

**Earith Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017**

Present – Councillors

Mr John Fulcher (Chairman)  
 Mrs Julie Seamark  
 Mr Jeff Nicholls  
 Mr Allan Till  
 Mr Terry Rogers

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)  
 Mr Alan Spackman  
 Mr Keith Hudson  
 Mrs Marilyn Russell

DC Mr Robin Carter, DC Mr Mike Francis  
 Mandy Pink – Clerk

4 members of the public

The Present Chairman opens the meeting and welcomes the Councillors, members of the public and then invites nominations for the new Chairman

**Item 176 Election of Chairman** - The vote takes place

Mr Jeff Nicholls Proposed and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that Mr John Fulcher should be declared Chairman. Resolved – All in favour

The New Chairman takes the Chair and signs their acceptance of office form

Thanks were given to the outgoing Chairman for her period of office

**Item 177 Apologies for absence** – Mr Gavin Young, Mr James Woolstenholmes, CC Mr Steve Criswell**Open Meeting****Item 178 Open Forum** – A brief presentation was given by the applicant in support of planning application 17/02023/FUL agenda item 185

A village resident asked the Council to consider asking Mick George if he can implement a 20mph zone in Earith along Colne Road and Earith High Street for his vehicles as seen in Somersham. It was also suggested that letters be sent to other haulage companies in the area. This is to be an agenda item in December.

It was also requested that the Council provide funding for the planting of Bluebells in the wood at the edge of the Village. This area of woodland does not belong to the Council and is part of the Minnaar Estate.

**Item 179 Ecops Report** – The Clerk and Chairman reported that there have been some instances of fraud concerning BT and PayPal. Please be vigilant if phone calls or emails are received from these companies requesting bank details. A stolen car has been burnt out at Earith High Bridge. The police have cleared away a large amount of glass and debris from George Corner, presumably following a road traffic collision. There has been an attempted break in of a van on School Road and police helicopters were scrambled following a stolen car being driven in Darford which was later recovered.**Item 180 County Council and District Council Reports** – DC Mr Mike Francis reported that the Development Management Panel are experiencing conflicts over allowing planning permissions and the housing supply numbers. The Parish should seriously consider the HELAA consultation at agenda item 195. DC Mr Robin Carter reported that he would again look into the tree maintenance problems in Greenfields and would investigate why the car park at the Village Hall had still not been maintained. The trees in Greenfields are on three areas of grass outside No.s 17-19, 90-94 and 148-150 Greenfields.**(Close open Meeting)****(Open closed section of Meeting)****Item 181 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted** – none received**Item 182 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). No declaration made.**Item 183 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on** – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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

- Item 184 Matters arising – None**
- Item 185 Planning – Application Reference 17/01948/S73 – Removal of condition 3 imposed on application ref 17/00163/FUL – Plum Tree Farm, Colne Road, Earith**  
 Condition 3 relates to the applicant moving onto mains sewerage as opposed to using the septic tank already on site. The Council stated that, as this application is only for a temporary period of three years, this condition would put added financial burden on the applicant which is not needed on a temporary permission. The development has managed adequately over the last three-year period with the septic tank and permanent links to mains sewerage are not needed for a temporary permission such as this one. Mrs Julie Seamark proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the application is accepted to remove condition 3. Resolved – All in favour  
 Planning – Application Reference 17/02023/FUL – Change of use of building to a dwelling on a permanent basis – Earith Carp Lakes, Meadow Drove, Earith  
 The Council voted to accept this application as the building is already in use for residential purposes and the development does not cause any harm to the environment or to neighbours.  
 Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the application is approved.  
 Resolved – All in favour
- Item 186 Chairman’s Report –** The Chairman began his report by thanking Mrs Julie Seamark for her dedication and leadership of the Council over her seven-year period of Chairmanship. Her support to the Clerk has been very much appreciated and has enabled a lot of behind the scenes work to be completed smoothly and efficiently. He also issued a reminder to the Council regarding the Remembrance Day services.
- Item 187 Parish Council Representatives Report –**  
**Road Safety and HCV –** No report  
**Recreation Field and Play Equipment –** The liners for the rubbish bins at the recreation field have gone missing. Councillor Brennan thought that the home owner on the corner of Cooks drove may have them as he has posted something on Facebook.  
**Health and Safety –** No report  
**PC Cluster Meetings –** No report  
**Ouse Valley Way update –** No report  
**Rights of Way –** No report  
**Allotments –** 1 half plot & 3 quarter plots currently vacant  
**Skeeles update –** No report  
**Community Plan –** No report  
**Hanson update –** No report  
**Saywell Charity –** No report  
**ERICA Update –** No report  
**Village Pond –** No report  
**Earith Town Estate –** No report  
**Village Car Parks –** No report
- Item 188 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made –** Visit needed to check an overgrown tree at the bottom of St Marys in front of the garages. The Clerk reported that HDC will allow maintenance work to the London Plane Tree to be carried out.
- Item 189 Drains, Roads and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken –** Councillors Russell and Till reported again that the ironworks in the pavement at the entrance to Waterhaven and the Old Dairy have not been repaired.
- Item 190 Community Plan Update –** Councillor Russell tabled the updated Community Plan results before the Council who have agreed that more information/formatting of the document should be made. Councillor Russell is to forward the document to all Councillors once she has made some small adjustments to the text and this will be looked at again in December.
- Item 191 Local Highway Initiative Bid proposal to be discussed –** Councillors Brennan, Nicholls, Russell and Till all attended a site visit with the CC Highways Officer and it was concluded that option 3 composing of a raised 1.5m thermoplastic island should be installed at Bridge End along with some speed limit changes, gates to the entrance and road markings. However, the Clerk had not yet received the updated proposals from the County Council so, the Parish Council could not make a firm decision until new plans and costings have been received. It was agreed that the Clerk is to provisionally accept the proposal, but a firm decision will only be given once costings have been received in December.  
 Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Clerk can provisionally accept.  
 Resolved – All in favour
- Item 192 Radar Speed Feedback signs to be discussed –** The Clerk has received some further information from Wistow Parish Clerk, Cambridge County Council and Balfour Beatty and has received three costings however, costings for posts etc are still needed so this will be an agenda item in January. A provisional cost of £5000 is to be added to the budget.

**Item 193a Caretaker – Update** – The Clerk has not received any applications for this post. However, some maintenance work is needed in the Hall and Mr Alan Spackman will look into this. He has signed volunteer paperwork to enable him to carry out maintenance jobs within the Village.

**Item 193b Resident’s concerns regarding the Pond Area, problems with trees and fences to be discussed** – Councillor Spackman has still not been able to view the Silver Birch tree, so he will make a further visit. The Clerk is to ask the Tree Officer to visit the site to assess the tree with Councillor Spackman.

**Item 194 Allotment Deposit Proposal to be discussed** – The Clerk reported the comments made by allotment owners following the proposal to charge a deposit of £25.00 per plot to cover the cost of clearance on termination. 64% of plot owners declared that they were not in agreement with the charge, 9% of plots are vacant and 18% of tenants declined to comment, 4% said yes and 5% said yes to new tenants only and 11 different options have been suggested by plot owners to the Council. As the majority vote was “no” to the deposit the Council agreed to not charge anything at this time. However, a new clause is to be added to all new tenancy agreements to state that any plot that is left untidy by the tenant on termination of the plot will be charged a clearance fee and if this charge is not forthcoming then action will be taken out against the tenant at the Council’s discretion.

Mr Alan Spackman has agreed to sort out the vacant overgrown plots currently on the site now. As there are currently no Earith residents on the Allotment waiting list the Clerk will ask if residents in Colne or Bluntisham are interested in a plot.

**Item 195 HELAA Consultation deadline 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – The Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment has resulted in several new development sites being proposed in the surrounding villages. Three new sites have been put forward in Needingworth and one has been declared unsuitable. This could result in approximately 164 new homes. Four new sites and one new proposal for gypsy/traveller pitches have been put forward in Somersham and one has been declared unsuitable. This could result in approximately 226 new homes and 2 new pitches. Seven new sites have been put forward in Bluntisham and three of these have been declared unsuitable. This could result in approximately 252 new homes. A total of 642 new homes in the three closest villages to Earith.

The Council discussed this at length and have agreed that comments should be made reflecting Earith’s objection to these new sites due to the major impact on the roads and traffic movements, impact on Infrastructure, sewerage, electricity. The developments are not sustainable as there is very limited public transport, Doctors facilities. The extra traffic and homes will result in more pollution of air particulates and the progressive build schedules will mean an increase in heavy vehicle/build equipment over an extended period. The Clerk is to report these objections prior to the deadline of the consultation.

**Item 196 Aviva Community Fund** – Councillor Till has submitted a project for playground repairs to the Aviva Community Fund. Votes are needed by the public to enable the project to move to the next stage of the grant funding. £200 will be made available just for submitting an entry.

**Item 197 New Budget and Precept for 2018 – 2019 to be agreed** – The Clerk had previously tabled the draft budget to Councillors in October for consideration. The Council debated various subject headings and a general rise of 4% was agreed. £180 is to be added for electoral services and £500 for allotment maintenance. £820 reduction in grass cutting and £300 reduction for misc. hedges and paths. highway improvements reduced by £3000. This money will still be released from reserves.

Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Clerk should make the adjustments noted and a precept rise of 4% should be submitted. Resolved – All in favour

**Item 173 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off  
b) Online Salary payments for November  
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 October 2017		138.43	2960	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	2961	OSA 1906, s.10
Wicksteed Leisure	New Play equipment at the Pond		2130.72	2962	OSA 1906, ss 9&10

					<b>Page 30</b>
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection Oct-Dec 17		58.50	2963	Litter Act 1983,ss5,6
White Plumbing	Repairs to radiators in Village Hall		72.00	2964	LGHA 1972, s.133
Fast Hosts	Domain name Registration 2 years		16.78	Dcard	LGHA 1972, s.266
Bluntisham Garage	Milk and Biscuits Planning Training		1.89	Dcard	LGHA 1972, s.133
Microsoft	Office 365 monthly cost		5.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
CNG	Village Hall Gas monthly charge		29.75	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
Axis	Village Hall Electricity		25.28	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
<b>Total Spend for October 2017</b>			<b>£3,661.35</b>		

- a) Mr Terry Rogers proposed and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that the payments should be signed off.  
Resolved – All in favour
- b) Online salary payments for November –Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Terry Rogers 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 October as above  
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded. Resolved – All in favour

**Item 199 Correspondence** – The Clerk had received correspondence from Mick George concerning the new road proposals which are still in progress and the possibility of a site visit which is being considered. Updates would follow. Remembrance Day service dates have been reported by the Chairman in his report. Requests have been made by Village Hall users for maintenance to be carried out to the toilet seat and the sticking disabled toilet door.

**Item 200 Items for future meetings** –Village Hall floor & chairs, WW1 commemoration, River Slip Ways, Radar speed feedback signs in January, Caretaker, Community Plan, 20mph speed limits, St Ives Town Council Bus Services Proposal, Neighbourhood Plan, Data Protection, LPCAS subscription, Fire protection suggestions for the Village Hall, LHI Bid final proposals, Positioning of Security Lights, Review of maintenance in the Village in January.

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

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**Meeting Dates**

**Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018**

**Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

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

**Date of Notice – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017**