

Earsham Parish Council
Minutes
of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held in Earsham Village Hall on
Wednesday 25th January 2023

Present: Councillors: Stephen Wood (Chair), Jim Bennett, Peter Goodfellow, Tony Leech, Nicholas Meade and Keith Reeve

Also present: District Councillors Brendon Bernard and Chris Brown, two members of the public and Lynda Ling (Clerk)

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

2. Apologies from members unable to attend – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Richard Randlesome 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

a) To consider any dispensation requests – None

4. Resolution to approve the Minutes of previous meeting

• Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 – Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Leech and seconded by Cllr. Goodfellow

ALL AGREED

The meeting was adjourned at 7.35pm and reconvened at 7.41pm to allow members of the public to speak

A member of the public asked when the grit is being delivered for the grit bins – The Clerk responded that a number of emails had been sent asking the same question and she was still waiting for an update. Cllr. Goodfellow commented that there could potentially be some snow in February so hoped the Parish Council's bins would be filled before then. A second member of the public asked if there were any plans in place to celebrate the King's Coronation, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Reports – Police, District and County Councillors

Police – None

District Councillor Report – Cllrs Bernard's and Brown's report was read out as follows:-

- Horizon Building will be opening in May 2023
- Photo ID will be required by voters for the forthcoming election – information is on the South Norfolk Council website
- Still some funds available from the Members Allowance
- The SNDC now in budget process for 2023/4
- Update on Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan for South Norfolk, being discussed. Emphasis on reducing carbon production, solar panels on Leisure centres, Increased EV charging points, waste reduction, supporting the most vulnerable.
- The revised strategy includes two new key commitments. These are a 2030 Net- Zero target for organisational emissions (DC operations), and a commitment to align to the Government's 2050 target for wider district decarbonisation.
- Budget has been increased to cater for the increased demand for temporary housing and to purchase additional properties.
- The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP) was published on Monday 23 January and representations before 5pm on Monday 6 March 2023, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Representations are invited on the legal compliance and soundness of the Plan. Any representations submitted must be received by South Norfolk Council within this timeframe.

County Councillors report – Councillor Stone’s report included the following:-

- **Cabinet backs £600 million-plus county deal for Norfolk** – A six-week consultation on the deal will be launched on 6th February. The full council will decide whether to support the change to an elected leader in December. If approved an election will be held in May 2024. For further details visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkcountydeal. You can register for updates at countydeals@norfolk.gov.uk
- **Fight Flooding by Clearing Channels – sent on behalf of the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance** – please see EPC website under the heading of Flooding

Chairman’s and Parish Councillors reports –

Cllr. Goodfellow – Hedge on Queensway – Cllr. Goodfellow commented that as mentioned in the Clerks Report, a complaint had been received about an overgrown hedge on Queensway which was impeding pedestrians causing residents (and children) to step into the road to pass by. After a brief discussion on this, it was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter to the tenant asking if they could cut back the hedge.

ALL AGREED

Cllr. Reeve – Commented that the Best Decorated House Competition wasn’t on the agenda and needed to be decided upon. The Clerk replied that it would be put on the next agenda for a decision.

Clerks Report –

- **New street sign for Kingsway** – I have been informed by a resident in Kingsway that the street sign is unreadable due to a hedge fire, so a request for it to be replaced has been submitted to SNC.
- **Earsham Primary School** – An email from Caroline Hutton who is the Chair of Governors of Earsham Primary School has been received, advising of the following:- *We wanted to notify the Parish Council that we have begun a 3 week consultation about Earsham Primary School joining an Academy Trust. All the information can be found within the letter. We have been part of a very successful temporary Partnership with the Ditchingham and Gillingham Federation and the Academy Trust they belong to. We would like to move forward formally by joining the trust, to gain the even more benefits for our children and school. We believe it will strengthen Earsham school.*
- **Sign missing at Earsham Dam** – This has now been attended to by Norfolk County Council
- **Yellow Bag on Queensway** – The yellow refuse bag that had been left by Saffron Housing, was finally removed on Monday 17th January after numerous emails and phone calls.
- **Email from the Place Shaping Manager at South Norfolk Council** – SNC intends to publish the pre-submission version of the **Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan** on at 9.00am on Monday 23rd January, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012. The period during which representations can be made will last until **5.00pm on Monday 6th March** and, during that time, anyone that wishes to may make representations on the legal compliance and/or soundness of the document. Please note that the Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan deals with the growth of villages within South Norfolk, rather than growth within the Norwich fringe, market towns and larger settlements. A list of the parishes covered by the Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan can be viewed on the Council’s website. During the publication period, the proposed Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan will be available to view at the following locations:
 - Online at - www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/vchap - **South Norfolk Council offices** - Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Rd, Norwich, NR7 0DU (open Mon-Fri: 8.30am-5pm) - **The Octagon** - Mere Street, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4AH (open Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm) - **Libraries in South Norfolk** - visit the Norfolk County Council website for details of your local branch (www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives) - **Millennium Library** - The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW (open Mon-Fri: 10am-7pm; Sat: 9am-7pm; Sun: 10.30am-4.30pm)

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

WW1 Commemorative Plaque – A further quote will be requested from contractor for a larger size plinth

Signpost – The post has to now be left to season for a few months

Old Harleston Road – Any news from Highways on the broken milestone? None as yet, the Clerk had not chased up since first reporting but will chase up asap.

Report from the Speed Watch Group – Cllr. Goodfellow reported that there had been no issues during the first week of January, however, the Speed Watch Group was losing some members unfortunately. Information is being downloaded from the SAM2 machines and turned into usable and understandable data.

Village Magazine update – Rachael Gunton is currently managing a handover with the new Editor of the Village Magazine and the February issue will be her last one.

Earsham Emergency Plan Update – This will be discussed at the next meeting regarding any changes that need to be made/added.

7. Planning Applications – The following was noted:-

a) Application No. 2022/1822

Location: 6 Station Road Earsham Norfolk NR35 2TS

Proposal: Subdivision to form three-bedroom dwelling and affordable one bedroom dwelling.

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

8. Finance and Governance -

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

Payments already made since last meeting (inc. VAT) – Parish Council - £267.48
Playing Field - £159.78

Payments for approval at this meeting (inc. VAT) – Parish Council - £31.68

Account Balances – Parish Council Savings - £41,259.06 – Parish Council Current Account - £2,047.47
Playing Field Savings - £4,504.01 – Playing Field Current Account - £1,224.26
Allotment Savings - £90.00 – Allotment Current Account - £2.38

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

a) Request from Earsham Football Club to install a post and rail fence around the pitch (1 metre high) – No update

b) Play equipment repair (swing) update – A swing has a worn bolt/shackle and Cllrs. Reeve and Goodfellow have tried to effect temporary notices/devices to prevent the swing being used. The Clerk has contacted the original contractors to ask for a price for a replacement part and is awaiting a response from the maintenance department of Sovereign. Cllr. Bennett said he would take a look to see if a repair was possible.

10. Correspondence – forwarded to Councillors before meeting

11. Business for the next meeting – works around the village, railing around football pitch, update on emergency plan, Coronation discussion

No public comments were forthcoming

12. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 7.30pm

SignedS. Wood

Meeting ended: 20.45pm

Date29th March 2023