

Earith Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) Held on Thursday 25th April 2013

Present

Councillors

Mr Julie Seamark – Chairman
Mr Rob Sherriff
Ms Hazel Lambert
Mr Ron Hodge
Mr James Woolstenholmes

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)
Mr Jeff Nicholls
Mrs Marilyn Russell

Public

Mrs Ann Campbell – WI Chairman
CC Mr Steve Criswell
DC Mr Robin Carter
2 members of the public

Mrs Mandy Pink - Parish Clerk

Apologies for Absence – DC Mr Terry Rogers, Mr Alan Spackman, Mrs Jenny Lloyd, Mr Keith Hudson, Mr Ian Smith

Item 1 **Chairmans Report** – Mrs Julie Seamark thanked everyone for attending and gave the report. She thanked Mrs Hazel Scofield for her time spent serving with the Council and welcomed Mr Rob Sherriff as he began his term as a new Councillor. There have been many achievements made by the Council over the year including hot water installation and refurbishment of the Village Hall, the improvements to the pedestrian crossings, duck pond refurbishment and other smaller achievements. She thanked the committee for organising the Jubilee celebrations and highlighted the changes to grass cutting arrangements. She also thanked Miss Ann Brennan for sorting out the new Christmas tree lights which several residents commented on and also the Somersham Christmas Lights Committee for their help with this.

There are also still the usual problems that the Council come up against each year such as dog fouling, overgrown hedges, car parking problems and road closures due to flooding or repairs.

Item 2 **Police Report** – The Police provided the Clerk with a report which highlighted the fact that the crime rate had reduced over the year by 20% with significant changes in robbery (66%) and vehicle crime (50%) and anti social behaviour (37%) although thefts from the shop and cycle thefts had risen over the year.

Item 3 **School Governors Report** – Mr Kieran Quigley did not attend

Item 4 **Reports from Parish Charities** – Reports were given from:
Skeeles Education Charity no 311817 by Ms Hazel Lambert – Ms Lambert reported that Skeeles is an educational charity which has been able to provide several grants this year. All applications received resulted in grants being given.
Earith Town Estate by Mr Ian Smith – Mr Smith did not attend but provided a report which was read out by the Clerk. The main area covered was the pavilion refurbishment and the jubilee celebrations. If anyone wants to hire the pavilion for an event then contact details can be obtained from the Clerk.
Rectors Hall Earith by Ms Hazel Lambert – Ms Lambert reported that following a successful grant application major refurbishment work had been carried out and the Hall was being used by many different groups. They also host a community café each Thursday afternoon between 2 - 4.30pm. She wanted to thank the village for all the support that had been shown to the events carried out at the Hall.

Earith Day Centre by Mrs Julie Seamark on behalf of Mrs Broughton – The Earith Day Centre has had a happy and productive year with 2 successful coffee mornings to help raise funds. The Day Centre would like to congratulate the Parish Council on the refurbishment of the Village Hall.

Item 5

Reports from Parish Organizations - Reports were given from:

Earith WI by Mrs Ann Campbell – Mrs Campbell reported that the WI is an interesting and entertaining organisation and that some new younger members have now joined with ages ranging from late 20's upto 80. Over the 91 years of the WI there have been some good speakers and events which have been well attended. Earith was also happy to host the Orchard Group meeting this year. There will also be a charity cake, plant and book stall in aid of the Air Ambulance on the Village Green later in the year.

EVA by Miss Ann Brennan – Miss Brennan reported that EVA disbanded in Jan 2012 due to lack of support although the Earith Echo will still continue with a small donation from EVA to cover the funds needed along with the Parish Council support donations. Linda Sturrock has resigned from her editorial role so a new editor is being sought to continue this much needed village forum.

Miss Ann Brennan also reported that a new group has commenced in the village to enable the pantomime to continue and is called the Players of Earith (POE). A committee has been formed and funds will be raised via quiz nights with the first one in April although they are still looking for helpers. The pantomime this year will be Sleeping Beauty.

County Councillor Mr Steve Criswell gave a small report regarding the causeway improvements and the bridge has now been strengthened and the road resurfaced to help fill in the dips along the bridge which should help to alleviate the flooding to a small extent. The County Council have reduced the importance of the A1123 as a HCV route and better signage is to be erected to take traffic away from the Earith High Street. Improvements to the Willingham road will commence in early summer.

District Councillor Mr Robin Carter reported that due to the changes in Council Tax benefit a helpline has been put in place to help anyone who is experiencing difficulties.

Item 6

Matters Arising – No matters arising

Item 7

Questions from the Floor – No questions received

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These minutes are unadopted

Clerk – Mrs Mandy Pink – 30th April 2013