

# Earith Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

### Held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Present – Councillors

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)  
Mr Jeff Nicholls  
Mr Allan Till

Mr Alan Spackman  
Mr Keith Hudson  
Mrs Marilyn Russell

CC Mr Steve Criswell, DC Mr Mike Francis  
Mandy Pink – Clerk

approx. 45-50 members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman, Miss Ann Brennan, Vice Chairman took the Chair and opened the meeting

**Item 127 Apologies for absence** – Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman), Mr Gavin Young, Mr James Woolstenholmes, Mr John Fulcher, Mr Terry Rogers, DC Mr Robin Carter

#### Open Meeting

**Item 128 Open Forum** – Morelock radar speed feedback signs presentation by Jill Taylor – A demonstration of the mobile radar speed sign was given. The signs would need to be mobile and fitted to posts. They cannot be fitted to the standard Balfour Beatty lamp posts. The cost of the sign is £2,250.00 but the sign can be purchased and then used by several Parishes if Parish Partnerships are established. Several members of the public asked questions regarding the data capture elements of the sign. This is to be an agenda item for discussion by Council later in the meeting.

Approximately 35-40 members of the public were present to give comments on agenda item 135. Two residents were chosen to give comments on behalf of the Hereward and Darford residents present at the meeting

The resident speaking on behalf of Darford raised concerns over accessibility to the chosen site. A road for emergency vehicle access should be 3m in width and the access road in Darford is approximately 2.85m. Several residents also have access permissions stated in their house deeds relating to this area from Darford, Edwards Walk and Greenfields. If this is to be a one-way system then the access to Cooks Drove at one end of the road needs to cross a footpath and comes out almost on a blind bend with speed reduction cushions in both directions. Concerns were raised concerning the wildlife that exists in this area. General parking concerns were also raised as this car park is regularly used by residents from Darford, Edwards Walk and Greenfields.

The resident speaking on behalf of Hereward also expressed concerns over accessibility as the car park in Hereward is the only parking area for the bungalows. It is regularly used by approximately 14 – 20 resident vehicles plus any visitors. There are disabled home owners in Hereward who rely on this car parking facility. If they have to park in Cooks Drove or other roads near their homes then this will cause them severe hardship. Cooks Drove is also a bus route that has speed reduction cushions. The refuse lorries have to back down both Hereward and Darford as the road is not wide enough for them to turn.

Comments were also raised about Planning Application 17/01445/FUL – Old Riverview concerning the proposed change of use. The siting of the apartment was mentioned but this is an established part of the site at present and is not an additional dwelling space.

Comments were also raised about Planning Application 17/01617/FUL – Biomass Plant at Latta Farm. Concerns over the pollution caused by the burning of wood pellets and vehicle movements were noted.

**Item 129 Ecops Report** – The Clerk reported that a caravan stolen from Fenstanton was recovered in Earith and returned to its owner. There was a report of loose cows on the A1123 on the 8<sup>th</sup> August the police traced the owner who rounded them up and returned them to their field. There was a break in on Cooks Drove and it is not known what was stolen but enquiries are underway. Two young men were reported as acting suspiciously in Darford. When challenged they ran off. A white van ran over the foot of a young man working at an establishment on Earith High Street and did not stop. The details of the van have been given to police to trace the owner. There was an attempted break in to a garage and out buildings in Cooks Drove. Nothing was stolen but locks were damaged.

**Item 130 County Council and District Council Reports** – DC Mr Mike Francis reported on the HDC land proposal consultation (agenda item 135) and stated that both the ward Councillors are in full support of the village over their concerns. The car parks are essential to the Village.

CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that there are other makes and signs that can be used for speed data analysis and that the Council should consider all options. HCV movements in the village cannot be stopped and the A1123 Earith High Street is an “A” road and an “A” road is designed to keep vehicles moving so speed reduction measures need to be carefully considered. The cycleway from Bluntisham to Needingworth should hopefully be finalised as one legal agreement has already been signed and the other two agreements which are needed are waiting to be signed at this present time. The design of the cycleway

from Earith to Bluntisham is also under way and it has been decided to site the cycleway on the left-hand side of the road where the current pathway is. The current pathway will be removed and a new cycleway installed if the surveys prove to be positive. This cycleway must be completed before next spring. Shelfords Road going to Willingham has been marked up ready for repairs to be carried out.

**(Close open Meeting)**

**(Open closed section of Meeting)**

- Item 131 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted – none received**
- Item 132 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). Councillor Keith Hudson declared an interest in agenda item 135 and Councillor Jeff Nicholls declared an interest in agenda item 148.
- Item 133 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017**  
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the minutes should be signed.  
Resolved - All in favour.
- Item 134 Matters arising – None**
- Item 135 Land Disposal HDC – Hereward and Darford Car Parks –** The Council echoed the comments made in the open forum and voted to reject the proposal in the strongest possible terms. Both of the car parks are used regularly by a large number of households. There are access concerns with both sites. Disposing of the land will be harmful to village residents as the displaced cars will need to park on Cooks Drove and the surrounding roads such as Adelaide and Vermuyden. Parking in the village is a problem now as there is not enough available space for parking so taking away two large parking areas is not acceptable. The removal of the car parks will cause severe hardship to the elderly and disabled residents in this area. Car security is also an issue in these areas with Darford and Hereward regularly being mentioned in Ecops reports.  
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded to reject the proposal.  
Resolved – All in favour
- Item 136 Planning –** Application Reference 17/01445/FUL – change of use from dwelling house to house of multiple occupancy. Seven rooms and one apartment – Old Riverview Guesthouse 37 High Street  
The Council voted to accept this application as there is plenty of parking, there will be no changes to the street scene and the internal reorganisation of rooms will not be harmful to neighbours.  
Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the application is accepted  
Resolved – All in favour  
**Planning –** Application Reference 17/01772/TREE – T1 walnut reduce by 1-2m keep tree at manageable size for its space – 5 Cooks Drove.  
The Council voted to accept the works mentioned as a reduction of the canopy will encourage spread  
Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this application is approved.  
Resolved – All in favour  
**Planning –** Application Reference 17/01790/TREE – Fell 2 x willow trees due to rotten condition and are posing a threat to the public – Long Island Lake Caravan Park – Meadow Drove  
The Council voted to accept the works mentioned as the trees are damaged and need removing  
Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that this application is approved.  
Resolved – All in favour  
**Planning –** Application Reference – 17/01617/FUL – Installation of biomass Combined Heat and Power Plant – Bridge Farm – Holme Fen Drove  
The Council voted to accept this application with the following conditions to be applied  
Condition 1 – There must be a proven procedure for acceptable disposal of waste  
Condition 2 – Traffic movements to be restricted to one vehicle every other day  
Condition 3 – The applicant must ensure that any air pollution caused by the plant is not harmful to the environment  
Condition 4 – An independent environmental survey is to be completed prior to a final decision being made by the District Council to ensure that there will be no detrimental impact to the village and the environment  
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that this application is accepted with the conditions stated above applied.  
Resolved - All in favour
- Item 137 Chairman’s Report –** The Chairman reported that the District Council are recommending a three-year temporary permission for the siting of a residential mobile home at Plum Tree Farm. The request for a timber framed rest room has been withdrawn. As this is now a temporary permission then this can be

granted using delegated powers. The three-year term will run from when permission is granted and this is still in progress at the moment.

The Clerk has received an email from the Youth Bus team and they are not able to organise venue based activities at present. However, there is an active youth club on Thursday evenings at St Marys Church which is attended by Earith children.

The date for the postponed part two planning training session is now Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

There will also be a public meeting at Needingworth Village Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the 120-home housing development called Gladmans Land in Needingworth.

- Item 138 Parish Council Representatives Report –**  
**Road Safety and HCV** – There will be a Road Safety meeting next week and there is no date at present for the next HCV meeting  
**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – No report  
**Hanson update** – No report.  
**Saywell Charity** – No report  
**ERICA Update** – No report  
**Village Pond** – There is a broken fence post at the Pond. Miss Ann Brennan will arrange a repair  
**Allotments** – Deposit letters have been sent to allotment holders.  
**Skeeles update** – No report  
**Community Plan** – This will be an agenda item in October
- Health and Safety** – No report  
**PC Cluster Meetings** – No report  
**Ouse Valley Way update** – No report  
**Rights of Way** – No report  
**Earith Town Estate** – No report  
**Village Car Parks** – No report
- Item 139 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made** – Councillor Nicholls reported that a visit had been made to 5 Bridge End but could not get a response. The Clerk is to write a letter about the overhanging shrubbery. New visit to be made to 102 Greenfields regarding an overgrown tree.
- Item 140 Drains, Roads and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – Councillor Russell reported that a repair had been carried out to the drain grid at the entrance to Waterhaven but the condition of the grid is still poor and the repair has not made any difference. There have still not been any repairs carried out to the drain grid at the old dairy. There is also a manhole cover outside 25 Colne Road that needs repairs.
- Item 141 Environmental testing** – The Clerk reminded the Council of the comments that were made at the last meeting concerning a cost for four tubes to be positioned in Earith to capture Nitrogen Dioxide for environmental testing. The cost of the tubes is £38.00.  
 Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that environmental testing is needed.  
 Resolved – All in favour
- Item 142 LHI Bid 2018 – suggestions to be put forward** – The Council debated this issue and suggestions were made to look at more speed reduction measures in the High Street. There was also a suggestion for a footpath to be built in Cooks Drove from St Marys to Meadow Way and then the rest of Cooks Drove if monies allowed. An elderly resident had requested this a few years back but at that time it was not really considered to be viable as a LHI bid however Councillor Steve Criswell has looked into this further and informed the resident that a bid could be looked on more favourable now as Council policies had been updated. The Council voted to put in an LHI bid for a footpath from St Marys to Meadow Way on Cooks Drove.  
 Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the bid should be made.  
 Resolved – All in favour
- Item 143 Local Highway Initiative Bid proposal to be discussed** – The Clerk has not received any new plans so this will remain an agenda item in October.
- Item 144 Morelock Radar Speed Feedback signs to be discussed** – Further to the presentation in the Open Forum the Council have asked the Clerk to look into what other signs are currently available as the Morelock sign cannot be placed on Balfour Beatty lamp columns. The Clerk is also to try and find a partner Council to share the costs with as the signs must be mobile and cannot be static it would be sensible to share this with another Council if possible.
- Item 145 Caretaker – Update** – The Clerk has posted the vacancy on the Parish Noticeboards, Parish Website and has also notified the Newsletter Subscribers but so far, no responses have been received. An advert is to be placed in the next edition of the Earith Echo.
- Item 146 Play park repairs to be considered** – The Clerk did not have the relevant paperwork to hand so this has been moved to the October agenda.

- Item 147 Trees in the village – Application for tree work to the London Plane Tree** – The Clerk is to complete an application form for tree work to the London Plane Tree. The canopy is to be reduced and the overhanging lower branches are to be removed.
- Item 148 Trees in the village – Resident’s concerns over damage to trees in School Road** – The Clerk has received an email from a concerned resident as damage has been carried out to two trees on School Road. Councillor Spackman will carry out a visit to speak to the resident who has been seen to be carrying out damage to find out what has been going on. If Councillor Spackman cannot resolve the issue then the Clerk is to write formerly to the resident.
- Item 149 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off  
b) Online Salary payments for September  
c) Chairman to sign bank statement

Payee	Description		£	Chq	Powers
Mrs K M Pink	Clerks Wages 42 hrs. @ £15.672	658.22			LGHA1989,s.7
	Clerks Expenses	25.00			LGA 1963, s.5
	Mobile Phone monthly rental not taxable	12.00			LGHA1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		558.23	online	
Mrs C Shook	Caretaker hours 5.5 @ £8.722	47.97			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £8.722	21.81			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		68.78	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE August 2017		138.43	2945	LGA1972,s.112-119
Mr M S Pink	Parish Handyman – self-employed monthly contract		150.00	online	LGA1953,s.4
MSP Services	Grass Cutting		750.00	2946	OSA 1906, s.10
Create Signs	Signs at pond and rec play area		69.60	2947	OSA 1906, s.10
Viking	Cleaning products for Village Hall		53.21	2948	LGA 1972, s.133
Earith Echo	Earith Echo issue 44		220.00	2949	LGA 1972, s.133
Zurich Municipal	Additional cost for new equipment		72.09	2950	LGA 1972, s.111
Playinnovation	MUGA maintenance work		7800.00	2951	OSA 1906, ss.9&10
Earith Timber Products	Wood for pond and post for memorial		40.20	2952	OSA 1906, ss.9&10
Cambridge ACRE	Membership Renewal		54.00	2953	LGA 1972, s.143
Bluntisham Garage	Milk and Biscuits Planning Training		4.00	Dcard	LGA 1972, s.133
Microsoft	Office 365 monthly cost		5.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
CNG	Village Hall Gas monthly charge		17.80	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
Axis	Village Hall Electricity		25.83	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	<b>Total Spend for August 2017</b>		<b>£10,028.16</b>		

- a) Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the payments should be signed off.  
Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for September –Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell 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 August as above  
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mrs Marilyn Russell seconded that the Chairman should sign  
Resolved – All in favour

**Item 150 Correspondence** – Email correspondence from resident concerning bus timetables and roads. All other correspondence as per the file.

**Item 151 Items for future meetings** –Village Hall floor & chairs, WW1 commemoration, River Slip Ways, Morelock radar speed feedback signs, Caretaker, Allotment deposits, Community Plan for October, Play park repairs, LHI current proposal

Mrs Mandy Pink – Clerk 07717 207 533  
These minutes are unadopted  
Email: mpinkearithpc@aol.com

Meeting Dates 2017

Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

www.earithparishcouncil.org.uk

Date of Notice – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017