

**Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held in Earsham Village Hall on
Wednesday 30th November 2022**

Present: Councillors: Richard Randlesome (Vice-Chair), Jim Bennett, Peter Goodfellow, Tony Leech, Nick Meade and Keith Reeve

Also present: Two members of the public, Gemma Collins (VHMC) and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

1. Welcome by the Vice- Chairman – Cllr Randlesome will chair the meeting in Cllr Wood's absence

2. Apologies from members unable to attend – Cllr. Stephen Wood, District Councillors Chris Brown and County Councillor Barry Stone

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 agenda – Cllr. Goodfellow declared an interest in Item 9 – Playing field.

a) To consider any dispensation requests – None

4. Resolution to approve the Minutes of previous meeting

• Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 – Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Randlesome

ALL AGREED

The meeting was adjourned at 7.35pm and reconvened at 7.45pm to allow members of the public to speak

The member of the public asked questions regarding Item 9 which was the fencing around the football pitch. Some clarification was made on the type of fencing that would be used, i.e. post and rail fence to a height of 1 metre. The reason for this was because the football club are doing very well in the Junior League and could be promoted to the Senior League and the railing is a requirement in order to be promoted. Access to members of the public would not be restricted. However, it may deter people from damaging the pitch by riding bikes across it.

5. Reports – Police, District and County Councillors

Police - None

District Councillor Report – Cllr Brendon Bernard's report was read out as follows:-

- Deal to buy Horizon Building has now been completed.
- Long Stratton offices will close this week and all staff moved to the Broadlands Council offices.
- Present SNDC offices have been put up for sale.
- Refurbishment of Horizon building underway, possible move in mid 2023
- Satellite SNDC office being set up in Diss Information Centre.
- Grant of £600 possible for Warm Rooms initiatives.
- Integration of the two councils continues and benefits are being seen.
- the Council is making progress on the plans to install solar PV on the three leisure centres and install more EV charge points in car parks, with the procurement process underway
- There has been a huge increase in demand for temporary housing accommodation, which the council is working to find alternative solutions for, such as purchasing properties.

County Councillor Report – Cllr. Barry Stone's report via email contained the following information:-

- The County Council are still in a position where they need to find about £60m of further savings, a mammoth task and are currently having a strategic services review carried out by an outside specialist company which should result in major savings.
- We also have a recommendation from finance to increase Council Tax, however, any increase over 2.9% has to be confirmed by a referendum of all registered voters. The chancellor has since announced however, that 5% will be the rate that would trigger a referendum but at the moment there is no intention to change our budget forecast of 2.99%. There may be an additional increase for Adult Social Care however but that is still in the pipeline.

Chairman's and Parish Councillors reports –

Cllr. Meade – Asked the Clerk if there had been any response from Highways regarding the milestone which needs attention. The Clerk responded that there hadn't been any communication in response to emails.

Cllr. Goodfellow – Asked the Clerk if there had been any response from Highways regarding the speeding issue at the Bungay end of the Village. The Clerk responded in the same way as above, no response so far.

Cllr. Reeve – Commented that the bus which had been in the lay-by was now gone, it has relocated to an area at The Old Mill.

Clerks Report –

1. Report of a light out on the side of the Village Hall – this is being attended to by Cllr. Wood and a new light has been ordered.
2. Further information on the new email pilot scheme for town and parish councils was given

Village Hall – A representative from the VHMC will attend to discuss VH access, painting and decorating, village handyman/person – Gemma Collins was in attendance and spoke to councillors regarding the following which was discussed at a recent VHMC meeting :-

1. **Village hall access** - Fire door exit onto the car park, step needs altering, it's too high. Opposite fire door onto the road, can the barrier to the right be taken down and a ramp put into place so you can use the whole of the pavement. I think these have all been mentioned before, I would like to get them completed for the village fete next year, 3rd June.
2. **Painting & decorating** - We would like to get the village hall painted inside & outside, and a contractor has already been contacted about this. We are also looking into a monthly window cleaner.
3. We are bringing back the village fete next year. Are we responsible for insurance cover for the hall & green or will the parish council pay for this? *The Clerk responded that the VHMC should have insurance in place to cover the hall, The Green insurance will have to be checked.*
4. I know a temporary events license is £21, but would we need to do this again for the car boot sale, bringing that back again for August. *The Clerk responded that you probably would but needs checking.*
5. Village handy person, I think this has been mentioned before too. Did anything come of it – *The Clerk responded that there was very little response.*
6. The trees need cutting back on the bit of land beside The Sidings. *Cllr. Meade replied that he would see if one of his workmen will cut back.*

Further discussion was held on the logistics of the Village Hall, and the Clerk handed out some information that she had found in the Archives regarding the Governing Scheme from 2004 which had been required in order to comply with the Charities Commission.

Civility & Respect Protocol – Review of statements and to consider signing up to the Pledge – After a very short discussion and with all councillors in agreement, Cllr. Randlesome proposed acceptance to signing up to the Pledge which was seconded by Cllr. Bennett. The Clerk will start the process.

ALL AGREED

NALC – email Pilot Scheme – NALC are working with the Central Digital & Data Office at the Cabinet Office and are hoping to set up a pioneering pilot scheme to offer council's a gov.uk domain name and email addresses starting from early 2023. This has many benefits which the Clerk read out.

Expressions of Interest to be part of the Scheme need to be submitted by 16th December. After a brief discussion it was agreed that this would be of interest and the Clerk was asked to progress. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Bennett and seconded by Cllr. Meade

ALL AGREED

Boundary Commission for England's recent publications of revised proposals for the new parliamentary constituency boundaries – This had been mentioned during the first public session and there were varying views on the idea's being considered.

Cllr. Bernard confirmed that although a new Waveney Valley CC was being considered, this area would still fall within South Norfolk. There was some feeling that the scope of the Waveney Valley CC was too far reaching with areas such as Walsham-le-Willows being too far away to qualify being in the Waveney Valley. Cllr. Bernard said that the Boundary Commission has to have a review every 10 years to consider population increases.

To note the Bungay and Surrounding Area Flood Risk Management Scheme as issued by the Environment Agency – Noted – this information has been put on the Parish Council's website.

6. a) Village Items – Update on all village items – Cllr. Meade reported as follows:-

WW1 Commemorative Plaque – has received a second quote out of seven builders contacted. As the specification on the quotes was different, it was agreed that a further quote based on a like for like construction will be sought.

Signpost – Fingers are completed and post is cut, needs drying out for two months before being painted, still waiting for permission from Highways.

Millennium Film – Have quote for around £60 to get the numbers removed from the film and some further thought needs to be given to the opening and closing title pictures.

b) Report from the Speed Watch Group – Cllr. Goodfellow reported that the group had been out in October with no speeding recorded through the village. During Road Safety Week (14th – 20th November), the Group had planned to go out for two days but this was rained off – the Group are not allowed to operate during inclement weather. However, during that week over 600 motorists were caught speeding in Norfolk.

c) Village Magazine update – An email had been received from the outgoing editor, Rachael Gunton, to say that someone had been found to take over the magazine. The lady from Merina Arts at Earsham Mill will take over early 2023.

d) Earsham Emergency Plan Update – The Clerk had sent out the first draft of the Emergency Plan for Councillors to look at, this will be discussed at the next meeting to talk about any changes that need to be made.

7. Planning Applications – The following were noted:-

a) 2022/2051

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Colin & Carole Colden

Location: Belmont, Church Road Earsham Norfolk NR35 2TL

Proposal: Garden studio at Belmont, together with internal alterations to the main bungalow.

Application Type: Householder - Earsham Parish Council had no comment to make on this application

b) To note the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Pre-Submission - Extension of time period to make representations (sent via email on 18th November)

c) 2022/1455

Applicant: Mrs Gail Roberts

Location: Land North Of Church Farm Church Road Earsham Norfolk

Proposal:

Proposed equestrian business for up to 24 horses with erection of field shelter with concrete pad

Application Type: Full Planning Permission – Earsham Parish Council had no comment to make on this application

8. Finance –

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the September 2022 meeting and note balances** – Agreement proposed by Cllr Randlesome, seconded by Cllr. Reeve **ALL AGREED**

Payments already made (inc. VAT) –

Parish Council - £148.29

Playing Field - £159.78

Payments for approval at this meeting (inc. VAT) –

Parish Council - £1048.12

Playing Field - £71.63

- **Agreement to continue the annual SLCC (Society for Local Council Clerks) subscription –**
Cost is £112 per year. Agreement proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr. Meade
ALL AGREED
- **Budget discussion and agree any decisions on the budget for 2022/2023 –** The Clerk had sent out the draft budget and budget report to councillors the previous week, the contents of which were noted. It was agreed to discuss further and agree along with the precept request at the next meeting in January 2023.

Cllr. Randlesome asked members at 9.25pm if they wished to continue with the meeting as the time agreed in Standing Orders was nearly up, all agreed to carry on.

9. Playing Field/Play Equipment/Bowls Club/Allotments –

- Request from Earsham Football Club to install a post and rail fence around the pitch (1 metre high) – Further discussion was held on this item after the public comments at the beginning of the meeting. Two emails of support for the railings had been received by the Clerk. After further discussion, it was finally agreed that members would prefer to see a scale drawing of the site and railings to put into context, Cllr. Randlesome offered to assist Cllr. Goodfellow with a CAD drawing of the site, and this will be discussed at a later date once the scaled drawing is available.

10. Correspondence – forwarded to Councillors before meeting

11. Business for the next meeting – works around the village, railing around football pitch, update on allotment group, budget, precept and emergency plan

The meeting was adjourned for public participation at 21.44pm and reconvened at 21.47pm

A member of the public asked if the dog bin emptying on Marston Moor had been added to the service contract – The Clerk responded by saying that she had asked twice but no acknowledgement had been received by SNC.

Another member of the public commented that there seemed to be an effort to create a football ground on the cheap.

Cllr. Randlesome then closed the public meeting.

12. To resolve to exclude the press and public [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Sec 1 (2)] due to the confidential nature of the following item:

- Discussion on personnel matters – Update to council members on the pay award granted to Local Government clerks. This was noted and agreed.

13. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 25th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Signed ... S. Wood

Date ... 11th January 2023

Meeting ended: 22. 21pm