

Earith Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 1st June 2017

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)
 Mr Keith Hudson
 Mr James Woolstenholmes
 Mr Terry Rogers
 Mr Allan Till

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

DC Mr Mike Francis
 Mandy Pink - Clerk

2 members of the public

Item 54 Apologies for absence – Mr Gavin Young, Mrs Marilyn Russell, CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Robin Carter

Open Meeting

Item 55 Open Forum – No comments

Item 56 Ecops Report – The Clerk reported that there had been a lot of van break ins in various parts of the village along with some reports of suspicious behaviour. A high performance car was stolen and later abandoned. A car accident occurred on Cooks Drove which resulted in a lamp post being damaged. It has now been put right. There have also been several incidents involving dangerous dogs in recent weeks.

Item 57 County Council and District Council Reports – DC Mr Mike Francis had nothing of note to report.

(Close open Meeting)**(Open closed section of Meeting)**

Item 58 Parish Councillor Co-option following vacancy – The Clerk received two applications. One applicant was unable to attend the meeting due to family commitments and the Clerk presented his application to the Council. The second applicant presented his case to the Council for discussion. Following the presentation the applicant was asked to leave the room while the Council debated the applications. Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Mr John Fulcher seconded that applicant number two, Mr Allan Till should be co-opted onto the Council.

Resolved – All in favour

Mr Till was called back into the room and asked to join the table as the new Councillor for Earith Parish Councillor

New councillor to sign acceptance of office forms and to complete register of interests

Item 59 Parish Councillor Responsibilities for 2017/2018 – The Chairman ran through the list to confirm Councillor responsibilities. The planning team was disbanded as all plans are now forwarded to Councillors via the Clerk and all Councillors are checking plans online via the planning portal. Mr Allan Till has joined the Road Safety and HCV groups along with Mr Jeff Nicholls as he expressed an interest in transport during his presentation and Mrs Marilyn Russell has been relieved of these responsibilities. Mr John Fulcher has joined the playing fields and skatepark team as Mrs Julie Seamark has expressed an interest to step down her responsibilities this year. Mr Terry Rogers has taken over from Mrs Jenny Lloyd as the Skeeles representative along with Miss Ann Brennan. Mr James Woolstenholmes is now the only tree warden. All other responsibilities remain.

Item 60 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted – None received

Item 61 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 Localism Act 2011 c7.s27(3)(b). None received

Item 62 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 11th May 2017

Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the minutes should be signed.
 Resolved - All in favour.

Item 63 Matters arising – None.

Item 64 Planning – Application Reference 0401899OUT – 101 High Street – The Chairman reported that the funding of the relief road, traffic management and village hall have been prioritised over the provision of affordable housing. Several community benefits have also been confirmed. The Council are now able to

support the application although the Clerk is to make some further investigations before comments are made to the District Council.

Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that support can be given once the Clerk has received confirmation from the agent concerning the building of the relief road.

Resolved – All in favour

Planning – Application Reference 17/00916/TREE – Ivy covered Ash, shorten low ivy covered branch 50% and remove next primary branch – 37 High Street Earith – Mr Jeff Nicholls visited the site and this tree is in need of some work. It does have a TPO and is in a conservation area but is to the back of the property and is currently suffering due to the constriction of the Ivy.

Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the ivy should be removed to help strengthen the tree and to prevent any future attacks of Ash Die Back.

Resolved – All in favour

Planning – Application Reference 17/00971/CLED – Commercial fishery and aquatic centre, Fenland Fisheries, Meadow Drove, Earith – The Clerk read out the planning statement concerning the current use and existence of buildings on this site. The Council have been asked to determine if this site has been managed and operated as a fishery for over 10 years so that a Certificate of Lawfulness can be granted in lieu of a retrospective planning application. The Council discussed this and concluded that the site has been functioning as a commercial fishery.

Mr John Fulcher proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that the Certificate of Lawfulness should be issued.

Resolved – All in favour

Item 65

Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that she had attended a planning course along with the Clerk on the 18th May. The course highlighted the fact that site visits should be made so that you can place yourself on the site and can then determine if it is inside or outside of the village build and therefore classed as being in the countryside. The Chairman asked the planners if they visited every site and it was confirmed that they did. She also asked if any enforcement cases that the Council raised should receive feedback and again was assured that they did. Following this course the Chairman would like the Clerk to ask the neighbouring councils if they will join together for a planning training course to be provided by the Local Council Advisory Service so that all Earith and any neighbouring Councillors can be trained in planning.

The Chairman also reported that the Clerk had met with the Connections Bus driver to determine if the bus could access the recreation field car park but sadly due to the restricted turning circle caused by cars parked in the front public car park the bus could not access the field. The driver was not happy for the bus to be placed in any other area within the village but he would look into the possibility of providing a venue based activity that could be operated from the Village Hall. He will get back to the Clerk if he can put together the correct team of youth workers. Mr Allan Till questioned the possible use of the area at the entrance to the Minnaars site near to the yellow barrier and the Chairman stated that this is a privately owned site but she would make contact with the owner to see if he would be happy for the area to be used temporarily.

Item 66

Parish Council Representatives Report –

Road Safety and HCV – Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that there has not been any progress with the traffic regulation orders. A presentation was given at the HCV meeting concerning air pollution. The Road Safety meeting highlighted that no loading markings are being implemented in St Ives town centre and the police have been ticketing drivers who are parked illegally. A summary of Earith's LHI bid was discussed and the next meeting will be on the 11th July.

Recreation Field and Play Equipment – New equipment has now been installed at the Pond Play area and the Clerk is to arrange for a metal sign to be erected stating that parents and carers should refrain from sitting on the equipment as it is made for under 8's only and weight restrictions apply.

Health and Safety – No report

Hanson update – No report.

PC Cluster Meetings – No report

Saywell Charity – No report

Ouse Valley Way update – No report

ERICA Update – Health and Safety paperwork is still to be completed

Rights of Way – No report

Village Pond – Back hedge to be maintained and Mr's Spackman and Woolstenholmes will do this.

Allotments – A tenant has raised a concern that several plots are not being looked after and the Clerk is to write to the tenants concerned and ask them to maintain their plots. If maintenance work is not completed then the tenants will be evicted. The front hedge is to be trimmed and Mr's Spackman and Woolstenholmes will do this.

Skeeles update – No report

Earith Town Estate – No report

Community Plan – No report
Village Car Parks – No report

- Item 67** **Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made**– As we are now in the major growing season for foliage there are many overhanging trees and bushes in the Village. The hedge in the footpath between 193 and 195 Greenfields needs to be trimmed, there is a bush growing over the street lamp at 68 Greenfields. Hedges at 4 and 6 High Street need to be trimmed so that the crossing at the shop can be more visible to motorists. 27 Chapel Road bush is overgrown. There is overhanging foliage along the Doctors surgery footpath from the cottage in the River View. The trees in Meadow Lane are overhanging the street lights. There is a large overgrowing elder bush in a house on the High Street. Mr Jeff Nicholls and Mr Alan Spackman are to make visits. The hedge along the causeway is overhanging the speed limit signs and the Chairman will contact Mr Minnaar concerning this.
- Item 68** **Drains, Roads and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – no reports
- Item 69** **Solar lights for various sites within the Village**– The Councillors highlighted several areas for consideration. Hereward car park, School Road garage area, footpath to the shop, Darford car parks, Edwards Walk car park and St Marys
 Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr James Woolstenholmes seconded that the Clerk should buy 10 -12 solar lights.
 Resolved – All in favour
- Item 70** **Repair to footpath from Chapel Road to High Street to be discussed** – The Chairman carried out a site visit and reported that the area of disrepair is situated on a private driveway and not the path itself so no action will be taken.
- Item 71** **Funding to be considered for Grantscape application** – The Clerk has received a request from the ERICA team for anti-erosion work and riverbank piling to be carried out at the River Island. Repairs to the slipway at the back of the Village Hall are also to be included in the grant bid. The Clerk is to obtain a grant application form for completion.
- Item 72** **Use of Village Hall on Sunday – opening and closing of the Hall** – The Clerk has received a request for the Hall to be used on a Sunday for a children’s club to practice dance and drama activities. Opening and closing of the Hall was discussed and at this stage the Council are not able to offer the Hall for hire on a Sunday. The Clerk will look into employing a Hall Caretaker.
- Item 73** **Village Hall table rota to be reassigned following Councillor resignation** – Mr Terry Rogers is happy to take over from Mrs Lloyd. The Clerk will amend the current rota and resend.
- Item 74** **Welcome to Earith Newsletter** – The Clerk tabled the document for discussion. The Council are happy for this to be adopted and used to welcome new residents to the Village.
 Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded. Resolved – All in favour
- Item 75** **Tree strategy for Huntingdonshire – Tree maintenance program to be discussed** – The Council stated that the trees that are causing problems all are situated within the conservation area. The only tree that needs maintenance is the Plane tree outside the Village Hall and because this is a protected tree the Council are unable to carry out any work on it as stated by the District Council. They do not feel that a Tree warden co-ordinator will be able to help them with these problems. The Clerk is to respond to the letter submitted by the District Council.
- Item 76** **Connections Bus update** – See comments made in Chairman’s report
- Item 77** **War Memorial cleaning, repair and maintenance to be discussed** – The Clerk has received an email from Bluntisham Parish Clerk asking if Earith Parish Council will help with cleaning of the War Memorial. The Council considered the photographs supplied and feel that as the problem is caused by the overhanging trees and that it looks as if the green debris can be cleaned with water that this does not need to be carried out by a trained contractor but that it can be cleaned locally for no cost.
- Item 78** **Finance** – a) Payments to sign off
 b) Online Salary payments for June
 c) Chairman to sign bank statement

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 42 hrs. @ £15.672	658.2 2			LGHA1989,s.7
	Clerks Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
	Back Pay	6.51			LGHA1989,s.7
	Mobile Phone monthly rental not taxable	12.00			LGHA1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		562.76	online	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hours 5.5 @ £8.722	47.97			LGA1972,s.133
	Back Pay	1.40			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £8.722	21.81			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		69.98	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE May 2017		141.51	2930	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self-employed monthly contract		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting		405.00	2931	OSA 1906, s.10
Earith Town Estate	Rental of play area at Recreation field		750.00	2932	OSA 1906, s.10
Wicksteed Leisure	New play equipment Pond		9,993.62	2933	OSA 1906, ss.9 & 10
Earith Timber Products	Repair wooden fence Recreation field		150.00	2934	OSA 1906, ss.9 & 10
Microsoft	Office 365 monthly cost		5.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
CNG	Village Hall Gas monthly charge		57.51	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
Axis	Village Hall Electricity		23.67	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	Total Spend for May 2017		12,310.04		

- a) Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Mr Alan Spackman seconded that the payments should be signed off.
Resolved – All in Favour
- b) Online salary payments for June –Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr John Fulcher seconded that the payments should be made.
Resolved – All in favour
- c) Chairman to sign the bank statement to confirm the online salary payments for May as above
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Terry Rogers seconded that the Chairman should sign
Resolved – All in favour.

Item 79 Correspondence - All other correspondence as per the file

Item 80 Items for future meetings –Village Hall floor & chairs, WW1 commemoration, River Slip Ways, Community Defibrillator, LHI Report, Internal Auditor Report, Caretaker details

Meeting Dates 2017

Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 6th July
Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 3rd August
Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 7th September
Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 5th October
Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 2nd November
Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 7th December

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533
These minutes are unadopted

email mpinkearithpc@aol.com
Date of notice – 10th June 2017

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk