



Theydon Bois Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Council: Miss Julie Taylor Secretary & Assistant to the Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Thomas

Minutes of the Parish Council held at The Village Hall

at 8.00pm on Thursday 30th June 2016

- **Councillors Present:** Cllrs Philip (Chair), Howard, Wood, Withers, Burn and Hannibal.
- **Apologies:** Cllrs Purkiss, Gooch & Crook, Julie Taylor (Parish Clerk and RFO)
- **Officers Present:** Elizabeth Thomas (Assistant Clerk)

393. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Purkiss, Gooch & Crook, Julie Taylor (Parish Clerk and RFO)

394. To discuss & approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 18th MAY 2016

Co-option (item 390): Amend to: "We have had two expressions of interest from prospective councillors to be co-opted. I will see them and let all Members know. If both agree, we can publish details and the next stage will take place at next Full Council."

BT phone exchange (item 390): Amend to: "BT phone exchange – the fence was broken and we are phoning Maintenance re. the state." Remove: "Snagging and improvements to front of exchange to follow."

395. Disclosure of Interests with regard to items on the Agenda.

(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

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

Cllr Philip is Portfolio Holder at EFDC for Planning Policy – congratulations to Cllr Philip.

- Public comment: Will Cllr Philip be doing work related to the Local Plan – Yes.
- Public comment: Letter from Brandon Lewis, Planning Minister that was sent to all MPs re. development on brownfield and Green Belt land – Cllr Philip has not seen this yet.
- Cllr Philip: the council is aware that Green Belt boundaries are occasionally redrawn as a last resort.

- Local plan progression timetable introduced.
- Cllr Philip: The Government says that the Green Belt alone is not a sufficient reason to not meet housing need objectives in full. East Herts, Harlow and Uttlesford are going to Regulation 19 state, we are at Regulation 18, which entails looking for input, and we won't build one more house than we have to.
- Public comment: if the Lewis letter is not relevant to send to Nigel Richardson of EFDC Planning, we can make EFDC's CEO aware of it.

397. Correspondence – Clerk's Report

- Letter has gone to Eleanor Laing about indentation on the Green
- New members are taking part in workshops – Cllr Burn has given good feedback
- Village of the Year judges visited, interesting meeting
- Seniors Summer Party on June 10 – lovely occasion, but we plan to change seniors events
- Nettles in the playground – escalated to Playground At Theydon and Highways/ CLC Committee

398. Finance and General Purposes Committee/Community Liaison Committee

6.1 Payments since last meeting – election fees are small as there was no contested election and water bill for cemetery is high due to the leak which is now fixed. **PAYMENTS APPROVED.**

399. Planning Committee

7.1 Nothing major – general indication that there may be new information re. the Sixteen String Jack over the next few months: Cllr Philip has seen something to the effect that there is a new design that looks positive and better than the ones that have been proposed before, with more space for manoeuvre and better visibility.

400. Highways, Cemetery and Environment Committee

8.1 The planned Highways, Cemetery and Environment meeting had to be cancelled.

Phone exchange update: half the fence has been down for years, it is all down now. Cllr Wood met on site with BT maintenance personnel, who escalated this to their supervisor. Cllr Wood requested they cut the strip and put stones down with the low fence. Awaiting a call from BT personnel – who have been proactive.

Zebra crossing: The central light is still non-functional, Cllr Philip reports that Ringway Jacob says it isn't an urgent matter. Cllr Howard to call Highways at ECC about this.

401. Community Liaison

401.1 Seniors party on June 10 had around 22 attendees – it's getting less. We intend to drop the Autumn party and have more scope and funds for Christmas. Comparisons made to the thriving Bridge Club which attracts a higher number of attendees of a similar age to the Seniors.

Cllr Philip: do we need to rebrand the Seniors events?

Cllr Howard: All ideas for PR and new suggestions for activities welcome.

Cllr Philip: we should put a piece in the Village News, with picture, about the events, asking for suggestions, we can call it something new too.

Best Village: meeting on June 3, they have new format for making reports.

Cllr Hannibal: is there a possibility of getting electricity from the crossing to the Green – we are thinking of Christmas tree etc. Epping's trees are powered from the street light current, and we don't have that.

Cllr Howard: I will mention this when I talk to Highways. We will also need a decent tree for the lights to go on.

402. Reports from Representatives

Local Plan Workshop: Cllrs Burn & Philip went to workshop on Climate Change. Very interesting and interactive – covering concepts such as solar panels, wind turbines, council tax tailored to carbon-reduction in homes; great brainstorming opportunities and informative presentation from land drainage team. Cllr Burn to send her notes for circulation. Next workshop is about Development Management Policy (in July).

CCTV: Cllr Withers has spoken with Essential Group and will meet them next week to tour Theydon Bois and discuss security-related issues. Would ideally like to get PC Andy Cook to come too, but he has been incommunicado due to leave.

Health: Cllr Howard reported that he has heard of proposals to re-site the Harlow Princess Alexandra Hospital across the M11 (in correspondence to the proposed 7a junction). Cllr Philip reported that there are no definite plans at the moment. Discussion followed re. potential sites, accessibility and how different specialisms could be accommodated.

403. Co-Option of Councillors

Cllr Philips: last time, two people reported interest in joining the council, after the meeting. One would like to come to a few meetings to find out more, the other is here tonight.

Introducing Rob Phillips – biography has been circulated.

Discussion followed about co-option process: Cllr Philip has taken advice from Colleen O’Boyle, solicitor to EFDC. We are following protocols correctly.

Cllr Philip proposed co-option and Cllr Hannibal seconded. Unanimous agreement.

Cllr Phillips welcomed on board – all relevant particulars for him should be fed to the Theydon Bois website staff.

404. 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.

- Training sessions for councillors – Cllrs Philip & Burn have attended and report that they are excellent.
- Cllr Wood suggested that we send some flowers to Julie Taylor as she has been on sick leave for some time. All agreed – Cllr Philip to organise this for Monday.
- Thanks to Elizabeth Thomas for “holding the fort” and running everything at Parish Office while Julie has been off sick.
- Resident reported on tree replacement scheme – Cllr Philip will talk to her about this one to one as it is a District Council venture.
- Resident suggested a real tree could be planted to serve as Christmas tree – unfortunately we can’t as there would be nowhere to put it.

405. 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:

None

Meeting was closed by Cllr Philip at 8.55pm

Julie Taylor

Clerk to the Council

Councillor John Philip

Chair of the Council