

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) held on Thursday 18th April 2024

Present Councillors

Miss Ann Brennan (Vice Chair)

Mr Jeff Nicholls

Ms Hazel Lambert

Public - 3 members of the public

Mrs Mandy Pink – Parish Clerk

Apologies for Absence – Mr Steve Edwards – (Chairman), Mr Allan Till, Mr Nick Tindall

In the absence of the Parish Council Chair, Miss Ann Brennan, Vice Chair preceded over the meeting.

The chair opened the meeting, and it was decided that Agenda items 4&5 would be dealt with first as representatives needed to leave early to attend another meeting in the Village.

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

Skeeles Education Charity no 311817 – Skeeles is an educational charity that provides bursaries for books to students in unfunded further education. The application forms are printed in the Earith Echo. Nine bursaries were awarded this year including an award for the school. Interest rates have risen so more funding was made available. The Charity is made up of seven trustees, including the new vicar.

Samuel Saywell Church Causeway Charity – No report

Earith Town Estate Charity – No report

Item 5 - Reports from Parish Organizations -

Earith Women's Institute – Following the move from the Village Hall to Rectors Hall the group have held various events and meetings throughout the year and have listened to interesting and varied speakers. Visits to the Papworth Brewery and Haddenham Arts Centre along with others have proved popular. However, the March 2024 meeting was the last for the WI group. The structural needs of the WI did not suit the members who preferred a more relaxed format, and the WI was formally disbanded. A new group called the 3rd Thursday Club will continue without the restraints of a national organisation. There will be interesting talks and presentations along with outings and social evenings.

Rectors Hall – No report

Item 1 – Earith Primary School Report – Headteacher Mr Tom Abbs was unable to attend the meeting but gave the Clerk an emailed report which can be accessed upon request. The Clerk provided the meeting with a brief update as follows.

The school has benefited from repainting throughout along with new curtains. Internal areas have been reorganised to provide two new areas for Pupils and Staff to use which have proved to be very popular. The school outbuildings have also been cleared out and additional outdoor storage is now available including an area for bikes, scooters and safety equipment to be stored. A new large outdoor area dedicated to the Early Years reception class has been established with a wonderful sand pit, play area and exercise area. There are currently 104 pupils enrolled at the school. The library has also been reorganised and a new reading and fluency culture is being promoted within the school.

During the school clear out a large number of historical papers, maps, books and photographs have been found and are being used at the school for historic research. If any member of the Village would like to see what has been uncovered, then they can go to the school to see the “Locality” boxes, and these can either be looked at in the school premises or taken home on-loan to be looked at and returned back to the school when they have been viewed.

The Headteacher has many projects that he would like to undertake in the future, and he will, along with his wonderful teaching and administration staff, pursue these more going forwards.

Item 2- Chair Report - The Chair gave a brief report that highlighted areas that the Parish Council have been promoting over the last financial year.

April 2023 – 20mph limit agreement for Village consultation commenced.

June 2023 – School visit to give HRH King Charles III Coronation coins to the Pupils.

August 2023 – Village Pond works agreed and are still ongoing.

February 2024 – 20mph application submitted following a successful Village Poll.

Item 3 - Police Report – A Police representative was unable to attend the meeting, so the Clerk gave a very brief overview of the crime numbers for the St Ives and Ramsey area noted in February 2024. A total of 232 crimes were reported for the area. During the months of Jan 23 – Feb 24 in the Earith Village area a total of 64 crimes were reported.

Violence and sexual offences 22

Anti-Social behaviour 3

Burglary 8

Criminal Damage and Arson 10

Drug Related Crimes 1

Public Order Offences 5

Vehicle Crime 4

Other theft 6

All other crime 5

The Clerk stated that other information can be obtained from the Police.UK website.

Item 6 - Questions from the Floor –

All residents present enquired about the status of the old Village Hall. The Chair informed them that the planning application for a new Hall had been rejected and public support for a new hall was minimum so the Village Hall group will now look into submitting a planning application to demolish the old Hall and to provide some further car parking spaces along with a public garden area and river viewing point. This will be a project going forward into the new financial year.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

These minutes are unadopted

Clerk – Mrs Mandy Pink – 29th April 2024