

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 2nd August 2012

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)
 Mrs Marilyn Russell
 Mrs Hazel Scofield
 Mr Alan Spackman
 Mr Jeff Nicholls
 Mrs Jenny Lloyd

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
 Ms Hazel Lambert
 Mr Ron Hodge
 Mr Keith Hudson

DC Mr Robin Carter, CC Mr Steve Criswell

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk

Item 78 Apologies for Absence – Mr James Woolstenholmes , DC Terry Rogers

Open Meeting

Item 79 Open Forum – No members of the public were present

Item 80 Ecops Report – no report given

Item 81 County Council and District Council Reports – CC Mr Steve Criswell reported on the HCV movements in the village and reiterated that the A1123 has been downgraded on the advisory freight map to a non strategic route which will help the movement of vehicles in the future. He also commented again on the removal of stagecoach service 21 following a letter received by a member of the public. Whippet still run a service and the Council are to publicise this and the use of community transport. The Council did not feel that a working party would achieve any results and it was proposed not to set one up.
 The B1050 is only closed along Willingham High Street at present and a decision will be made in the autumn concerning repairs.
 DC Robin Carter reported that Council Tax benefit is being replaced in April 2013 and there will be a public consultation about this in the autumn. The HDC have raised an initiative called Huntingdonshire Matters and this allows the public to make comments and suggestions regarding the key challenges within the district. You can submit issues via the website www.huntingdonshirematters.co.uk or contact the Clerk who has cards that can be completed.
 The different types of plastics that can be recycled using the Blue bin is to be increased and new inserts will be released shortly to let you know what can be included.
 Weed spraying and street cleansing is to be carried out in Earith. The weeds will be sprayed when the weather remains dry.

(Close open Meeting)

(Open closed section of Meeting)

Item 82 Councillors declaration of interest – The Chairman drew the Councillors attention to the legal requirement that all interests should be declared following the Code of Conduct LGA2000s 50. Parish Councils order 2001. No declarations were made.

Item 83 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 5th July 2012
 Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded. All in favour that the minutes be signed.

Item 84 Matters arising - Ms Hazel Lambert reported that following Item 70 she had obtained the sizes for the tree guard and it will be 1.4m high and 300mm wide. It may also be possible for the tree to be purchased via the District Council scheme. Also Item 76 concerning the Minnaars footpath. This has now been cleared by a working party of village residents. Ms Hazel Lambert is still to pursue this matter with Simeon Cowell from the County Council.

Item 85 Planning – Application Ref: 1201079FUL two storey extension, front porch and single storey extension to rear. 126 Greenfields
 Mr Ron Hodge proposed and Ms Hazel Lambert seconded that this should be accepted. All in favour.

- Item 86** **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman contacted the enforcement officer to enquire on the latest status of all enforcement cases at present. No update to report.
The Clerk has contacted the County Council regarding the footpath at the back of the Minnaars site and they have stated that they cut the footpaths twice a year. Once in March and once in September. Ms Hazel Lambert is to contact them .
The allotment site has now been made safe and the trees that were causing problems have been removed. The slide has been repaired and the gates at the childrens play area in the Recreation field have been removed for health and safety reasons.
The Clerk contacted the Highways department to see if a convex mirror could be sited at George Corner to aid visibility and the County Council responded to say that they no longer allow the siting of mirrors on Highway land due to health and safety reasons.
The Chair has not yet heard back from Jo Challis/Emma Murden concerning the improvements to the pedestrian crossings and she will follow this up.
The Clerk has contacted Sgt Savill from the Local Policing team who will be attending the next Council meeting in September on Thursday 6th at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.
The Clerk has organised a Police Surgery which will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 5th of October. All residents are welcome to attend to speak directly to the Police regarding any issues.
The Clerk is to contact Bluntisham and Colne Parish Clerks to inform them that this is to take place and to invite the residents of these villages to also attend.
- Item 87** **Parish Council Representatives Report – HCV and Road Safety** – Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that the environment testing results are still being collated and the details are to be published shortly, hopefully on the 3rd September at a meeting at Bluntisham Village Hall.
Finance Meeting – Miss Ann Brennan reported that all finances were checked and were all correct.
Big Lottery Funding – Ms Hazel Lambert reported that Cambridgeshire Acre have been successful in their 1st stage bid concerning redevelopment of the Ouse Valley Washes.
Queens Diamond Jubilee Tree – Ms Hazel Lambert asked for suggestions for the commemorative tree. Several suggestions were made and they are to be looked into for sustainability and longevity.
- Item 88** **Adoption of the official updated code of conduct** – The Clerk tabled 2 proposals for a code of conduct. One issued by Huntingdon District Council and one issued by the National Association of Local Councils. There may be issues concerning the National Association of Local Councils code of conduct which the Clerk is to look into. It was decided that the Clerk is to look into the issues raised and if these issues prove to be non problematic then this code would be adopted. If the issues are contentious then the Huntingdonshire District Council code would be adopted.
Miss Ann Brennan proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded. All in favour.
- Item 89** **Adoption of changes to the Financial Regulations** – Following on from the Finance Meeting the Financial Regulations were looked into and it was agreed that the debit card/cash withdrawal rules should be added to the official Financial Regulations. The use of online checking of bank statements was also to be added.
Ms Hazel Lambert proposed and Mrs Jenny Lloyd seconded that this could be done. All in favour.
- Item 90** **Internal Auditors Report**– The Clerk reported on the Internal Auditors Report which stated that there were good levels of budget control and procedures and that all the accounting was in order. The Clerk needs to address the problem of erroneous tax deduction from the Building Society account and she is in the process of doing this. The Clerk was doing a continued good job and was to be congratulated on her handling of the Parish accounts. All the Councillors said that they were happy with the report and with the work that the Clerk was doing.
- Item 91** **Hedge and grass cutting along the Earith to Bluntisham Causeway** - The Clerk is to obtain three tenders for the job of hedge cutting along the Causeway. The work is to be carried out in September. The Clerk is to contact Bluntisham Parish Council to work with them on sorting out the boundary and grass cutting issues. The Clerk has been told to contact the Reverend Sheila Anthony at St Marys Church regarding the Shaywell Charity which was set up to provide for maintenance along the stretch of pathway from 122 High Street Earith to the furthest gate of St Marys Church.

Item 92 Finance – a) Payments sign off

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 30 hrs. @ £9.94	298.20			LGHA1989,s.7
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		253.03	2423	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hrs. 8.5 hrs @ £7.21	61.29			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £7.21	18.03			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		75.31	2424	
Inland Revenue	PAYE July 2012		67.20	2425	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self employed monthly contract		100.00	2426	LGA1953,s.4
Truelink Ltd	Grass cutting contract		336.00	2427	OSA 1906 s.10
Mr M S Pink	Tree cutting at allotment		75.00	2428	SHA 1908 s23
Earith Timber Products	Fence repair at Village Green		33.96	2429	OSA 1906 s.260
Mr Ron Hodge	Pond Maintenance		45.10	2430	PHA 1936 s.260
Mr Gerry Whitfield	Internal Auditor		139.95	2431	ACA 1998 s.7
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration		35.00	2432	LGA 1972 s.228
On Site Welding	Slide refurbishment		110.00	cash	PHA 1907 s.76
British Gas	Village Hall Electricity		0.00	DD	LGA1972,s.133
	Total Spend for July 2012		£1,270.55		

Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the finances should be accepted. All in Favour.

Item 93 Correspondence – The Clerk reported the outcome of her letter from the District Council concerning tree maintenance in Greenfields. The trees are on the schedule of works but due to the severe weather conditions that we have experienced this year all works are behind and it will be unlikely if this work is carried out this year. It will be moved to the 2013 schedule unless they catch up this year.

Item 94 Items to report – Mrs Marilyn Russell has emailed Jason Tyrell re the damaged drain grids and no repairs have been carried out so far. She will follow up.
Ms Hazel Lambert will prepare the Newsletter for consideration at the next meeting.
Miss Ann Brennan commented that there was no mention of the problems that have happened in Earith in the neighbourhood watch reports.
Mr Alan Spackman requested that the Clerk is to contact the Anglian Water Board regarding the obscene graffiti which has been painted onto the pumping station on the Recreation Field.

Item 95 Items for Future Meetings – Village Hall improvements, Parish Plan, Tree purchase to be agenda item in September, bus shelter refurbishment, Parish boundaries between Bluntisham and Earith re grass cutting, Newsletter to be agenda item in September, Hedge cutting along the Bluntisham Causeway, Christmas tree lights to be discussed in September.

Date of next Council Meeting – Thursday 6th September 2012

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 01487 843983 email mpinkearithpc@aol.com
These minutes are unadopted.

Date 11th August 2012

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