



Theydon Bois Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Council: Ms Julie Taylor

Minutes of the Parish Council held at The Village Hall at 8.00pm on Thursday 26th February 2015

Councillors Present: Cllrs Gooch (PG); acting as Chair , Purkiss (AP), McDonald (CM) and Wood (AW).

Apologies: Cllrs Philip, Vincent, Hammond, Hannibal, Young, Howard and E Thomas (Assistant to Parish Clerk)

Officers Present: Ms Julie Taylor (Parish Clerk and RFO)

185. Parish Council Statement read out by Cllr Gooch

'There have been reports in the local press recently regarding Mr Roland Frankel being charged with offences of a child protection nature.

This is now a matter of judicial process and as such not for discussion here, however we would like to make it absolutely clear that no-one on the Parish Council knew anything of these allegations at the time Mr Frankel was awarded the 'Villager of the Year' title last

May or indeed the nature of them at any time thereafter until the week of the press release.'

186. Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs Philip, Vincent, Hammond, Young, Howard and E Thomas (Assistant to Parish Clerk)

187. To discuss and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th January 2015.

Unanimously approved.

188. 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

189. Public Participation session with regard to items on the agenda.

- 189.1 Resident who used to be involved in the Horticultural Society has stated her disappointment that the horticultural society paid for planters for Christmas 2014. PG acknowledged the fact that we have paid for planters in the past. The Council did not receive an invoice for payment. PG has said to please send in an invoice for payment and we can look at it for next meeting.
- 189.2 Resident wrote a letter re: the turning on the green; wants the pavement to be built up and a zebra crossing may be considered for there. Resident feels this would help stop speeding traffic. Another resident disagrees with her proposals, stating that traffic is faster on the other side of the road Cllr Gooch stated that we have to be realistic on this, it has taken years just to get yellow lines. We could be talking about this to be done in years to come, but suggests putting it on Highways agenda.

190. Clerk's Report – Correspondence

- We have entered “best kept village of the year”.
- Donkey Derby Date is 5th July 2015.
- 2 Chestnut Cottages planning update: Correspondence with Sharon Hart designated planning officer dealing with the case. The owner has refused a meeting with EFDC. EFDC have said that the owner must apply for a certificate of lawful development at the end of next week; if they do not, then an enforcement notice will be issued.
- Weight watchers banner – was passed through to EFDC enforcement; they have now passed this to Highways.
- Written to Theydon Bois Doctors Surgery along with Cllr Howard; as they have dropped the Thursday. Their opening hours are as follows
Monday – 8:30-12:30
Tuesday – 9:00 – 12:30
Wednesday – 9:00-12:00
Thursday – CLOSED
Friday – 8:30-12:30
Residents also expressed their disappointment, with limited opening hours and are rarely see the Drs they request.
PG – A letter of complaint to be sent West Essex Commissioning Group; liaise with Cllr Howard.

191. Finance and General Purposes Committee

- 191.1 Payments made since last meeting were unanimously approved. Cllr Purkiss expressed his disappointment over the high cost of £515.00 for the Christmas tree. Committee unanimously agreed. Cllr Gooch stated that this year we are looking into lighting the four trees in Forest Drive.
- 191.2 Cllr Purkiss noted that North Weald Parish Council raised their precept by 24%; their reason was for the design statement.

192. Planning Committee

- 192.1 Continue to see a significant number of applications for large extensions and the Village is under pressure from developers on all sides. The site of the Flower Yard has applied for two substantial five-bedroom houses. 119 Theydon Park Road has applied to demolish existing property with a new-style property. Both Applications have been objected to.
- 192.2 TFL proposal for new car park on Green Belt on eastern side of Theydon Underground Station. A TBAG representative said the issue was not whether the Village wants an additional car park but about the democratic process of the District being allowed to comment on the proposal as is the usual process rather than Permitted Development Rights of a Statutory Undertaker dating back to 1859. The railway line has always been seen as the boundary between brownfield and Green Belt. Cllr Purkiss said that this was one of the most important issues to affect the Village in fifty years and in the event

of a Judicial Review being sought a donation should be made available. Cllr McDonald said the Council has a deep understanding of the concerns with the issues raised and as such the Committee unanimously agreed in principle that a donation be made – the actual figure to be agreed at a subsequent meeting.

193. Highways and General Purposes Committee

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193.1 Cllr Purkiss said that Cllr Hammond had been in discussions with the Probation Service whereby they offer manual labour to parishes. Perhaps this labour could be utilised in cutting back the brambles on the Youth Centre field as well as trimming back the edge of the path along the Green, and would ask the City of London if they could provide a trailer to put the edgings in.

A meeting has been organised with the City of London, TBAG, Theydon Bois Rural Preservation Society and the Parish Council to cross-fertilize ideas on the protection of the Green Belt.

The complete refurbishment of the pavement, kerb and verge in Woodland Way was nearly completed and has been done to a very high standard. Cllr Gooch complimented Cllr Purkiss on achieving these works, which cost the Parish £15,000 through match-funding out of a total cost of £65,000 to Highways and that a lot of work was done behind the scenes to achieve this.

Cllr Purkiss reported that the parking on the top section of The Green was due to go before the NEPP Committee on 11th March. Cllr Wood said that she had received an e-mail to say that Theydon was at the top of the list for the scheme to go forward.

193.2 Cllr Purkiss reported that a number of sheds were vandalised on Friday night and two strimmer's were stolen and was the first time in many years. The Police were called and CCTV was being looked at.

193.4 Allotment Rents: The Parish has not increased the rents for a considerable number of years and that Cllr Purkiss proposed the rent being increased by £5 to £40 p.a. which was to include provision of water and manure when available. The Committee voted unanimously to accept this proposal.

194. Cemetery Committee

194.1 Cllr Purkiss – cemetery meeting approx. 3 weeks ago, and we reviewed some of the prices and they will go forward to main council.

195 Youth and Community Centre

195.1 Cllr Gooch can provide an update. At last council meeting we agreed the principle of a TP1 and also the covenants which are to be placed on this transfer. That has now gone off to Youth and Community Trust. Cllr Gooch spoken to the chairman of that trust and has now gone forward to their solicitors which is Whiskers. The 2 solicitors are communicating. Main issue is the pre-emption rights if Youth and Community Trust collapses in the future, the land either goes back to Parish Council or another body where the majority of it is made up of Theydon Bois residents. We should be in a position by next meeting where finalisation takes place.

196. 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

197 Public participation session –Open forum for member of the public to voice their views or To make suggestions on any other Council Business or matters of local importance.

197.1 Resident Reported blocked drains in Coppice Row, also pothole Sidney Road to Coppice Row. 10 Piercing Hill, the grass verge has been cleared of rubble on grass verge, but wants to know if it will be reinstated.

Resident expressed her thanks regarding the support with the Doctors surgery.

198. Following Agenda items will exclude Public and Press
None

Councillor Gooch closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Julie Taylor
Clerk to the Council

Councillor John Philip
Chairman of the Council