

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### Present

#### Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark – Chairman  
Mr John Fulcher  
Mr Gavin Young

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)  
Mr Jeff Nicholls  
Mr Alan Spackman

#### Public

Naomi Astle – WI Chairman  
Mrs Broughton – Earith Day Care and Friendship Club, Skeeles  
Police Sgt Andy Street

25 members of the public

Mrs Mandy Pink – Parish Clerk

**Apologies for Absence** – CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Robin Carter, DC Mr Mike Francis, Mr Terry Rogers, Mr James Woolstenholmes, Mrs Marilyn Russell, Mrs Jenny Lloyd, Mr Keith Hudson.

**Item 1 Chairman's Report** – Mrs Julie Seamark thanked everyone for attending and also thanked all the Councillors and the Clerk for their commitment over the year. Over the previous year, a new speed watch group has formed and consists of 11 volunteers who are monitoring the speeds of vehicles within the village. The new website currently has 42 resident subscribers who receive Parish information such as minutes and agendas which can also be found on the website as well as the village noticeboards. The village hall has a new fridge and a seven-day heating timer which have all added benefit for the Hall users. The solar powered light at the pinch point in Meadow Lane has been installed. The Parish Council have also been successful with their bid for speed reduction measures in the High Street. New play equipment has been ordered for the Pond Play area to give the under 8's more amenities within the village. The new rural exception housing development has been completed and there is currently one 2-bedroom part ownership bungalow still to be allocated. The Parish Council have provided wreaths at both the memorial opposite the sluice gates in Earith and the memorial in Bluntisham on behalf of the residents of Earith. The Parish Council would like to thank Ms Hazel Lambert for providing a new feeding platform for the ducks at the pond and Mrs Marilyn Russell for her commitment to the Community Plan which is currently being correlated prior to distribution. Several volunteers have come forward to help to maintain the river island and they are being referred to as ERICA. The Earith River Island Conservation Association. The Earith, Bluntisham and Colne Over 60's club have returned to the Village Hall. The Parish Council gave all the Primary School children a commemorative Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday coin. In November 2016, a public meeting was held regarding the proposed housing development at 101 High Street (Minnaars). The Environmental Agency have completed improvements to the river bank at High Bridge and it is hoped that they can also help with river slip way maintenance. The RSPB have completed the pathway connecting the two bridges from the sluice gates to High Bridge. The County Council have agreed to provide a cycle path from Earith to Bluntisham which will be sited on the North side of the road on the opposite side to the current unmaintained County Council path way. The old churchyard at St Marys church has officially been closed and will be maintained by the District Council. A notice board has been erected at the allotment site to provide information to tenants. The Parish Council have also undertaken a process of risk assessments and Health and Safety inspections and are regularly updating policies. There has been an increased number of burglaries and police offenses within Earith and the Parish Council are hoping to work more closely with the Police to develop a crime prevention plan. The Council would like to thank all homeowners who are maintaining their trees, hedges and shrubs that border roads and path ways as this helps tremendously in making sure that the walkways are accessible. The Parish Council would also like to thank the new editorial team who have taken over production of the Earith Echo. Current projects include considering the Connections Bus Project and purchasing a community defibrillator.

**Item 2 Police Report** – Police Sgt Mr Andy Street reported that there had been 21 crimes of note within the village in the last four months and 4 complaints of anti-social behaviour. Sgt Street is working on a crime prevention plan with the Parish Council and he has already increased patrols within the village which has resulted in only 1 crime of note in the last month. There are to be more patrols within the village, police surgeries and leaflet drops to provide villagers with crime prevention information. Crime prevention signs will be erected within the village and he would like to reinvigorate a neighbourhood watch scheme in Earith.

An automatic number plate recognition camera is to be utilised within the village to provide the police with information about motorists. The Police are also happy to work with the new speed watch team to support them with the use of the speed gun and to give a police presence at their sessions. Residents from School road asked Sgt Street if the police would come and look at private CCTV footage if a crime had been committed within the house or area that the camera had recorded. Sgt Street said that the Police would look at and use private CCTV footage as evidence if it was provided.

**Item 3 School Governors Report** – Mr Gavin Young gave a report from Mrs Sian Pritchard, outgoing Head Mistress of Earith Primary School. The school were delighted to receive a good outcome from OFSTED. The inspector acknowledged the rapid progress that the school and children had made. He was particularly pleased that the children are at the heart of everything that the school does. In September, the number of classes had to be reduced to 3 due to the decrease in numbers of pupils on the roll. This has also resulted in the school having to readjust budgets for the future. The school is in the process of looking to join a multi academy trust and this has resulted in the resignation of Mrs Pritchard who will be very sadly missed by the staff and pupils. The school are looking to run a summer party on the 1<sup>st</sup> July and are grateful for all the community support to help raise funds. The Vice Chairman of the school governors, Mr Timothy Jones echoed the words of Mrs Pritchard and it is hoped that the school can convert to an Academy by the end of March 2018. Mr Jones wished to thank Mr Mark Wardell, former Chair of Governors and Mrs Pritchard for their hard work and commitment to the school. Mr Wardell has been a governor for 16 years and has dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort into the school. Mrs Pritchard joined the school in 2015 and had an immediate impact on the school and under her outstanding leadership implemented changes that have led to accelerated pupil progress and she was the catalyst for the OFSTED's Good rating.

**Item 4 Reports from Parish Charities** – Reports were given from:

**Skeeles Education Charity** no 311817 by Mrs Broughton –Skeeles is an educational charity which was founded to provide and maintain a school at Earith according to the will of Thomas Skeele in 1703. Earith British School was built in 1839 and remained as a school until 1971 when it was sold by order of the Secretary of State for Education. The proceeds of the sale were invested and the interest provides book grants for Earith children who go on to University providing that they have lived in the village for 2 years. 5 grants have been given to students in 2016, one of whom was a mature student studying at the Open University. The current application form has been included in the Earith Echo and the forms need to be completed, stamped by the educational establishment and returned to Skeeles by the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Mr Frederick Eddy retired from the Charity after 38 years as a Trustee and Chairman.

**Rectors Hall Earith** by email via Ms Hazel Lambert – Ms Lambert reported that the Rectors Hall had experienced another steady year and is currently used by a range of community groups. Toddlers meet once a month, there are three different yoga groups and the Community Café gathers together on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays for tea, coffee, cake and lots of chatter. A book club meets once a month. There is also a church (compline) service every Sunday evening. The Hall is also open for private functions. New ideas are always welcome and it is hoped that the Earith villagers will continue to support these activities. Ms Lambert also wanted to pass her thanks to the Parish Council and Clerk for their work in the village.

**Earith Town Estate** – Mr Ian Smith was unable to attend but wanted to draw attention to the article in the current Earith Echo. Earith Town Estate maintain the Recreation Field to the best of their ability given the resources that they currently have.

**Earith Day Care and Friendship Club** by Mrs Broughton – The Earith Day Care and Friendship Club meets every Wednesday in the Village Hall. It is a very happy and friendly club. We have lots of activities, craft work, dominoes, and bingo. A lovely freshly cooked meal is provided by the Lounge Café and once a month a pub lunch is organised at the Green Man in Colne. HACT transport is superb along with Alan our caring driver. All of this is provided for £6.50 a day. Mrs Broughton also wanted to thank the Parish Council for their support over the past year.

**Samuel Saywell Church Causeway Charity** – no report provided but this charity is linked to the St Marys Church and last year provided a bench and litter bin to Earith village.

**Item 5 Reports from Parish Organizations** - Reports were given from:

**Earith WI** by Naomi Astle - President – The WI was formed in August 1920 and currently has 37 members ranging in age from their early 30's to their 90's. Transport can be arranged if you wish to participate in the monthly meetings. A variety of events and talks have taken place this year including talks about Alpacas, the History of Magic and the Orkney Islands. Members nights provided an evening of Room 101 where cold calling and inconsiderate parking were both banished to Room 101. The annual fund raising strawberry tea was a great success and raised money Cambridge Blue Smile charity. This year two

charities are being supported, Jimmy Cambridge and Elouise Keeling Asthma Trust. Fund raising is also continuing for ACWW a worldwide charity working with women to better theirs and their children's lives. All ladies are welcome for a free taster meeting to encourage membership. More details can be found on the Facebook page.

**Item 6 Questions from the Floor –** Miss Holly Saunders wanted to bring the question of a Connections Bus Project for consideration. The Parish Council are currently considering the possibility of providing a weekly two hour Connections Bus for the village but as the sessions are expensive the uptake needed to be ascertained prior to negotiations being made. The younger residents attending asked about installing more swings and a shelter at the recreation field. The Chairman explained that these items are expensive and due to Health and Safety requirements have to be purchased through reputable suppliers. The Chairman invited the group to do a presentation to the Council with regard to these items at the next meeting.

A resident from School road said that the path leading from the garages in school road is dark and lights are needed in this area and that there are also no signs to state that there is a school in this area. The Parish Council will ask the County Council to look into this. Parking issues in School road were also raised but this is a matter which needs to be put before the Police.

Last year it was reported that an Earith to Bluntisham Cycleway was being considered and as reported by the Chairman earlier this has now come to fruition. The siting of the cycleway on the opposite side of the road to the current path was discussed and as this is a County Council project these comments will need to be raised with the County Council.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

[www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk)

**These minutes are unadopted**

**Clerk – Mrs Mandy Pink – 6th May 2017**