

Earsham Parish Council Minutes

of a meeting of Earsham Parish Council held at the Village Hall
on Thursday 15th January 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Richard Randlesome (Chair), Jim Bennett, Keith Reeve, Nicholas Meade, Dave Clark

Also present: County Councillor Barry Stone, District Councillor Chris Brown, five members of the public and 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 from Cllrs. Leech, Revell and District Cllr. Brendan Bernard
3. **To receive any declarations of interest, in particular matters to be raised at this meeting** – None
4. **Approval of minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2025** - Agreement was proposed by Councillor Clark and seconded by Councillor Reeve **ALL AGREED**
5. **Resolution to set the precept for the year 1st April 2026 – 31st March 2027** – Members had received budget and precept reports with their supporting paperwork which outlined where the council would stand if the precept was not increased, there would be a predicated shortfall of around £1500 in the budget. After a brief discussion, members resolved to request £20,750.00 from the district council. This means a slight rise in the annual cost to the resident in a Band D property from £65.07 to £68.71, which is an increase of £3.64 per year or 30p per month on residents' council tax bill. Agreement proposed by Cllr. Reeve and seconded by Cllr. Randlesome **ALL AGREED**

6. To note and approve items of expenditure invoiced since the last meeting and note balances –

Payments made since the last meeting –

Parish Council - £861.34 (streetlighting electricity, clerk salary, TT Jones Electrical streetlighting maintenance contract, Westcotec assessment fee for redundant SAM2 machine)

Playing Field - £326.53 (Pavilion electricity for December and January, Anglian Water for pavilion)

Allotments - £137.06 (Anglian Water)

Payments for approval at this meeting –

Parish Council - £6.09 plus clerks' salary (postage costs for agenda packs to councillors)

Bank Balances as of 15th January 2026

Parish Council - £36,045.83, Playing Field - £3,344.93, Allotments £1,315.73

7. To discuss the donation of £500 (SNC funding) towards a monthly Community meet up project -

The Parish Council applied for South Norfolk Council's Winters Warmer Grant last year, which was not taken up by residents, so the thought was to use the funds to start the community group's monthly sessions, the members for the group who wanted to start the project were present at the meeting.

The initial outline for the project would be a monthly meet up for a few hours at the Village Hall to connect with friends, welcome new residents, be a place to talk and exchange ideas, signposting people to other organisations/businesses and enjoying refreshments. Members were all in agreement that this was a good community initiative for residents. SNC had been contacted and asked if this was an appropriate use of the funding, which they agreed it was. It is hoped to have the first session in the very near future.

Agreement for the £500 grant to be used for this purpose was proposed by Cllr. Clark, seconded by Cllr Randlesome
ALL AGREED

8. Discussion on current funding opportunities and any agreed action – It was agreed to look further into funding for village hall improvements, and a meeting to be arranged with members of the Village Hall Management Committee to discuss with a view ideas.

9. To agree to purchase frames/photocopying to add to the VE80 exhibition at The Old Mill – The Chairman updated everyone on the display at The Mill, and said more maps need to be added, plus some title banners to explain what the exhibition is about, e.g. History of Earsham. It was agreed to get a quote for title banners and agree to a spend of up to £50 for the extra frames/photocopying. Agreement was proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr. Meade.
ALL AGREED

ACTION – CLLR RANGLESOME

10. Planning Applications –

Application No: 2025/3762-3763 (Listed Building Consent)

Applicant: M Jennings

Location: The Cottage, 20 Church Road, Earsham, Norfolk NR35 2TJ

Proposal: Single storey side extension and installation of new bathroom on the first floor

Application Type: Householder

To comply with the deadline for comments, members were contacted and agreed that they had no objections to this application

The meeting was adjourned at 19.42 and reconvened at 19.59 for the County, District and Parish Councillors to give a report. No members of the public wished to speak

County Councillor Stone reported the following: -

- NCC was looking into its budgets and precept for the forthcoming year, the budget is causing some issues as they received less money from the Government this year.
- Local Government Review – the reorganization will have to support any debt incurred already and NCC have had to borrow £4.56 million.
- There is some intention to have an election in May, however they are costly (£2m) with more elections in 2027 and 2028, the Government want to know if there are any problems to prevent elections, which there may be, due to technical issues e.g. the new council may not want devolution.

District Councillor Brown reported the following: -

- The hearing for Village Clusters was held today and Earsham was being discussed regarding the two sites put forward for development in the village.
- SNC's funding from the Government has been good.
- Local government plans have been discussed to include increased funding for village halls.
- Waste collection services are improving, and food collections will be rolled out soon.

Cllr. Meade reported that there is a potential hazard with lying water at the junction with the A143 – the Clerk to report to Highways
ACTION – CLERK

Cllr Randlesome reported that the uneven surface on The Street near the War Memorial still has not been done – the Clerk to chase up with Highways.
ACTION - CLERK

Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 18th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, The Street, Earsham

The meeting ended at 20.00pm

Signed

Date