

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) Held on Monday 23rd April 2018

Present

Councillors

Mr John Fulcher – Chairman

Mr Jeff Nicholls

Mrs Marilyn Russell

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chairman)

Mr Allan Till

Public

Mr Ian Smith – Earith Town Estate

Mrs Broughton – Earith Day Care and Friendship Club

Police Sgt Andy Street

Mrs Sian Pritchard – Earith Primary School

10 members of the public

Mrs Mandy Pink – Parish Clerk

Apologies for Absence – Mr Terry Rogers, Mr Alan Spackman, Mr Keith Hudson.

Item 1 Chairman's Report – Mr John Fulcher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for attending. He stated that any Parish Council news can be found on the new website and that the Parish Council meetings are open to all to attend if you are interested in any topics which are shown on the Agenda. The Parish Council do want to make the meetings accessible to all and agendas are displayed on the village noticeboards and can also be emailed to those that are on the email subscription list.

Item 2 Police Report – Police Sgt Mr Andy Street reported that crime is generally down by 2% in the Ward of Needingworth; which includes Earith and there had been 8 crimes of note within the village in the last four months and only 2 complaints of anti-social behaviour. There have also been three road related incidents.

Item 3 School Governors Report – Mrs Sian Pritchard (shared Headmistress) reported that there was no board of governors supporting the school at this present time. There are currently 83 children spanning 3 classes that include all age ranges. Funding is difficult, and the school is not able to fulfil the role of a full time Head of School however, the school has joined together with Kingsfield and has become part of the Active Learning Trust since January. This means that her time is split between both schools as a non-teaching member of staff. The catchment secondary school remains as the Abbey in Ramsey, but parents are now choosing to send their children to other secondary schools in the area, notably Cromwell and St Ivo. The school is now running with a stable staff which gives the children continuity in their learning curriculum.

Item 4 Reports from Parish Charities – Reports were given from:

Skeeles Education Charity no 311817 – The new Chairman did not provide a report, but Mrs Broughton commented that three students had received funding and a donation was given to the Primary School.

Rectors Hall Earith – No report provided

Earith Town Estate – Mr Ian Smith Chairman of the Earith Town Estate reported that they currently hold approximately £25,000 in the trust fund which was set up to provide a playing field for the Village. The annual income is about £1,700 which is accrued through rental of the play area to the Parish Council and interest from the fund. The operating costs of cutting the grass and running the Pavilion are more than this so the trustees have had to eat into the main body of the fund for revenue. This year will see some much-needed maintenance to the fencing and the Pavilion. The football team can no longer sustain a playing side, so they have disbanded.

Earith Day Care and Friendship Club by Mrs Broughton – The Earith Day Care and Friendship Club meets every Wednesday in the Village Hall and has been running for over 30 years. One founding member who joined in 1987 is now over 91. The club has had a successful year with three new members and no losses. Arts and Crafts, board games and pub lunches are all on offer. Dews Coaches collected the members and they enjoyed a trip to Yarmouth. A lovely day was had by all. Some members even braved a

paddle. The club celebrated with two Christmas lunches as the Lounge Café in Bluntisham which provides the normal meals for the Club provided a lovely Christmas Lunch and they also had one at the Green Man pub in Colne. The Club is self-funding and receives funding from the Rotary Club and from the Parish Council who provide the Hall as a venue for the Club to meet in. During the icy weather this year all members of the Club and other elderly members of the Village were all checked up on and had their prescriptions collected as well as other items and had hospital transport organised for them from the committee members of the Club. In February the Club enjoyed food tasting and music making with a Ukulele and in March ten members enjoyed a mystery tour. Future activities include keep fit with chair bound exercises, beauty treatments and a trip to Thursford.

Samuel Saywell Church Causeway Charity – no report provided as the trustees have not had a meeting this year.

Item 5 Reports from Parish Organizations - The New Chairwoman of the WI was unable to attend the meeting, so a WI audience member stated that the WI was going from strength to strength and included all ages and was lots of fun.

Item 6 Questions from the Floor – A village resident reported that the Duck Pond was covered with Duck Weed and she asked if the Parish Council could help with this matter. The Council have been looking into this and Councillor Spackman is leading this project. Manual removal had been investigated and it was thought that the Duck Weed was too intensive to be removed by hand and that chemicals may be needed but the resident was eager to try manual removal before the use of chemicals was explored. She would try to put together a team of volunteers. The Clerk will provide volunteer paperwork.

A village resident also commented that the pavements along Colne Road in particular but also elsewhere in the village are very muddy and the drains are also filling up. The Clerk reported that all the drains along Colne Road are on the CCC schedule for maintenance this year. She also reported that HDC had sent a sweeper out to clean the pavement. A resident suggested that it may be an idea to contact Mick George and ask him to send a sweeper out as well.

A village resident asked the Chairman to clarify what the procedure was for public speaking at the Parish Council meetings. He deferred this question to the Clerk for procedural matters and she reported that the public can speak at the Open Forum of every meeting and can also ask the District and County Councillors questions during this part of the meeting but when the meeting is closed for Parish Council business to be attended too the Public are not permitted to speak unless requested to do so by the Chairman. He also asked what the Council would do now that the results of the Community Plan have been distributed to the Village. The Chairman again deferred to the Clerk for an answer. The Clerk stated that the Council will consider the points raised in the Community Plan that they have an ability to deal with. Many items such as speeding, and parking are not the responsibility of the Parish.

A village resident asked why the Parish Council accounts are not present to be inspected and wanted to know what items of expenditure are currently outstanding. The Clerk stated that the Parish accounts have not yet been finalised by the Council. They will be signed off in May. The Public have a right to inspect the accounts and a notice will be posted shortly regarding inspection dates. The Parish Council operate a receipts and payments account and as such only report what payments have been made and what receipts have been received during the year. Budgets and future spend are always dealt with later in the year when the precept is set in November/December.

A village resident thanked the Council and the Clerk for the work that they have done for the Village this year.

A village resident asked if the Council had any updates regarding the River Island, but no reports have been made.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

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These minutes are unadopted

Clerk – Mrs Mandy Pink – 5th May 2018