



# Theydon Bois Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Julie Taylor  
Minutes Secretary: Mrs Sarah Barnes

## Minutes of the Parish Council held at The Village Hall at 8.00pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014

- Councillors Present:** Cllrs Gooch, Wood, Young, Howard, Jones, Vincent, Hannibal (would be late) and Purkiss.
- Apologies:** Cllrs Philip, McDonald, Hammond
- Officers Present:** Mrs Julie Taylor (Parish Clerk & RFO)  
Mrs Sarah Barnes (Minutes Secretary)

Councillor Gooch explained that he would Chair the meeting because Councillor Philip was away.

- 100. Apologies for Absence**  
Councillors Philip, McDonald, Hammond and Hannibal (late)
- 101. To discuss and approve the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**  
The minutes of the previous meeting were agree and Councillor Gooch would sign at the end of the meeting.
- 102. Disclosure of interests (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 (SI.2007/1159)(The Revised Code)**  
None
- 103. Public Participation session with regards to items on the Agenda.**  
Two members of the public were present and wanted to speak about item 7.3 – the current parking situation on the Green.

## 104. Correspondence – Clerks Report

The Parish Clerk reported on the following:

- The noticeboard at The Heights is broken, it has been reported to EFDC who will do a site visit and assess the damage. If there is enough money in the budget it will be fixed in this financial year, if not it will be fixed after April 2014. The noticeboard at The Bull cannot be opened because the wood seems to have swollen – **Cllr Vincent agreed to have a look at this noticeboard and see if he can fix it.**
- A resident has contacted the office regarding the road sign at Blackacre Road, explaining that it is in such a poor position that drivers do not see it and fail to realise that it is a cul-de-sac. This has caused issues for commercial vehicles turning around; the resident explained that their vehicle has been damaged 5 times. A request has been put to Essex Highways but no response has been received yet.
- The Village Association has kindly donated a new Union Jack Flag to the Parish Council to fly when appropriate.
- A letter of thanks has been received from Macmillan Cancer for the donation of £25 with regards to Rosie Grant.
- Potholes are continuing to be reported to Essex Highways.

## 105. Finance and General Purposes Committee/ Community Liaison Committee

105.1 Payments made since last meeting were unanimously approved.

## 106. Highways and Environment Committee

Councillor Purkiss commented on the following:

106.1 Works have recently been completed on The Weind, the crossroads by the zebra crossing and the manhole has been rebuilt at the crossroads at the junction of Piercing Hill. A section of road at the junction of the Queen Victoria Pub needs a full repair and not just a patch up. Match Funding was discussed with a possible four schemes to consider; Woodland Way, Graylands, Poplar Row and Blackacre. The projected cost would be £10,000 and photographs would need to be taken for the agreement.

Councillor Gooch agreed that we needed to do match funding to improve pavements in the village.

Councillor Purkiss confirmed that there was not match funding last year to recommend that we do it this year.

Councillor Howard commented that he was concerned at the drop in the pavement at the shop side of the zebra crossing and it was difficult for mobility scooters/prams etc to cross safely.

Councillor Vincent said that there was only £7,000 in the budget this year so we would need to confirm if it was carried forward from 2013 having not being spent.

**To discuss at the next Highways Committee meeting.**

106.2 There were no incidents arising from the closure of the allotments for 24 hours on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

106.3 Cllr Purkiss reported that there was a problem with there being no yellow lines on the upper Green and he explained the history behind NEPP. Decisions are made on a points system and the area in question has been scored low on a form that helps prioritise roads requesting yellow lines. He attended another meeting with Highways on site and it was obvious that there is a problem with traffic. If we fund the project as a village we are awarded more points. The cost to the village would be in the region of £5,000. He is also very concerned that the police show no interest.

A resident expressed his thanks to Cllr Purkiss for the work he was doing. He was extremely concerned about public safety. Another resident agreed wholeheartedly.

Cllr Gooch asked whether all Councillors at the meeting were agreed that there is a problem and how should it be funded.

Cllr Purkiss wondered if we fund the project it might set a precedent.

Cllr Vincent accepted that we had to fund. Cllr Hannibal agreed with him.

Cllr Gooch explained that Cllr Philip was sympathetic to the project.

A resident reported that they had written to Eleanor Laing asking about Park & Ride from North Weald Airfield but had received no reply.

A resident said that the problem was not really with the junction but with parked cars. Once you are committed to passing the cars there is nowhere to go, there is a similar problem with the Avenue of Trees.

**Subject to the Finance Committee and funding being carried forward from last year that the Council is committed to the project but clarification on finances needs to be cleared up – All Councillors in agreement.**

106.4 The continuing problem of parked cars on the frontages of the shops would be discussed under planning.

## **107. Cemetery Committee**

107.1 Councillor Purkiss reported that everything was ok at the Cemetery. Martin and Paul have been steam cleaning the tarmac paths and he is very happy with their work. The hedge doesn't look very healthy, there is some rotting following the poor weather.

## 108. Planning Committee

108.1 Councillor Gooch commented on the following:

The scaffolding in Orchard Drive is still causing complaints and we are waiting to learn the legal position. We have received a high number of calls regarding the new plinth outside the new Turkish restaurant and the amount of parking on the pavements by the shops. Sally has been asked to do a full index search to confirm ownership of the front of shops, whether it's either Highways or the shop owners.

## 109. Reports from Representatives

Councillor Wood reported that ECC have approved the budget for next financial year but there is no breakdown showing what percentage will be spent on buses. The 541 contract runs until August 2014 and then it will go to tender. The present contractor Galleon, are proposing to run from St Margaret's Hospital to Princess Alexander Hospital but are not happy to do this until the contract for next year is confirmed – ECC have not started the tender process yet. Cllr Wood is waiting for the results of the Bus Consultation and the meeting to discuss this has been postponed until June 2014.

Councillor Howard reminded everyone that the next Theydon Seniors event is on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 and asked whether anyone would be available to help.

## 110. 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 Purkiss reported that there is graffiti on the cable boxes outside the Primary School, he asked whether we could get Paul and Martin to clean – **All Councillor's Agreed.**

Councillor Purkiss also reported that there was a robbery from a van in the Village Hall car park, it was the second time this has happened. It has been reported to the police but they are not effective.

Councillor Howard asked whether anything needed to be discussed following last month's meeting – **All Councillors agreed that the meeting was well handled by Councillor Philip and they all supported Councillor Philip.**

Councillor Wood asked if there was any news regarding the Youth Club. Councillor Gooch explained that the Chairperson of the Trust has had a meeting with John Worby and they are still finalising conditions. **Councillor Gooch asked the Parish Clerk to get an update from John Worby and put on the Agenda for the next main Council meeting.**

**111. 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 resident asked whether public opinion would have any bearing on point 7.3 (i.e. To discuss expenditure of up to £5000 to put in process the TRO and yellow lining via NEPP of the upper green to assist in resolving the dangerous parking on this section of the carriageway) would it affect how much funding would be needed? He proposed closing the Avenue of Trees as a forest road, or a mini round-about at St Mary's crossroads – this however, would need lighting.

Councillor Purkiss asked why Chapel Road was now known as The Green and why had it changed? He asked whether it could perhaps be re-instated.

**Councillor Gooch closed the meeting at 21.41**

**Julie Taylor  
Clerk to the Council**

**Councillor John Philip  
Chairman of the Council**