



# 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 of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Philip (Chair), Gooch, Hammond, Howard, Jones, McDonald, Purkiss and Young

**Apologies:** Councillors Hannibal, Vincent and Wood

**Officer Present:** Gloria Mussenden (Parish Clerk/RFO)

### **157. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Hannibal, Vincent and Wood

### **158. To discuss and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

### **159. Disclosure of Interests**

(Existence of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or existence and nature of Other Pecuniary Interest or a Non-Pecuniary Interest). The Council has adopted the Essex Public Law Partnership Code of Conduct.

None

### **160. Public Participation session with regard to items on the Agenda.**

Health Matters: A resident asked why, after attending a hospital appointment, she was referred back to her G.P. to make a follow-up appointment. Councillor Howard said that he did not know why this was, as the hospitals (Harlow and Epping) could give follow-up appointments

### **161. Correspondence – Clerk's Report**

A copy of the Local History Report written by Trevor Roberts for the year January – December 2012 is in the Parish Office and may be borrowed and returned to the Parish Office each time.

A letter has been received from residents in Hornbeam Road complaining about noise from people returning to their cars after parking along the approach road into Hornbeam Road from Loughton Lane. In the absence of yellow lines, parking there is legal. They have asked for a response from the Parish Council. Councillor Purkiss agreed to deal with the matter.

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Notice of the EFDC Election of County Councillors on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 has been received and displayed on the noticeboards.

Essex Highways have informed of temporary road closures for essential repairs. This Notice has appeared in the Guardian and Gazette newspapers and the Order will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

The Essex Broadband Project is part of the UK's Rural Broadband Programme to improve internet speeds and deliver superfast broadband to 90% of premises, with all premises having access to at least 2Mbps by 2015 across Greater Essex.

ECC has conducted a £0.5m feasibility study into a new junction being built on the M11 to serve Harlow.

**162. Finance and General Purposes Committee/Community Liaison Committee**

The list of payments made since the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and cheques will be signed at the end of this meeting.

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

**163. Planning Committee**

The Railway Arms development has been approved and is going ahead with financial contributions to both the Village and education.

The third Local Plan workshop took place on 9<sup>th</sup> March and Councillors Howard, Jones and Philip attended. The Darlington site (8 flats) would form part of our quota. In recognising that Theydon is becoming an ageing population, it would be important to include semi-detached bungalows (these could be built on the flat part of Forest Drive – one of the targeted areas) which would then fulfil our quota. At least two more workshops are planned. The 2011 census shows population growth is significantly less than projected which effectively means we could carry on as we are. Protecting the Green Belt remains our key objective.

EFDC and objections submission: A planning application made in early February was objected to and this objection emailed to EFDC. It was then discovered that the planning application was granted and it did not go to the Planning Committee. It was claimed that our email was never received. We may now wish to review the process in the light of what happened. EFDC have now issued us with a new central email address. We are now sending to this new email address and to the Planning Office.

**164. Highways and Environment Committee**

There have been some repairs to verges and the re-making of the sewer in Poplar Row has now been completed. Some work has taken place on Abridge Road but nothing on the road outside the Golf Club. A letter has been received from Mr. Sagers concerning the state of the pavements in Purlieu Way.

Councillor Purkiss is still awaiting a reply to his letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to Highways concerning future projects and match-funding and he is sending a letter to Essex Highways to arrange an appointment for a face to face meeting, as since the redundancies, there is no personal 'link' between Essex Highways and representatives of the Parish Council's Highways Committee.

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The trees with white crosses are due to be felled. They were pruned last year but not this year. The felling process has been halted until a meeting has been held to discuss the matter further.

It was sad to see the School Oak tree felled.

The Tree Wardens have been very active in the Village in getting T.P.O.'s on trees to further protect them.

#### **165. Cemetery Committee**

The new piece of land has now been acquired and there is a lot of work to do, namely, hedging, fencing and a path. Councillor Hammond has suggested that we use the same contractors as the Woodland Trust as they come highly recommended and at a reasonable cost. A meeting is to take place next week to obtain an estimate. Councillor Philip did not see a problem with just obtaining one quote for the work and this matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the Finance and General Purposes meeting scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Work to the existing cemetery has not taken place before year end due to the bad weather, including the removal of 'fly tipping' rubbish, which includes asbestos. Councillor Hammond requested that the costs of these works come out of the 2012/13 budget with any surplus to be transferred to the new cemetery infrastructure fund. This matter too will be discussed at the next Finance and General Purposes meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

A padlock has been purchased for the barrier at the cemetery entrance and the code given to Undertakers and the maintenance crew.

#### **166. Youth Community Centre**

Our letter to John Worby sent on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and his subsequent reply were emailed to all Councillors prior to this meeting.

Councillor Hammond pointed out that there was no mention in our letter to John Worby concerning the amendment to the resolution that 'Should the land be put up for sale by the Trust it would be first offered back to the Parish Council at a cost of £1.00'.

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged between John Worby and all Councillors who are able to attend, with the Parish Clerk also in attendance. Available dates to be obtained from John Worby to be emailed out to all Councillors to indicate their preferences to the Parish Office in order to arrange a date to suit the majority.

#### **167. Reports from Representatives**

Theydon Seniors: There were 40+ people who attended. Councillor Howard wished to place on record that without the volunteers this event would not happen and wished to thank everyone who contributed. The people who attended were also most appreciative to all. The next Theydon Seniors will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

'Best Kept Village' competition: Councillor Howard has agreed to complete this form and the deadline for entries is 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Councillor Howard said that this was a very involved form and if he requests information, please respond.

Health Matters: Councillor Howard had circulated the draft questionnaire and has received some comments, but is requesting more input in order to produce a final version. The questionnaire is to be an Agenda item for the Finance & General Purposes Committee who meet on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

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- 168. 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

- 169. 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.**

Mrs. Jane Turner confirmed that she had looked at the trees to be felled and her information is that the process is likely to be spread over three years, with the worst being felled straight away. There are 21 trees listed to be felled, to be replaced by 36.

Mrs. Turner also asked the Parish Council if they wish the Horticultural Society to continue with the planters. The planting would need to take place at the end of May/beginning June.

**The Councillors unanimously agreed for this to continue, with thanks to the Horticultural Society.**

With regard to Item 7 on the Agenda – Planning - Ms. Burn made the point that if Harlow says it needs more housing this may have an impact on Theydon Bois. On the question of Planning, Councillor Philip said that the Issues & Options questionnaire was only partially processed and that there are no proposals for developing Theydon Bois at the moment, especially with the proposed developments of the Darlington's site and the Railway Arms.

Mr. Newton said that the National Trust have commented that Planning Permission on brownfield sites was not deliverable and that the question should be asked: 'What is the need and how much can I deliver with the constraints I have?'

With regard to Item 9 on the Agenda – Cemetery – Mr. Newland asked for clarification regarding the allocation of plots to people outside Theydon Bois. Councillor Hammond confirmed that anyone can buy a plot but there is one rate for non-residents and a cheaper one for residents.

- 170. Following Agenda Items will exclude Public and Press**

Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item of business:

Allotments: Following a rumour that there could be plans to build a car park on the old allotments site near the Station, Councillor Purkiss contacted a person from London Underground Ltd. To find out more, who was quite surprised to receive the call. In view of the connotations this may have it was suggested that an application be made to re-instate the allotments, although we do not own the land.

**Councillors Purkiss and Hammond agreed to draft a letter to L.U.L.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.47 pm.

Gloria Mussenden  
Clerk to the Parish Council

Cllr. John Philip  
Chairman

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**156.**

Gloria Mussenden  
Clerk to the Parish Council

Cllr John Philip  
Chairman

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## **CLERK'S REPORT – FULL COUNCIL MEETING 28.3.2013**

1. A copy of the Local History Report written by Trevor Roberts for the year January – December 2012 is in the Parish Office. Please do borrow it, but I would ask that it is returned to the Parish Office when you have finished with it so that it may be passed on.
2. A letter from Ronald and Yvonne Order – 71 Hornbeam Road, has been received regarding parking along the entry road into Hornbeam Road from Loughton Lane which is at the side of their house. They receive a lot of noise when owners return to their vehicles. The Police have suggested a polite note on cars, but in the absence of yellow lines, they are parking legally. They are asking for the Parish Council to take the matter up on their behalf.
3. Notice of EFDC Election of County Councillors taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May has been received and displayed on the Noticeboards.
4. Essex Highways have informed of temporary road closures for essential repairs. This Notice has appeared in the Guardian and Gazette newspapers and the order will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.
5. The Essex Broadband Project is part of UK's Rural Broadband Programme that will bring considerable improvements to internet speeds. ECC is leading this project with support from stakeholders to deliver superfast broadband to 90% of premises with all premises having access to at least 2Mbps by 2015 across Greater Essex. ECC has committed £6.46m towards the project with £6.46m grant from DCMS.
6. ECC has conducted a £0.5m feasibility study into a new junction on the M11 to serve Harlow and allegedly has made the decision to proceed.

Gloria Mussenden  
Parish Clerk