



Theydon Bois Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Council & RFO: Mrs Gloria Mussenden
Minutes Secretary: Mrs Margaret Lechley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 29th November 2012

Councillors Present: Cllrs Philip (Chair), Gooch, Hammond, Hannibal, Howard, Jones, , Purkiss, Vincent, Wood and Young

Apologies: Councillor McDonald

Officers Present: Gloria Mussenden (Parish Clerk) and Margaret Lechley (Minutes Secretary)

102. Apologies for Absence

Councillor McDonald. Councillor Jones arrived after the start of the meeting.

103. To discuss & approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th October 2012.

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

104. 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.

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

None.

106. Correspondence - Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported that her report had previously been circulated to all Councillors. She highlighted a letter from local resident, Shelia Gymer to David Cameron, calling for the recognition of war-time evacuees.

107. Finance and General Purposes Committee/Community Liaison Committee

107.1 The draft Minutes of the last Committee meeting dated 14th November 2012 were noted.

Councillor Philip reported that the first draft of the 2013.14 budget had been reviewed and as a result there were a number of action items. Councillor Philip said that the budget precept would remain the same as 2012.13. It was noted that a significant increase would be made to the budget figure for next year's Christmas Market event.

Councillor Philip reported that the Parish Council is currently in the process of changing its banking provider from Santander to the Unity Trust bank.

107.2 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.

107.3 Councillor Howard reported that this year's Christmas Market was scheduled to take place the following evening, commencing with the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Village Hall at 6.15pm. The road closure to part of Forest Drive will be from 5pm until 9.30pm. Councillor Howard encouraged the members of the public present at the meeting to come along to support the event.

Councillor Philip reported that the nominated charity for this year's collection was Forest Radio which is the local hospital radio. Councillor Philip also said that this year's Villager of the Year, John Eaton, would be judging the "Best Dressed Window" competition.

107.4 Councillor Wood reported that the next Seniors' Event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 19th December 2012 from 2pm to 4pm. Entertainment will be provided by Brick Lane Music Hall. Councillor Wood reminded those present to inform the Parish Clerk if they wished to attend.

108. Planning Committee

108.1 Councillor Gooch reported that the Planning Committee had received 22 planning applications since the last full Council meeting. From this figure, the Planning Committee had objected to six which had a theme of gates and fences.

Councillor Gooch reported that the replies to the recent Local Plan Options Consultation had now been collated. The second stage of the exercise is likely to take place in Autumn 2013. Following the completion of the initial stage of this exercise the owner of Magnolia House in Abridge Road has put forward, for consideration, a substantial piece of land which in theory could accommodate over 100 properties. No formal application has been received.

Councillor Gooch reported that the planning application relating to the "Eco" house had been considered at Plans East and had been approved on the Chairman's casting vote. The application is now due to be considered by the Development Committee in January 2013.

109. Highways and Environment Committee

109.1 Councillor Purkiss reported that he had received an e-mail from Highways regarding the pavement resurfacing work to the left-hand side of Orchard Drive. It has been promised that this will take place in the first quarter of the next financial year. This falls under the "Matched Funding" element of the budget. The work to Coppice Row has been

estimated at £22K and the Parish Council will also be making a "Matched Funding" contribution towards this.

Councillor Purkiss reported that at the recent meeting of the Highways and Environment Committee it had been agreed that the next pavements requiring work would be Woodland Way and Graylands. The section of Poplar Row (near the postbox) will fall under the maintenance "umbrella".

Councillor Purkiss reported almost 60 bags of salt have been moved from the Village Hall and distributed to strategic points in the Village.

110. Cemetery Committee

110.1 Councillor Hammond reported that the document relating to the purchase of the additional piece of land had now been signed. John Worby, the Council's Solicitor, will e-mail the Parish Office and on receipt of this the funds will need to be transferred from the Parish Council to the solicitors to complete the transaction.

111. Reports from Representatives

111.1 Councillor Howard reported that the draft letter of complaint agreed at the Parish Council meeting of 25th October 2012 had now been sent to the Limes Practice and a response was awaited.

A copy of the letter had been sent to the West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group. Councillor Howard said that he had recently met one of the directors of this Group who confirmed receipt of the letter. Councillor Howard reported that it was interesting to hear that the residents of Epping are also experiencing problems with the Limes Practice. Councillor Gooch said that he would still like a Village survey to be carried out as there were many residents who are unhappy with the level of service currently being provided.

Councillor Philip said that once a reply is received from the Limes Practice the way forward should be discussed at the Finance and General Purposes Committee prior to discussion at full Council.

Councillor Hannibal, as the representative of the Buxton Trust, reported that the Buxton Trust, as the landlord of the Tennis Club, had voted against the proposed planning application to install lighting around two tennis courts.

112. 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.

Councillor Philip reported that a survey of Brownfield sites within the district will be carried out by the Local Planning Cabinet Committee. The District should be informed of any such sites.

Councillor Philip reported that Margaret Lechley had resigned from her role and this would be her last meeting as Minute Secretary. On behalf of the Parish Council Councillor Philip thanked her for the commitment she had shown during her time working for the Parish Council.

113. 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

District Councillor Whitehouse expressed her support in response to Councillor Gooch's earlier report that the planning applications for electronic gates had been rejected.

District Councillor Whitehouse highlighted the poor pavements which required remedial work on the odd numbers side of Dukes Avenue.

A member of the public reported a pothole in Coppice Row, opposite the former Darlington's site. Councillor Purkiss reiterated the need to log potholes with the District Council in order to obtain a unique reference number which should then be sent to the Parish Office.

Following Agenda items will exclude Public and Press

114.

114.1 Councillor Philip reported that at the recent meeting of the F & GP Committee an advert for Minute Secretary/Assistant Clerk had been agreed. The role will be 8 hours a week including time working in the Parish Office on Mondays and Tuesdays. The advert will also appear in the next issue of the Village News.

Councillor Philip reported that he had received an e-mail from Chris Neilan, a Tree Officer at EFDC, regarding the ring barking of the oak tree in Loughton Lane. The Tree Protection Order (TPO) had been unanimously agreed at a recent Plans East meeting. Councillor Philip said that he had been advised that the tree is likely to survive. The maximal penalty which can be given to the tree surgeon concerned is £2.5K. However, if the tree surgeon accepts a caution then it will not be necessary to pursue a prosecution. Council Philip said that the preference of the Parish Council would be to pursue a prosecution rather than a formal caution. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

On behalf of the majority of Councillors present, Councillor Hammond expressed his dismay at the decision of Councillors Jones and Philip, to abstain from voting, in their capacity as District Councillors, at the Plans East meeting on the planning application for the eco house. Councillor Jones said that the District Planning Committee judged the application on the information given which included the Planning Officer's report. She questioned why a representative from the Parish Council Planning Committee had not attended the Plans East meeting to put forward its' objections.

This item was discussed at length with strong views, on either side, being voiced.

Margaret Lechley
Minutes Secretary to the Parish Council

Cllr John Philip
Chairman