

Earsham Parish Council Minutes

of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held by way of video conferencing on Wednesday 8th July 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Stephen Wood (Chair), Karl Gunton (arrived during Item 6), Keith Reeve, Tony Leech, Jim Bennett, and Nick Meade

Also present: District Councillor Bernard, 2 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** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Bone and District Councillor Chris Brown
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – Cllrs Bennett and Meade – Item 7
- 4. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2020** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Bennett and seconded by Councillor Wood **ALL AGREED**

5. Reports

Police – A copy of the recent police report which outlined the continuing police response to Coronavirus was sent to all councillors prior to the meeting.

District Councillor Report – District Cllr. Bernard reported:-

- An update on SNC activities was sent to the parish council on 21st June. The clerk had subsequently included the report in the parish magazine article. SNC are trying to encourage people to go into shops and get the local economy going again. The loss of revenue from leisure centres and swimming pools is mounting however, there has been indications of help from the Government to alleviate some of the shortfall.

County Councillor Report – County Cllr. Stone's report had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, but gave an overview of Norfolk County Council's response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which included:-

- **Delaying July Self-Assessment tax bill** - People who pay their tax through Self-Assessment and who pay on account can delay their next payment due in July. Anybody who has been affected by the coronavirus and who pays their tax in this way has the option to defer (delay) their July payment until 31 January 2021. Those who want to delay payment do not need to tell HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) or complete an application form. If HMRC do not receive the payment by 31 July 2020, they will automatically treat it as a deferred (delayed) payment. No interest or penalties will be charged, providing it is paid in full by 31 January 2021. Delaying or deferring tax may not be the best option for everyone. It may be better for some to pay their tax in instalments. Guidance on GOV.UK explains what deferral means and the options available. ·
- **Deferral of VAT payments due to Covid19** - There have been temporary changes to VAT payments due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 to help businesses manage their cash flow. The update includes information regarding the end of the VAT deferral period. Find more information here.
- **Collapsed footbridge** – It is hoped that the collapsed footbridge replacement will be completed by October 2020 and it was confirmed that two bridges would be replaced.

The full report is available to anyone on request.

Chairman's Report – Cllr. Wood suggested another litter pick at the appropriate time and asked the clerk to mention this in the parish magazine editorial

Parish Councillors reports –

Cllr Meade asked members who normally cuts back Church Path as it was overgrown. District Cllr. Bernard commented that Ditchingham employ someone to do that type of job in the village.

Clerk's Report – The clerk informed the meeting that as playgrounds were allowed to open from July 4th, she had completed the risk assessment for it and sent it to Cllr. Gunton for his information. A notice had also been produced outlining the rules of use of the play area during the COVID19 crisis which is being displayed in the play area.

6. Village Items – Update on all village items, including collapsed footbridge, sign on The Street, footpath outside the village hall, WW1 Commemorative Plaque, planters, millennium film, table tennis update and Parish Partnership Scheme -

Footbridge - A brief discussion was held on the logistics of getting the equipment to the footbridge site but the news was very well received by all.

Sign on The Street – Cllr. Meade commented that there was a good piece in the village magazine about this, and he was still trying to find a cast iron post.

Footpath outside village hall – Cllr. Bennett commented that the potholes were filled in earlier this year.

WW1 Commemorative Plaque – Cllr. Meade informed members that he had spoken to the today to see if the stone can be matched, it can, however if it was graffitied, the paint would not be able to be removed. It was generally agreed that the granite had to be kept the same. Cllr. Meade had also spoken to Simon Watchhorne about the old airfield site and talked about the best location to put the commemorative plaque. It was suggested that it would be better placed near the Earsham Wetland Centre which members agreed.

Planters – Deferred to next meeting.

Millennium Film – Cllr. Meade had sent a link to councillors earlier for the film and asked if anyone had any proposals to make regarding the editing, could members let him know.

Parish Partnership Scheme – The clerk asked members to consider if there were any works that could be completed under this scheme, which would require the parish council to put in 50% of the cost. The deadline is 4th December 2020 for bids.

7. Planning Applications –

Earsham: Earsham Quarry Plant Site, land off Bath Hills Road, Earsham, Bungay, Norfolk: Variation of conditions 1 and 13 of permission reference C/7/2017/7014 to allow use of plant site and conveyor to continue until 1 March 2025 and restoration by 1 March 2026, and revisions to the restoration scheme for the extraction site : Earsham Gravels Ltd

Cllr Bennett commented that this was a revamp of the old application

The additional information relates to documents called –

- Further Information: Covering Letter
- Further Information: Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment Addendum

The information was accepted by the Parish Council members who are still in support of the application and no comments were made.

20/00348 – Full Variation for Flint Vineyard, Camphill Farm, Middle Road, Earsham –

Information from SNC to say that an application had been received and accepted for a Premises Licence Full Variation application for the above. The application is now subject to a 28-day consultation period expiring on 3rd August 2020.

8. Streetlighting - The clerk updated councillors on the current status with the replacement LED lanterns and it is envisaged that the works will be completed within the next couple of weeks at the latest.

9. Finance –

- **Approval of items of expenditure invoiced since the May 2020 meeting and note balances –**

Payments already made – Parish Council - £412.93 – Playing Field - £214.56 and Allotments £136.83 (payments are including VAT)

Payments for approval at this meeting – Parish Council £903.20.

Balances in bank accounts as at 8th July 2020 – Parish Council £46,114.69, Playing Field £8,095.59 and Allotments £351.27.

The Parish Council accounts include £11,406.45 CIL monies and the Playing Field accounts includes £2,140.29 ring-fenced money for the repair and replacement of play equipment.

Resolution to approve the parish council accounts for 2019/2020 – Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Gunton and seconded by Cllr. Reeve. **ALL AGREED**

Resolution to sign off Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return before submission to the external auditor – Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Gunton and seconded by Cllr. Wood **ALL AGREED**

10. Playing Field –

- **Consideration of a request from Earsham Football Club to erect dugouts and stand on football pitch site on the playing field –**

Councillors had received a copy of the plan as was requested at the last meeting for their information. Councillors agreed that they did not like the idea of steel shutters across the front of the dugouts and it would be preferable to leave them open.

Council members expressed their support for the football club but also had to consider whether the location of the dugouts was suitable and sympathetic to the surroundings. Peter Goodfellow answered some questions on the type of materials that would be used and how the dugouts would be fixed. After some debate it was agreed to support installation of the dugouts and stand.

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

The members were also asked if they would consider contributing towards the cost of the tractor running costs bearing in mind the council are saving money by not having to pay for the cutting of the field. After further discussions it was agreed to contribute £700 towards the new blades, servicing and insurance of the tractor unit used to cut the grass.

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

Peter also agreed to take a look at Church Path with a view to cutting back the vegetation.

11. Significant correspondence – Letter from Air Ambulance thanking the Parish Council for the £20 contribution on behalf of the Hambling family (Best decorated house at Christmas), and correspondence on the allotments with a resident

12. Business for next meeting – Planters, collapsed footbridge, sign on School Road, Commemorative Plaque, Millennium Film, Parish Partnerships Scheme

The meeting was adjourned at 20.51pm and reconvened at 21.02pm for public comment

Comments were made as follows:-

Geoff Hall commented that the two new trees on the playing field have suffered in last year's drought and asked if they could be replaced, along with an extra one to fill a gap. Peter commented that there are two dead trees near the pavilion and with the parish council's permission he would remove them. Permission was given to Peter to undertake the work. The speed of traffic on School Road is more than 30mph and it was suggested that the speed machine be placed in that location. It was also noted that grass cuttings have also been dumped on the side of School Road opposite The Granary. Poor lighting in Queensway was also discussed briefly.

15. Date of the next meeting – The next meeting will be convened at a later date as yet unknown.

The meeting ended at 21.03pm

SignedS. Wood

Date 30th September 2020