - £382.44 – Allotments £589.77 (payments are excluding VAT)
Cheques for signature at this meeting PC - £1,256.41– Playing Field - £68.07 and Allotments - £509.29

Balances as at 29th January 2020 are:-

Parish Council	£43,415.86
Playing Field	£ 7,155.44
Allotments	£ 678.46

Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Gunton **ALL AGREED**

- **Resolution to approve the 2020/21 budget** – Members had been sent copies of the draft budget prior to the meeting and the following additions were put forward for inclusion:-
 1. Increase the budget for the Parish Magazine donation from £150 to £200
Agreement proposed by Cllr Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Meade
 2. Insert a budget heading for the Millennium Film/DVD of £500
Agreement proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr. Meade

After further consideration of the remaining budget headings, agreement to accept the budget as written including the additions agreed at this meeting, was proposed by Cllr. Leech and seconded by Cllr. Wood **ALL AGREED**

10. Playing Field/Play equipment – The clerk confirmed that after discussion about tree's at the November meeting, she had contacted SNC's Landscape Officer to ask if there were any tree's available for parishes. The Officer had confirmed that the allocation for this year had already been exhausted but to contact the Tree Warden group and ask to be put on the list for the next tranche of tree's and hedging which will continue to be offered to parishes the next year. Cllr. Wood confirmed he is happy to continue acting as Tree Warden for the village. A short discussion was held on the merits of having a table tennis table on The Green for residents to use. The clerk said she would investigate on whether SNC were still operating the PING! Project, which saw some towns given a table, bats and balls for residents use and for encouraging exercise.

ACTION - CLERK

11. Allotments

- **Discussion on rent and water charges for 2020/21** – The clerk informed members that consideration should be given to a slight increase in rents and in particular water charges, as these have increased in recent years. In addition, to comply with Anglian Water Regulations Compliance Inspection, work has had to be done recently to have all the hose taps on site fitted with backflow protection. This work has now been completed at a cost of £509.29. The rents and water charges have remained the same for several years and members agreed that these should be increased slightly. After due consideration it was agreed to charge £10 for a quarter plot, £20 for a half plot, £30 for a three-quarter plot and £40 for a full plot (cost to include water charges). Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Gunton. **ALL AGREED**

One of the members of the public commented that the council should also be aware that there is an issue with the water pressure on the allotment site.

12. Significant correspondence –

- **GNLP** – Covered in Clerk's report

13. Business for next meeting

Footpath outside village hall, WW1 Commemorative Plaque, Planters for the village, Millennium film/DVD, Table Tennis table

The meeting was adjourned at 21.11pm and reconvened at 21.23pm for public comment

Comments were made on two items as follows:-

1. Parking opposite the junction of School Road, which is creating a hazard for those trying to overtake – the clerk to investigate if anything can be done to deter parking in this area.
2. A path has been created across a verge at Queensway, has been dug out and a pile of gravel left on the grassed area but no sign of when the work is going to be completed. The clerk said she would contact the developer of the Lodge Field site to ask for an update and likely completion date of the footpath.
3. A question was raised as to whether the parish council has raised the precept which was discussed at a meeting earlier in the month. The member of the public was informed that the precept will remain the same as last year at £53.21 for the year, no increase was considered to be necessary for 2020/21.

15. Date of the next meeting – The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Earsham.

The meeting ended at 21.24pm

Signed

Date