

**Earith Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017**

Present – Councillors

Mrs Julie Seamark (Chairman)  
 Mr Jeff Nicholls  
 Mr Allan Till  
 Mrs Marilyn Russell

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)  
 Mr Keith Hudson  
 Mr Terry Rogers  
 Mr Alan Spackman

CC Mr Steve Criswell  
 Mandy Pink - Clerk

6 members of the public

**Item 102 Apologies for absence** – Mr Gavin Young, Mr James Woolstenholmes, Mr John Fulcher, DC Mr Robin Carter and DC Mr Mike Francis

**Open Meeting**

**Item 103 Open Forum** – Morelock radar speed feedback signs report by Gill Taylor moved to September. A village resident gave a report on environmental testing and asked if the Parish Council can support the installation of four tubes to measure air pollutants. This is to be agenda item for September  
 A village resident gave a report on traffic issues in the Village which are resulting in an increase in air pollution and coastal and river flooding. It was requested that the Parish Council make comments concerning these items now that the consultation is still open concerning the Local Plan 2036. The Clerk and Councillor Nicholls are attending a seminar regarding the Local Plan on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> August and a report will be given at the September meeting.

**Item 104 Ecops Report** – The Clerk reported that there had been a collision involving a car and a pick-up truck at Bridge End. No injuries but the driver of the pick-up was asked to take a breath-alcohol test at the roadside and it was positive and he was taken into custody. Also at Bridge End a loose horse was reported to be causing a hazard to traffic and to itself and the police corralled it in the play area at the Recreation Field overnight until a charity could come and take the horse to a sanctuary. A road traffic accident was reported on the A1123 near to Earith and two injured people were taken to hospital. There was also a report of a violent disturbance in the street in Greenfields. When the police attended the scene all was quiet, house to house investigations were carried out and an investigation is continuing.

**Item 105 County Council and District Council Reports** – CC Mr Steve Criswell reported that the bus service number 21 was being withdrawn from the village but the County Council are looking to engage another contractor to take on the route. The placement of the cycleway is still being discussed. Councillor Hudson asked if white lining will be installed in Meadow Way and Councillor Criswell responded that white lining is not added to village estate roads. Councillors Spackman and Seamark asked about repairs to the Willingham Road and Chatteris Road and these roads are surveyed each month for damage and will be repaired when the damage meets the County Council criteria for repairs. Councillor Brennan asked again if the road signs at George Corner can be reinstated following damage caused to them by lorries using this junction. Councillor Criswell will report this. Councillor Russell commented that there could be potentially more children moving to the village but the primary school does not have enough funding to provide a new teacher. Councillor Criswell reported that the numbers of children needing school places will establish the amount of funding that the School can apply for and if sufficient numbers of children move to the village then funding can be applied for.  
 Councillor Criswell also reported on behalf of the District Council that a new leader had been appointed, Mr Bull and that the Council voted against the proposal to combine leadership of the Fire and Police services in the District.

**(Close open Meeting)**

**(Open closed section of Meeting)**

**Item 106 Code of Conduct – Dispensation received and decisions granted** – none received

**Item 107 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 declarations received.

**Item 108 To sign minutes of Parish Council meeting held on** – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
 Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Miss Ann Brennan seconded that the minutes should be signed.  
 Resolved - All in favour.

- Item 109 Matters arising** – Mr Jeff Nicholls reported that no new tree visits had been made but maintenance had been carried out to those properties that he had managed to visit along with Councillor Spackman.
- Item 110 Planning** – Application Reference 17/00529/S73 – Variation or removal of condition 5 of application 16/01482/FUL – 6 Savannah cats – 1A Hereward, Earith  
The Parish Council voted to reject this application for variation of condition 5 as this condition was imposed by the District Council to enable the original application to be accepted although the Parish Council had originally rejected the application. Therefore, if the District Council imposed the condition in the first place then they should uphold their original condition. Neighbours have also made comments concerning the noise of the cats and pet cats are normally kept within the family home and not in a cattery at the end of the garden  
Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the application is rejected  
Resolved – All in favour  
**Planning** – Application Reference 17/01428/HHFUL – Single storey extension (porch and store) – 54 Greenfields, Earith.  
The Council commented that there had already been a lot of development to this site but the site is large. The new development will not over extend the existing building line and it will allow the family more amenity space. It will not harm the environment.  
Mr Alan Spackman proposed and Mr Terry Rogers seconded that this application is approved.  
Resolved – All in favour
- Item 111 Chairman's Report** – The Chairman would like to thank all the villagers who have carried out maintenance to their trees and hedges that border roads and pathways. The Clerk has received notification that Earith Parish Council have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Rural Fund of £1775 for a new see saw at the Pond Play area. The Council had originally applied for a grant from the A14 Improvements Fund but this was not successful but a new donor had come forward and as the application criteria covered the new donor's requirements for grants the grant was approved. Maintenance work is currently under way to the MUGA pitch at the Recreation Field and rubber inserts have been placed in between the panels to help alleviate noise reverberation. New lining has been completed and replacement back boards should be installed next week. These improvements have been carried out following receipt of open space monies from the District Council generated from the building of the rural exception site at the end of Hermitage.  
The Christmas tree lights that are placed in the London Plane tree outside the Village Hall have been vandalised and repairs are to be discussed at agenda item 122.  
The Clerk has arranged two planning training events on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August and six Earith Councillors will attend along with other Councillors from the surrounding villages.  
There is also a planning committee meeting at the District Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> August.
- Item 112 Parish Council Representatives Report** –  
**Road Safety and HCV** – Councillors Nicholls and Till attended the Road Safety meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> July and the use of a true cam device was discussed which allows vehicles to be filmed and speeds reported. This is a hand-held device that needs to be operated by a PCSO for legal enforcement to be carried out. Councillor Nicholls attended the HCV meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> July and a document highlighting traffic speeds collated over a 24-hour period along with some historic information was tabled.  
**Recreation Field and Play Equipment** – No report  
**Health and Safety** – No report  
**Hanson update** – No report.  
**PC Cluster Meetings** – No report  
**Saywell Charity** – No report  
**Ouse Valley Way update** – a resident has reported that the area near the kissing gate needs some attention and the Chairman will visit the site to assess.  
**ERICA Update** – Health and Safety paperwork is still to be completed  
**Rights of Way** – No report  
**Village Pond** – some volunteer clearance work has been undertaken at the pond area and any new volunteers are required to complete volunteer paperwork.  
**Allotments** – No report see agenda item 116  
**Skeeles update** – No report  
**Earith Town Estate** – No report  
**Community Plan** – The detailed responses have now been collated into an abridged version and an email was forwarded to all Councillors for consideration. This will be an agenda item in October  
**Village Car Parks** – No report
- Item 113 Trees and hedges to report for action to be taken and updates on visits already made**– Councillor Spackman reported that the laurel bush at 6 School Road is not really a problem but a visit is still to be made to Bridge End. A new report of overhanging shrubs at 187 Greenfields is to be looked at.

- Item 114 Drains, Roads and Pavements – including advisory notes re car parking – reports for action to be taken** – The drain covers along the High Street from George Corner to 101 still need to be repaired. The Clerk is to email County Councillor Mr Steve Criswell to ask him to investigate.
- Item 115 Community Defibrillator** –The Clerk has carried out investigations into the best way to proceed with obtaining a Community Defibrillator. You can either purchase the machine outright and then the ownership, insurance and governance of the equipment rests solely with the Council or you can take on a managed (leased) solution whereby the ownership, governance and insurance rests with the supplier although the Council will need to carry out monthly checks on the equipment. There is also an annual subscription that can be taken out to purchase spares etc. This managed solution runs for a period of four years and it will then need to be renewed after four years. The Chairman has been in consultation with the Doctors surgery to see if the equipment can be placed on the front of the surgery building as this is a midway point in the village and is known by all. A power source will need to be arranged but costs are in the region of £20.00 per year. This can be arranged if the surgery is agreeable to the placement. The cost is £1995.00 for a four-year lease and the annual subscription is £126.00. Mr Jeff Nicholls proposed and Mr Keith Hudson seconded that the Clerk can organise the installation of a managed solution if the site can be agreed with the Doctors Surgery.  
Resolved – All in favour
- Item 116 Allotment deposits for new plots – Decision to charge to be discussed** – The Clerk has received correspondence from an allotment tenant to ask if deposits can be charged for new plots to ensure that they are worked and maintained and not left to overgrow. The Council discussed this proposal and agreed that the Clerk should include a letter to all tenants along with the yearly rental invoice to ask the allotment tenants if they agree with this proposal as the Council feel that all tenants, existing and new, should be charged. The figure to charge was set at £25.00 which will be held in a deposit account and returned when the plot is vacated and left in a clear state. Responses will be collated and presented to the Council when received.
- Item 117 Local Highway Initiative Bid proposal to be discussed** – The Clerk has received the current proposals from the County Council to be discussed. The Parish Council are not in agreement with the proposals and have requested that the Clerk invites the Highways Officer to attend the next meeting to discuss the proposals and to quantify what can be achieved to alleviate speed reduction in the Village.
- Item 118 Morelock Radar Speed Feedback signs to be discussed** – This item has been moved to the September meeting for discussion
- Item 119 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 and on the Earith Facebook page and on Gum Tree.
- Item 120 Dog Control Orders – New rules – Clerk to report** – The District Council have asked the Parish Council to provide comments on the proposal to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which will replace the current Dog Control Orders. It is not proposed that any of the current Dog Control Order terms and conditions change in any way but it is proposed that a new District-wide control be introduced which will require a person in control of a dog to pick up and remove its faeces and that upon request by the Police or Council Officer the person must demonstrate that they have a bag or similar object to allow them to do so. Breaches of the new PSPO will attract a standard Fixed Penalty Notice to be agreed by the District Council. The Parish Council agreed with all the proposals specified and gave full support to this initiative.
- Item 121 Play Park Inspections to be discussed** – The Clerk is to send images to Wicksteed of the swing bearings and rocking horse seats to get a quotation for spares. A cost has already been obtained for play safe paint at £20 + carriage for 1 litre or £95.50 + carriage for 5 litres. Primer undercoat may also be needed at the same costs as above. It was also suggested that cable ties are positioned along the top of the swing frames to deter birds. If the rocking horse is to be painted then the swings frames at the pond and recreation field should also be painted at the same time.
- Item 122 Christmas lights to be replaced due to vandalism** – The lights in the London Plane tree have been vandalised and need to be repaired. It is hoped that repairs can be carried out to the damaged stretch of cabling only. The Clerk is to ask the Somersham Christmas Tree Lights Committee for advice and to see if they can carry out a site visit. The Clerk is to also email the District Council regarding maintenance to the London Plane Tree.
- Item 123 External Auditor Report to be noted**– The Clerk reported that the Annual Return has been returned by the External Auditor as an unqualified return which means that there are no areas for concern.

- Item 124 Finance** – a) Payments to sign off  
b) Online Salary payments for August  
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 6.5 @ £8.722	56.69			LGA1972,s.133
xx	Booking Clerk 2.5hrs @ £8.722	21.81			LGHA 1989,s.7
	Total Less Tax		75.90	online	
Inland Revenue	PAYE July 2017		140.47	2939	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	2940	OSA 1906, s.10
MSP Services	Maintenance at Bridge End – Bin Installation		95.00	2940	OSA 1906, s.10
MSP Services	Hedge work and tree pollarding at the pond area		680.00	2940	PHA 1936, s.260
MSP Services	Maintenance to fallen tree and weed killer		240.00	2940	PHA 1936, s.260
Seagrave Inspection Services	Playground Inspections x 2		213.60	2941	OSA 1906, s.260
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Auditor Charge		360.00	2942	LGA 1972, s.226
Hunts DC	Commercial Waste Collection July – Sept		58.50	2943	Litter Act 1983, s.s 5,6
Viking	Stationery		46.78	2944	LGA 1972, s.226
RS Components	Metal cable ties for signs		22.16	Dcard	LGA 1972, s.133
Information Commissioner	Renewal of data protection registration		35.00	Dcard	LGA 1972, s.288
Microsoft	Office 365 monthly cost		5.99	DD	LGHA 1972, s.266
CNG	Village Hall Gas monthly charge		206.79	DD	LGHA 1972, s.133
Axis	Village Hall Electricity		20.75	DD	LGHA1972,s.133
	<b>Total Spend for July 2017</b>		<b>£3,135.28</b>		

- a) Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the payments should be signed off.  
Resolved – Mr Alan Spackman was not in favour of signing the payments but all other Councillors voted in favour
- b) Online salary payments for August –Miss Ann Brennan 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 July as above  
Mr Keith Hudson proposed and Mr Jeff Nicholls seconded that the Chairman should sign  
Resolved – All in favour.

**Item 125 Correspondence** - All other correspondence as per the file – includes Bus Service information

**Item 126 Items for future meetings** –Village Hall floor & chairs, WW1 commemoration, River Slip Ways, Community Defibrillator, Morelock radar speed feedback signs, Caretaker, Allotment deposits. Community Plan for October, Local Plan 2036 Consultation, Environmental testing

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

**Meeting Dates 2017**

Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 7th September  
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

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