

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held on
The Green, Earsham on Wednesday 23rd June 2021 at 7.30pm
COVID restrictions will apply

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

Also present: 2 members of the public and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

1. Welcome – Cllr. Wood welcomed those present to the meeting and informed everyone that regrettably Cllr. Karl Gunton had resigned from the Parish Council. This means that a vacancy has opened up on the Parish Council and South Norfolk Council have been informed. If there is no call for an election from members of the public, then the Parish Council will be free to co-opt after 28th June 2021.

2. Apologies from members unable to attend

3. Declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting

- To note any declarations of members pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary/other interests pertaining to items on the following agenda - None
- a) To consider any dispensation requests - None

4. Resolution to approve the Minutes of previous meeting

- Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 – Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Bennett **ALL AGREED**

The meeting was adjourned for public participation at 19.35 and reconvened at 19.40

A member of the public in attendance (Alan Wilson) who lives on Church Road informed councillors that an engineer from Open Reach (BT) was surveying the area near the allotments and was told that there is an underground BT cable running through the allotment site. No-one was aware of this and the Clerk said she would try and find out more information from BT.

The second member of the public (Peter Goodfellow) told members that the Beccles & Bungay Running Club use the playing field and football club pavilion facilities once a week and have a small number of children javelin throwing. After a short discussion it was agreed to ask the responsible person from the running club to provide a photocopy of their public liability insurance and risk assessment because they were undertaking the activity in an open public space. Peter kindly said he would contact the person on the council's behalf.

5. Reports –

Police, District and County Councillors – The Police report was circulated to Cllrs earlier this week and there are no District or County Councillor reports

Chairman's report –

- The Chairman attended the 'switch on' of the new £46,000 sprinkler system on the playing field. 20,000 litres of free water can be accessed per day at a pressure of 8 bar, this will be of great benefit to not only the football club, but to the bowls club too and should reduce water costs to a minimal amount. The water tank nearby can store 30,000 litres.
- There is a broken bin in the layby which will need replacing – to be added to next month's agenda for agreement to replace.
- The Chairman met with a contractor to look at the blockage in the village hall car park and to ascertain how the drainage (which leads into the attenuation pond) could be cleared. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Parish Councillors –

Cllr. Reeve – reported a complaint from a resident on Princess Way regarding overhanging tree's. The Chairman said he would take a look and get some photo's to the clerk, to be added to the agenda for the July meeting.

Cllr. Bennett – Has made some further enquiries regarding the purchase of bark, or pine wood chip, in this case. The Chairman said he would speak to the people who requested this to find out if pine wood chip would be acceptable – to be discussed again at the next meeting.

There was a short discussion on why the path on School Road was not continued to the junction with Church Road – this needs further investigation and will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Clerks Report - None

6. Finance –

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the May 2021 meeting and note balances –**

Payments already made (excl. VAT) – Parish Council - £1110.93 – Playing Field - £48.68 and Allotments - £76.14

Payments for approval at this meeting (excl. VAT) – Parish Council - £5301.10 – Playing Field - £530.98 – Approval proposed by Cllr. Wood, seconded by Cllr. Leech

ALL AGREED

- **To resolve to agree the 2020/21 parish accounts –** The accounts form 2020/21 have been internally audited and agreed. A copy of these were circulated to councillors the previous week for their information. Agreement to approve was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Wood

ALL AGREED

- **To resolve to agree to sign off Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return – AGAR 2020/21**
The documentation was read out by the Clerk, firstly going through Section 1 and reading out the statements, then Section 2 was read out separately. Councillors agreed with the statements made in both Sections and agreement to approve both was proposed by Cllr. Wood and seconded by Cllr. Leech

ALL AGREED

- **To resolve to agree the statements for the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2020/21 Part 2 –** Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Wood and seconded by Cllr Leech

ALL AGREED

7. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting – 28th July 2021 at 7.30pm – venue to be confirmed dependant on Government advice at the time re COVID

Cllr. Wood thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.25pm.

Members left to visit the allotments with a view to reviewing the rules and regulations of the tenancy agreement and to undertake an audit on the general tidiness and use of the allotment gardens.

A visit to Church Road was also made to view areas where the new SAM2 machine could be placed to comply with Norfolk County Council's Highways Dept, and finally to view the footpath on School Road.

Signed

Dated