



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 Secretary: Mrs Margaret Lechley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 27th September 2012

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

Apologies: Councillors Jones, McDonald and Young. Greville Norman (Responsible Financial Officer)

Officers Present: Sally Crone (Parish Clerk), Gloria Mussenden (Parish Clerk with effect from Monday 1st October 2012) and Margaret Lechley (Minutes Secretary)

77. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Jones, McDonald and Young. Greville Norman (Responsible Financial Officer)

78. To discuss & approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th August 2012.

The draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30th August 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

Councillor Philip announced that this would be the last full Council meeting with Sally Crone as Parish Clerk although she will continue for a temporary period as the Planning Clerk. Councillor Philip thanked Sally for the hard work and commitment which she had shown during her time as Clerk. Councillor Philip welcomed Gloria Mussenden to the Committee and reported that she will formally take on the role of Parish Clerk from Monday 1st October 2012.

Councillor Philip echoed his thanks also to Greville Norman, the Responsible Financial Officer, who was absent from the meeting. Councillor Philip praised Greville for the significant amount of work he had put in to developing the accounts system. Gloria will also be taking on the role of the Responsible Financial Officer.

Gloria Mussenden assumed the role of Parish Clerk for this meeting.

79. Disclosure of Interests (existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Other Pecuniary Interest or a Non-Pecuniary Interest as defined in the Essex Public Law Partnership Code of Conduct) with regard to items on the Agenda. Members of the Council are subject to and have adopted the Essex Public Law Partnership Code of Conduct.

None

80. Public Participation session with regard to items on the Agenda.

None

81. Correspondence – Clerk's Report

The Clerk had not prepared or circulated a formal report prior to this meeting. However, she drew attention to the following points of interest:

- The resignation of Ellie Bedwell as Youth Editor and the search for a replacement young person to fill this role.
- EFDC are seeking nominations for Young Citizen of the Year. Closing date for nominations is 30th November 2012. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Parish Office.
- The Village News will again be entering the Essex Life Community Magazine Awards and have chosen the magazine issues from December 2011, June 2012 and September 2012 to accompany their application.
- The new edition of the Essex Care Services Directory (November 2012) is now available on-line, with hard copies available from the Parish office.

82. Finance and General Purposes Committee

82.1 The list of payments made since the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Agreed: to approve the payments since the last meeting as previously circulated.

Councillor Wood reported that the recent Theydon Seniors event held on 21st September 2012 had been another success although not as well attended as previous events for the elderly.

82.2 The next Seniors event is scheduled to take place on Friday 23rd November 2012 from 2pm until 4pm.

Councillor Wood continued by reporting that a resident, Rosie Grant, will be 100 years old on 12th October 2012. Sue Sowerby has agreed to design a card featuring the Parish logo.

Agreed unanimously: to purchase a bouquet of flowers within an agreed budget of £30 and present them to Rosie at a mutually agreed date.

The Clerk agreed to ascertain Rosie's availability. She will also inform Jim Watts who would like to photograph the presentation for coverage in the next issue of the Village News. It was also agreed that, if possible, it would be newsworthy to track any other residents reaching their hundredth birthday.

83. Planning Committee

- 83.1 Councillor Gooch reported that he had spoken with Nigel Richardson of EFDC who had said that an undertaking had been given that the remaining tents on the Old Foresters site will be dismantled by Sunday 30th September 2012. This undertaking is by Mr Newman but there is no firm date for the removal of the structures due to the lack of clarity over ownership. Councillor Gooch reported that the expectation is that once the tents have been removed, the enforcement action should happen.
- 83.2 Councillor Gooch reported that the current major topic is the consultation exercise for the Issues and Options for the Local Plan. Both the public meeting held last week and the drop in session last night were very well attended.

Councillor Gooch said that a number of residents had spoken to him with a clear desire for strong guidance in their response. In view of this a joint meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 1st October 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Representatives from the Parish Council Planning Committee, the Theydon Bois Rural Preservation Society and the Village Design Statement will collectively discuss the strong planning objections. The deadline for returns is 15th October 2012.

Councillor Gooch reported that Ian White of EFDC had indicated the importance of the strength of the planning response. Councillor Philip stressed the need to include the thoughts of individual residents too.

Councillor Hammond asked whether consideration should be given now as to the second phase if an area is identified requiring an objection to be drafted. Councillor Hammond continued by drawing attention to the fact that not all homes in the Village had actually received the leaflets advising them of the exercise, so many were unaware of the consultation exercise.

Councillor Purkiss asked whether a budget figure should be agreed to fund any opposition costs and also Villagers asked to contribute should a shortfall arise. Councillor Philip assured the meeting that any money could be justified to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Agreed: at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to identify funds in the budget.

There is money remaining from the last Epping Forest consultation exercise.

Councillor Gooch reported that the Banner Homes planning application for a development on the former Darlingtons site had been approved the previous evening. Councillor Gooch said that he had today received an e-mail from Banner Homes thanking the Planning Committee for their input at the consultation meetings. Councillor Gooch said that overall he had felt the meetings had been very worthwhile. Councillor Philip reported that the Banner Homes application had been highlighted, at the recent Plans East meeting, as a good example of a Parish Council working together with a developer.

84. Highways and Environment Committee

- 84.1 Councillor Purkiss reported on a very successful month. A considerable amount of pavement work in Hornbeam Road has been completed together with the pothole repairs, in Green Glade, created by the LUL work. A patch has been carried out in Orchard Drive, and a date for the pavement work is now awaited.

Councillor Purkiss reported that at Highways they are currently reducing both budgets and manpower, with staff having to apply for their existing jobs.

Councillor Purkiss also reported that there are a small number of allotments currently available.

Councillor Vincent reported that he had received an e-mail from local resident, Robert Levene, informing him that the yellow lines in Theydon Park Road had been re-painted despite the intention to actually remove the restriction. However, North Essex Parking Partnership claimed to know nothing about the agreement with Essex County Council to remove the signs and restriction. Currently the time plates have not been replaced and these are the key to the actual enforcement.

ACTION: Councillor Vincent to raise this item at the next meeting of the Highways Committee.

Councillor Vincent reported that the installation of the CCTV in the Village has been completed. Work on the Buxton Trust CCTV should now have commenced.

85. Cemetery Committee

- 85.1 Councillor Hammond reported that on speaking to John Worby, the Council's solicitor, regarding the purchase of the extension of land, he had been informed that the original deeds do not agree with the Land Registry entry. Councillor Hammond said that this issue appeared to have now be resolved.

Councillor Hammond reported that the Woodland Trust had incurred additional expenditure of approximately £1K.

ACTION: to discuss at the next Cemetery meeting whether or not the Parish Council should offer funding towards this additional £1K.

Council Hammond reported that the Parish Council have not paid for the removal of earth from the cemetery for a number of years. In view of this Councillor Hammond has obtained agreement from the Parks Department to move and spread the earth.

86. Reports from Representatives

- 86.1 Councillor Howard reported that there has been much discussion recently with regard to the local GP surgery. Councillor Howard had previously circulated an e-mail regarding the PCT. At this meeting he circulated a document on "Healthwatch Essex", a forum where patients can try to influence health issues. This will be fully on stream from April 2013.

Councillor Howard reported that he has continued to make attempts to speak with the Practice Manager of the Limes Health Centre with regards to a joint consultation/survey. Councillor Howard encouraged residents to use the health forums to voice their opinions.

Councillor Gooch asked who a formal complaint regarding the local GP service should be addressed to.

Agreed: to include this as an agenda item for the next meeting of the full Council. Councillor Howard agreed to draft a formal complaint.

The ownership of the GP surgery building in Theydon Bois was discussed and Councillor Gooch agreed to investigate this. Councillor Hammond agreed to identify the possibilities of inviting another healthcare provider to serve the Village.

Councillor Vincent highlighted the impact of the unscheduled closure of the local surgery on elderly residents who are unable to drive to the Limes in Epping.

**87. Any Other Urgent Business for report (without decision).
Please note that no decisions can be lawfully made under this item. The Local Government Act 1972 section 12 10 (2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.**

None.

88. 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

A member of the public reported that the current waste and recycling calendars do not appear to have been delivered to all households in the Village. Councillor Philip agreed to check with EFDC on this.

A member of the public raised the issue of having an appropriate budget for enforcement costs. He reported that the funding for the Old Foresters direct action had been approved from a salary shortfall in EFDC Planning Department due to unfilled staff vacancies. Councillor Philip confirmed that this had been the case but assured the meeting that had it been required then the funding would have been made available from the District Development Fund.

Councillor Philip reported that the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer for the District will take up post on Monday 1st October 2012.

Jim Watts, a member of the public at this meeting, asked whether a member of the Parish Office would be available to take the Minutes of the Issues and Options meeting scheduled for Monday 1st October 2012. Councillor Philip said that the Council would do their very best to accommodate this.

A member of the public said that it was his understanding that the surgery building in Thrifts Mead is actually owned by the Limes. He also reported that from 2013 the surgery in Epping High Street will introduce an appointments system.

As there was no other business to report Councillor Philip closed the meeting at 9pm.

Margaret Lechley
Minutes Secretary to the Parish Council

CLr John Philip
Chairman
