



Theydon Bois Parish Council

Parish Office, The Village Hall, Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Essex CM16 7ER

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Sally Crone
Responsible Financial Officer: Mr Greville Norman

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at The Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 28th July, 2011

Councillors Present: Cllrs Hannibal, Philip, Gooch, Sowerby, Berry, Hammond, Purkiss, Vincent and Howard

Apologies: Councillor Jones and Councillor Wood

Officers Present: Sally Crone (Parish Clerk), Greville Norman (RFO)

34. **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Jones and Wood. In the absence of Councillor Jones (Chair), Councillor Hannibal (Vice-Chair) presided

35. **Declarations of Interest (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda. Members of the Council are subject to the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (S.I.2007/1159) (The Revised Code)**

None

36. **To discuss and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th June, 2011**

The draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30th June, 2011 had previously been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Hammond requested an amendment be made and proposed as follows.

Proposed:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th June 2011 should be amended to record: That the proposal put forward by Councillor Gooch that Robert Glozier and John Padfield should be approached to stand as Parish Council nominees to TBCAYT did not proceed to a vote following Councillor Philip suggesting that it would not be appropriate for someone who did not live in the Village to be appointed.

Proposed by: Councillor Hammond
Seconded by: Councillor Gooch

Votes in favour: Three

Votes against: Three

Abstentions: Three

This Motion was therefore not carried following the Chairman's Casting Vote against

Proposed:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th June 2011 should be amended to record: That the proposal put forward by Councillor Gooch that Robert Glozier and John Padfield should be approached to stand as Parish Council nominees to TBCAYT had been discounted due to the fact that Robert Glozier did not live in the Village

**Proposed by: Councillor Hammond
Seconded by: Councillor Gooch**

**Votes in favour: Three
Votes against: Three
Abstentions: Four**

Councillor Purkiss also requested that an amendment be made to Minute Reference 28.1 to insert the words 'in Poplar Row and a new pavement put in at the top of Woburn Avenue' after the words '.... the level of the pavement also having been raised..'. This amendment was unanimously agreed.

Proposed:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30th June 2011 were approved as amended above and the Vice Chairman was authorised to sign same on behalf of the Council

**Proposed by: Councillor Purkiss
Seconded by: Councillor Vincent**

Carried unanimously save for Councillor Berry who abstained given her absence from that Meeting

37. Public participation session with regard to items on the Agenda

A resident enquired about the Commuter Car Park Appeal which appeared in a later Agenda Item. The Chairman suggested and it was agreed that the resident be asked for his comments when the relevant Agenda Item was discussed.

38. Correspondence – Clerk's Report

The Clerk explained that a full copy of her report had been circulated to all Councillors and was available from the Parish Office for any resident who may be interested. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. The Clerk drew particular attention to the following:

- 38.1 Letter to Phil Koczan Chairman of the Theydon Bois Donkey Derby Committee congratulating the Donkey Derby Committee on another successful event.
- 38.2 Letter from the Relatives and Residents Association (Essex) with details of their services which are offered to families when thinking about a move into residential care. R&RA has the backing of ECC and the NHS. Support and information on all aspects of moving into residential care in Essex can be obtained from their helpline on 0845 017 7720 or information is available online

at www.relressex.org.

- 38.3 Email from Essex County Council dated 13th July advising the Council of proposed changes to the County Council's Recycling Centres following an operational review. Of possible relevance to us are the closure of the site in Mill Lane Ongar and the reduction in opening days to better match public usage at Chigwell (will be open five days a week and be closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays) and Waltham Abbey (will be open five days a week and be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

39. Community and Youth Centre

- 39.1 Councillor Hannibal reported that following the last Council Meeting former Councillors John Padfield, John Eaton and Martin Oliver had been contacted about joining the Board of Theydon Bois Community and Youth Trust (TBCAYT) and that he was pleased to confirm that John Padfield and John Eaton had indicated that willingness to stand. Mr Eaton and Mr Padfield are now in contact with TBCAYT with a view to their formal appointment. On behalf of the Council, Councillor Hannibal expressed his thanks to John Padfield and John Eaton for taking up these appointments.
- 39.2 Councillor Hannibal reminded Councillors that it had been agreed at the previous Council Meeting that if appropriate an Extraordinary Meeting should be arranged once the Clerk and the RFO are of the opinion that the Council is in possession of sufficient information to make a decision on the long-term ownership of the Community and Youth Centre. With a view to as many Councillors as possible being able to attend such a meeting all Councillors are reminded of the need to inform the Clerk of their availability to attend a Meeting before the end of September.

40. Finance and General Purposes Committee

- 40.1 The RFO had previously circulated a Report on the Management Accounts for the first quarter of the current financial year. This shows that recurring expenditure is running at a lower than expected rate and income is running ahead of anticipated levels so the Council's financial situation is better than anticipated. In particular the Council is presently receiving interest payments of approximately £150 per month from its Bank Account with Santander due to the fact that EFDC issued the entire precept in one instalment rather than in two instalments as they had originally indicated. The Council's reserves stood at £196,423 as at 30th June of which £31,982 is in designated reserves and £164,442 in the general reserve. There has been no expenditure to be met by transfer from the designated reserves other than in connection with the celebration of the Avenue of Trees.
- 40.2 The RFO reported that he had circulated a list of payments made since the last meeting. Of these, a payment/refund of £44 to Theydonnewsdesk was due to be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the Committee Meeting to be held immediately after this Meeting. Accordingly approval of that payment was deferred.

Agreed: To approve the payments made since the last meeting as previously circulated (save for cheque reference 203033 for £44 which is deferred) and to authorise the Vice-Chairman to sign said list of said payments in acknowledgement of such approval

41. Planning Committee

- 41.1 Councillor Gooch reported that since the Council Meeting held on 26th May the Committee had reviewed fifteen applications of which objections had been lodged with EFDC in respect of three of these. In particular the Committee had opposed an application to remove a hedgerow to the front boundary of a property fronting the Village Green and it had been pleasing to note that EFDC had recently agreed and refused the application.
- 41.2 Councillor Gooch reported that the Theydon Bois Village Design Statement Association had submitted the draft Village Design Statement document with EFDC and that a response was now awaited. The Association had also launched a public consultation of the document and a copy of the document is on the village website and hard copies are available from the Parish Office. It is likely that there will be a delay in formal approval of the VDS document by EFDC pending the outcome of the Localism Bill and the impact of the proposed Neighbourhood Plans.
- 41.3 Councillor Gooch reported that the Council had received formal notification of the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate of the refusal of EFDC to grant planning permission for the latest commuter car park proposal at the former Old Foresters Site. The Committee had previously submitted comprehensive objection to EFDC in connection with the original application but submission was also being prepared for the Planning Inspectorate highlighting the Council's concerns. The deadline for responses to the Planning Inspectorate is 10th August.

42. Highways and Environment Committee

- 42.1 Councillor Purkiss reported that the Highways and Environment Committee had recently met and various matters had been discussed. In particular the Committee had undertaken inspections of the village pavements and agreed priorities for future pavement refurbishments. The Committee had agreed that priority use of allocated 'matched funding' should be earmarked for the refurbishment of Orchard Drive from Morgan Crescent to the Primary School followed by the corner of Woodland Way and section of Hornbeam Road.
- 42.2 Councillor Purkiss also reported that the Committee had also reviewed the correspondence received from Theydon Bois and District Rural Preservation Society with proposals for a tree planting project in commemoration of the Queens Silver Jubilee. The suggested locations had been discussed but dismissed for various reasons. However it had been decided to seek approval from City of London for the planting of a row of specimen trees and the reclamation of the area of land alongside Loughton Lane between Frank Foster House and Hornbeam Road and the Rural Preservation Society had written to City of London seeking such approval.
- 42.3 Councillor Purkiss reported that the Council had entered the RCCE Essex Best Kept Village Competition 2011 and had been awarded a 'Merit Award'. Councillors Hannibal and Purkiss had attended the RCCE AGM and Awards Ceremony and had accepted the Award on behalf of the Council.
- 42.4 Councillor Vincent reported that the Committee had written formally to Essex County Council to complain about the lengthy delays which had occurred in the publication of the next TRO which had been promised in order to resolve outstanding issues concerning yellow lining in particular in Theydon Park Road at both ends of the road. West Essex Area Highways had also failed to respond to the Council's requests for updates over many months. The Council had given a deadline of 14 days for a substantive response failing which the Council had indicated its

intention to lodge a formal complaint with Essex County Council for delays and failure to answer correspondence. Councillor Philip confirmed that the Council had been advised in July 2009 that the above matters would be rectified and that there had been an unacceptable delay. He reported that it now appears that the matter of Traffic Regulation Orders are to be passed to the North Essex Parking Partnership and with the transfer taking place there is likely to be a further delay before the matter is resolved.

42.5 Councillor Vincent reported that recent annual maintenance inspection by the Council's Contractor had revealed that much of the present CCTV system requires updating/replacement and some essential repairs are also necessary. The Council is in the process of obtaining estimates both for the essential repairs and for any future upgrade of the system.

42.6 Councillor Gooch reported that the hole in the road at the bottom of Theydon Park Road will be obvious and that he was in discussions with Thames Water with regard to rectification of the matter as the cause would appear to be a collapsed drain together with overloading of the sewers. Thames Water are in the process of investigating the matter.

43. Community Liaison Committee

43.1 The Committee is next due to meet on 8th September. As a general point Councillor Sowerby expressed her thanks to Tony Ames and Jim Watts for all their work in covering Village Events which is much appreciated.

43.2 Theydon Seniors

Councillor Sowerby reported that the Afternoon Tea held on 17th June had gone well with approximately 35-40 attendees. The next event will take place on Friday 23rd September between 3-5pm at the Village Hall. Entertainment will be provided by Loughton Ladies Choir.

43.3 Avenue of Trees Celebratory Event

Councillor Sowerby reported that this event had gone well and had been well attended. The Council had written to express its thanks to the various volunteers and helpers who had made the event a success.

43.4 2012 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Clerk had circulated details of the Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons Project and this will be reviewed by the Community Liaison Committee at their next meeting.

44. Cemetery Committee

Councillor Hammond reported that the Cemetery Committee are due to meet on 11th August. In connection with the proposed extension of the Cemetery a revised plan is presently awaited from the Woodland Trust.

45. Reports from Representatives

Councillor Howard reported on the recent Health issue which had come to his attention namely the communication from Princess Alexandra Hospital 'Building for Excellence' July 2011 which stated that savings of some £39 million must be made by the Hospital over the next three years to enable them to balance their budgets.

This represents large savings which is a concern to residents.

46. Any other urgent business for report (without decision)

Nothing to report.

47. Public Participation session – Open forum for members of the public to voice their views or make suggestions on any other Council Business or matters of local importance

- 47.1 The resident with the enquiry about the Commuter Car Park Planning Appeal was invited to speak and he enquired whether there was a recommended form of words for residents who wished to object to the Planning Inspectorate. The Web-Editor confirmed that further information was available via the Village Website. Councillor Philip advised that the important issue was the quality rather than quantity of the arguments within the objections put forward and pointed out that the original application had been refused by the Planning Officer under delegated powers such as the strength of the arguments in favour of refusal of the application.
- 47.2 County Councillor Whitehouse reported that residents appear strongly about the increasing trend of paving over front gardens and enquired whether the Parish Council felt that it could take any steps to influence Contractors in the designs put forward. This was not felt to be practical given the disparate Contractors involved but a suggestion was made that EFDC could perhaps exert a greater influence through the planning process.
- 47.3 A resident reported that her experience and also that of other residents is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure a timely doctors appointment with the Limes Medical Centre and that delays of over a week- 10 days are commonplace. Councillor Howard reported that he is endeavouring to arrange a meeting with the Chief Executive at the Limes to discuss matters in relation to the Limes Branch Surgery and other related matters.
- 47.4 A resident raised concerns about the proposal for the redevelopment of the Darlington's site and if successful the prospect of other flat redevelopments in the future. He also enquired about the Council's response to the City of London consultation on the Epping Forest Management Plan which will succeed the present Management Plan 2004-2010. The resident reported that the proposals may include changes in Management of Areas within the village such as maintenance of the Plain and the designation of Gaunt Wood as now being outside the Deer Sanctuary. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Council was unaware of any such Consultation having been launched and that the Council had yet to receive any communication inviting comment on the matter.

Sally Crone
Clerk to the Council

Cllr Sue Jones
Chairman
29.9.2011