



Theydon Bois Parish Council

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

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

Minutes of the Parish Council held at The Village Hall at 8.00pm on Thursday October 20th 2016

Councillors Present: Cllrs, Gooch (Chair), Hannibal, Wood, Howard, Burn, Crook and Purkiss

Apologies: Cllrs Philip, Withers & Phillips

Officers Present: Julie Taylor (Parish Clerk and RFO)
Elizabeth Thomas (Assistant to Parish Clerk & Minutes Secretary)

430. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Philip, Withers & Phillips

431. To discuss and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on September 27th 2016.

Signed as a true record.

432. Declarations of Interest (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

433. Public Participation Session with regard to items on the Agenda.

433.1 Highways: footpath at junction of Theydon Lodge is overgrown with ivy from the Lodge garden – action: write to householder explaining problem and asking them to cut it back.

433.2 NEPP: are they going to attend a TBPC meeting? We aim for 24 November 2016.

434. Correspondence – Clerks Report

- Local Plan meeting: 10th November 8pm
- Parish Council sent a wreath for Cllr Peter Hammonds funeral
- Children's Christmas card competition: closing date 7th November
- We have a face painter for Christmas market; she is charging £50; but charging per child so that the money will hopefully come back.
- There are 10 stalls booked and more still free so can any potential stall holders please get in touch.
- Theydon Seniors party 25th November – have contacted VAEF and usual volunteers. Any more helpers gratefully accommodated.

- Notice board – being fixed on the 28th October.
- Street collection permit for the Christmas Fayre has arrived
- St Clare's hospice is our nominated charity – we have contacted them and money jars etc will be sent soon and permit is here. Will be drawing up collection rota for councillors.
- Issue about Smart Car parking right up to the notice board at the Heights: other cars do this too, and it's annoying as it makes it difficult to post notices there and practically impossible for anyone who's not fully mobile to get up to the board to read them. Bollards or even better a bench might deter them. Action: raise it with NEPP, JT to take photos of situation.

435. Finance and General Purposes Committee/Community Liaison Committee

435.1 Payments for the month accepted and signed off.

435.2 Finance meeting upcoming. Buxton Trust issue will be raised soon. Cllr Hannibal & JT are doing the Budget, please can all chairs of committees tell them if they have requests.

436. Planning Committee

Councillor Gooch commented on the following:

436.1 Local Plan:

- Cllr Gooch has spoken to consultant Richard Turnbull at Fuller Long. He is in concord with us at the moment and has proposed a way forward – all councillors have been forwarded the information.
- If we agree, it will pass to T-BAG and Rural Preservation and go back to Richard Turnbull, to meet before the public meeting on November 10. He will look at what we can do re. planning law (he is an expert in Green Belt matters). He will then report back in time for November 10 – possibly to be presented at this meeting. We will therefore need to be concise.
- We will be looking at site selection and if there are stronger arguments for some sites. We will put forward the strongest arguments.
- We should end up with a robust case for the EFDC consultation.
- Cost for consultation will be £500 deposit and £2.5-3K in all.
- Neighbourhood Plan may deal with sites too.
- General issues around the consultation aired: Green Belt boundaries, Epping Forest, special circumstances.
- Residents meeting is paramount; it may be better to have a closed meeting with the MP separately.
- Questionnaire to follow shortly.
- Cllr Phillips (not present but emailed in): my father, a retired planner was told by a contact that the going rate usually charged to a Parish Council would be about £50 per hour plus VAT for this kind of work - getting the impression that work for a PC would generally be quoted at a cheaper rate/discount compared to work done for a developer. Query: is it worth us getting a second quote to compare or asking for a discount?

437. Highways, Cemetery and Environment Committee

Councillor Purkiss commented on the following:

- New System at recycling centres: concern on restrictions on what can be taken to which tips, especially if population goes up.
- Hedges on Piercing Hill cut, verge and hedge by the cemetery cut, roses cut back
- Water leak fixed outside cemetery – no billing to us
- Path across the Green trimmed, can we continue cutting it to the post box? Yes if there are funds and we all agree. Council agreed and £300 set aside.
- Potholes: ECC are trying to fix more but not all those on Loughton Lane have been done. We can query this but the ECC contact is hard to reach. 16 String Jack road has been repaired however.
- Abridge Road parking: petition ongoing, NEPP rep expected at next meeting to answer questions.

- Barrier from Graylands to Hornbeam Road: nothing done.

438. Community Liaison

438.1 Christmas Market:

- Choir have confirmed – time slot TBA.
- Christmas trees – we have looked at lighting trees in Forest Drive - £500-700 per tree, with various options for power sources. We are in touch with ECC about this – Cllr Howard to progress. Shops expected to be positive about it, need to check re. opinions on lighting the fourth tree by residences.
- We recently spoke to Nick Baker of Corporation of London re. tree on the Green – he is fine with that and has various options re. the hole it will be in. He approves of battery powered lighting option too.
- A 15-20-foot tree will be £800 including delivery & removal. Cllr Purkiss suggested allotment holders can remove it.
- Cllr Howard requested loan of a metal detector to find the tree hole – Cllr Purkiss to ask around.
- Query whether we need a traditional tree if we light Forest Drive greenery – people do like a tree. A designated live tree on the Green suggested – it would not be a fir tree, but lit up it would still look spectacular. Suggested first oak in the Avenue, which is where the tree hole is alleged to be. Office to consult Nick Baker on his view on which tree to earmark.
- Snow globe and reindeer are booked. 10 stalls are booked and we welcome more stallholders.
- We are still trying to contact Phil to do his turn as Santa again – more soon.

438.2 Seniors:

- We are still seeking entertainer – various options have been explored, more soon.
- All helpers are very welcome, please spread the word.

439. Reports from Representatives: CCTV

- Cllr Withers is absent but Cllr Gooch gave a brief round-up of situation and costs of upgrading, showing maps of CCTV coverage in Theydon Bois:
- Essential have come up with a proposal (also discussed with local police) including numberplate recognition, and proposed relocations for better coverage.
- Playground coverage – possibly this would be self-supporting site, records accessed via internet. Buxton Trust would be covered too.
- Costs including additional storage equipment: £4723 + VAT (this is over budget however)
- Query – what about allotment camera, how much would this cost.
- Cllr Gooch to check budget figures – this was from 2-3 years ago and not rolled to this year's budget; we should look at this and put it in next year's budget.
- Cost of cameras has actually reduced. We can get Essential rep in to discuss the situation. We also need to know the monthly fee for router – for Budget too.
- Cllr Gooch: acknowledged that council is in agreement in principle, subject to passing by the finance committee, and he will brief Cllr Withers.

440 Any Other Urgent Business for Report (without decision)

- Query: will we get a plaque for Best Kept Village: we do not, but we have a framed certificate
- Resident reported hedges in Orchard Drive outlet to Coppice Row need trimming as it is seriously impacting on sight lines. Action: contact resident who owns the garden in question.

441 Following Agenda items will exclude Public and Press

None.

Councillor Gooch closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Julie Taylor
Clerk to the Council

Councillor John Philip
Chair of the Council