

Earsham Parish Council Minutes

of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the Village Hall,
on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Richard Randlesome (Chair), Tony Leech (Vice-Chair), Jim Bennett, Keith Reeve, Nicholas Meade and Dave Clark

Also present: Lynda Ling (Clerk)

1. Welcome – The chairman welcomed those present at the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year

2. To receive and accept apologies from members unable to attend – Apologies were received and accepted by Cllr. R. Naunton and District Cllr. Brendon Bernard

3. To receive any 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
- To consider any dispensation requests - None

4. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th November 2023 -

Agreement was proposed by Councillor Leech and seconded by Councillor Clark subject to a slight alteration in the wording for the continuation of the meeting on the last page.

ALL AGREED

5. Resolution to agree the budget and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2025

Members had received budget and precept reports as their supporting paperwork which outlined where the council's finances would stand given differing precept requests.

After a lengthy discussion on potential increased costs and the prospect of using reserves for the car park drainage and resurfacing, members acknowledged that an increase would be needed to the precept, and resolved to request £18,160.00 from the District Council, which means a slight rise in cost to the resident in a Band D property from £58.22 to £61.14 - an increase of £2.92 per year or 24p per month on council tax. The budget was accepted as written subject to the new precept amount being added. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Leech and seconded by Cllr. Bennett

ALL AGREED

6. Resolution to agree –

- **Pride in Place wording for funding application –** After some discussion, it was agreed to alter some wording regarding the village car park, and Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know if they wished anything more to be added no later than the weekend.
- **Agreement for noticeboard purchase –** The noticeboard that was discussed at the last meeting was formally agreed with a proposal from Cllr Randlesome which was seconded by Cllr. Clark
- **The wording for the plaque for the new circular bench plaque –** The wording agreed was as follows:- Celebrating his Majesty King Charles III's Coronation on 6th May 2023
- **Best decorated house Christmas competition winner –** After a short discussion, it was agreed that the best decorated house for Christmas was Mr. Keith Penn, the Clerk to contact Keith and donate £25 to a charity of his choice. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Bennett and seconded by Cllr. Meade

ALL AGREED

ACTION – CLERK

7. Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the November 2023 meeting and note balances

Payments already made since the November meeting :-

Parish Council – £2270.04 (salary and backdated pay, circular bench seat, streetlighting electricity, HMRC and SLCC renewal)

Playing Field - £204.05 (Anglian Water and EON Next electricity)

Allotments - £240.97 (Anglian Water)

Payments to be agreed at this meeting:-

TT Jones Electrical – quarterly streetlighting maintenance ££72.88 + VAT

Bungay First Responders donation - £300

Best decorated house at Christmas - £25

Balances noted:-

Parish Council - £46,830.84

Playing Field - £4,069.49

Allotments - £515.69

Agreement to approve payments was proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr.

Randlesome

ALL AGREED

The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum 10 minutes) – No public present

8. Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, The Street, Earsham

The meeting ended at 21.00pm

Signed ...R. Randlesome

Date 31st January 2024