



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 26TH January 2017

Councillors Present: Cllrs Philip (Chair), Hannibal, Howard, Burn, Phillips, Wood and Purkiss

Apologies: Cllrs Gooch, Withers & Crook

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

The Chairman, Cllr John Philip, welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting of 2017.

454. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Gooch, Withers & Crook

455. To discuss and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on November 24th 2016.

- Signed as a true record

456. 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

457. Public Participation Session

- Resident asked if we had many responses to the Local Plan consultation: Cllr Philip advised that they are still being coded – more under Planning.
- Resident asked if Parish Council has a list of e-mail addresses for circulating information – especially Planning & Community Liaison. We don't, but will ask Planning & Community Liaison chairs about it.

458. Correspondence – Clerks Report

- Received request under the Freedom of Information Act from Roland Frankel
- The Christmas Market raised £876 for St Clare's Hospice
- Orchard Drive parking restriction signage broken: reported to NEPP
- Overgrown hedge on Coopersale Lane – this has now been cut back.

- Pancake race planned on the Green 28th February
- New bus timetable is published - which includes travel to Princess Alexandra.

459. Finance and General Purposes Committee/Community Liaison Committee

- Payments since Last Meeting: Cllr Hannibal proposed, All agreed. Passed.
- Update: Cllr Philip met PCC of Essex – discussed getting applications from parishioners to be Special Constables. If the Parish Council can fund their training, they would be fast-tracked. Action: suggest newsletter can encourage suitable candidates. Cllr Philip keen to get volunteers from the village, as PCC is looking for local people to train as specials and work locally.
- Update: Budget proposal circulated. Cllr Hannibal proposed. Cllr Philip seconded. Unanimously agreed & passed.
- Update: precept figure £106,615. Cllr Hannibal proposed. Cllr Philip seconded. Unanimously agreed & passed. Letter signed by Cllr Philip to go to EFDC.
- Playground At Theydon: 3 quotes for refurbishment of the playground have been received. Council asked how much we could fund via Section 106 and if we could finance with a Public Works Loan.
 - Cllr Hannibal: We are not ready to do that at this meeting but we can open a discussion about it now.
 - Cllr Philip: We should get together with PAT and get the lease sorted out. Donations should be split between Section 106 and other source, as in Youth & Community Centre/ Village Hall arrangements. We will as villagers be paying for this, we should reclaim VAT where it makes sense.
 - Cllr Hannibal: If we have a figure from 106 that would give PAT people a figure to start from as they fundraise. JP
 - Cllr Philip: Loan is fine, but would like to see from PAT how much money they have raised. Suggest we donate £10k from 106 and fund the rest from a Public Works loan. PW loans are not against assets, they are against the precept. Pay back could be over 10-15 years.
 - Cllr Burn: It sounds fair, we don't do this kind of thing regularly. The playground serves the community well and is for the benefit of all and that's what community is all about.
 - Cllr Philip: Also, we'd like to see more about why the expensive option was preferred.
 - PAT Member: with that one, we have negotiated and it's reduced – to £94k plus VAT
 - Cllr Philip: we would like to support this venture – with 106 funding/ PW loan – we would like to see a presentation from the PAT committee first
 - Cllr Hannibal: do we all agree £10k donation?
 - Cllr Burn: Good, subject to more data from PAT team and objective assessment by TBPC
 - Cllr Howard: we could donate more - £25k
 - Cllr Hannibal: suggest £20k from section 106, and see where else PAT committee can get funding before we commit to a PW loan. Let's take this forward to next full council meeting
 - Cllr Wood: otherwise we could call a finance meeting specially for this issue

- PAT Member: The quotes are valid till approximately the end of summer 2017. Veolia Water said they could get 1/5 funding, and other sources have promised money as long as we can get the lion's share from elsewhere.
- Cllr Philip: Action – we shall write to PAT to say we are awaiting further information but we want to donate at least £20k. The PAT team can show this to any other potential funders.
- Cllr Phillips: In favour of funding this, but we need to get best value for money.
- Cllr Philip: we are getting a detailed proposal from PAT to say why the scheme they want should be the one actioned. Propose we write to PAT to say we want to donate at least £20k, final figure depending on presentation by PAT. Advise PAT team to approach EFDC for grants and speak to Village News co-ordinators too. Presentation can take any form the PAT reps like, looking forward to receiving it at next Full Council meeting on February 23 2017.

All council agreed to this unanimously.

460. Planning Committee

Cllr Gooch absent: Cllr Philip commented:

- Old School House – I have called EFDC Enforcement, their officer went there and the builders are following the plans: what is coming down will be going back up! Enforcement are monitoring this.
- Local Plan Update: we had 3360 responses to the consultation, about 50% were online. 250 were on printed questionnaires. They are being coded and processed now and they are being handled by Planning Policy at EFDC. I will be giving an update at the March meeting of EFDC Cabinet.
- Cllr Howard asked if there was feedback from recent Overview & Scrutiny meeting where Transport for London reps attended. Cllr Philip advised that the meeting dealt with operational issues and is webcast and available online. O&S updates with TfL about Central Line issues every two years.

461. Highways, Cemetery and Environment Committee

Cllr Purkiss commented:

- Village Improvements: Cllr Gooch and I met City Of London before Christmas – positive discussion about ditches on lower green. They are also trying to resolve a problem regarding the power cables. Also looking to improve the pond island, the area around the church railings and the Hoppitt. The oak tree at the Hoppitt was damaged and then felled – the area is more open now and can be tidied up. The tree trunk incidentally was taken to Theydon Cottages to act as a safety barrier.
- Orchard: Woodland Trust has agreed to plant an orchard in the new cemetery on Abridge Road. It will be a community orchard with apple trees. The orchard project at Green Glade is still live – we await funding from Nationwide Building Society.
- Avenue of Trees: Horticultural Society asked if there could be some recognition given to people who contributed to the Avenue. Good idea, we can display some information, history and names of benefactors. Cllr Burn suggested this could be put near the pond where more visitors to the area congregate. Cllr Philip will bring this up at EFDC Liaison meeting which takes place soon.
- Trees in the verges: these are not growing as expected. EFDC Parks have no funding to supply mulch – Cllr Purkiss suggested paying Parks to mulch the trees and Cllr Philip advised to ask them for a quote both for Parks to mulch or for mulching work to be done by us. Discussed fact that it is almost at Year End and this may affect how much money Parks has – and how soon the work should be done. Cllr Philip advised writing to Parks as soon as possible.

- Fingerposts: any company called in to do work on these needs street accreditation. Local Highways Panel has granted £5k for upgrading fingerposts here. Issues have arisen: 2 big posts are not in keeping with others, crude design, no distances marked on them. Cllr Purkiss contacted Ringway Jacobs on the matter and has made contact with one of their directors who was helpful – also has a contact on Surrey/Sussex border who can put right problems we have with the posts. More soon.
- Car parking for village shop workers: Suggested that we ask Village Association to set aside 20 spaces in Village Hall Car Park for shop assistants, for a fee – this will free up spaces around the village for more parking. Cllr Purkiss outlined ideas – we would issue permits, and the shop owners are at this moment fine about paying the fee per annum. Cllr Howard to present this at next VA meeting – Cllr Philip advised that we talk with the VA about what should be done on days when the car park is known to be full – such as U3A meetings. To report back about this at the next Full Council meeting in February 2017.

462. Community Liaison Committee

Cllr Howard commented:

- Christmas Events: General consensus - Christmas festivities in 2016 were great. Seniors Party was excellent, with 50 attendees and positive feedback on the tribute act.
- Christmas Market: successful and the weather stayed good. The snow globe and reindeer were a huge success. Many thanks to Nigel the baker, the Belgique team, Baddi, the brass band, and the school choir. There were a couple of incidents where people tripped over the wall outside Belgique, so we will address these when planning the next Market.
- Christmas Tree: this was on the Green in 2016, we experienced problems when it started leaning over in the high winds one weekend. We had 3 sets of lights but the cable was cut on one of them. People have asked for a bigger tree next time – even though the 2016 tree was bigger than it looked. The tree which is the next size up is twice the price, but Cllr Philip advised that Council should consider it. Cllr Philip also commented that it was hard to see the lights from some angles: we might be able to rearrange the tree, just as we have adapted things in the market over the last few years. Cllr Hannibal reported that the hole for the tree was right over a drain and may need resiting in 2017. Cllr Burn asked if we had a star for the top of the tree – Cllr Howard replied that yes, we do – but it's too heavy. Cllr Philip suggested getting a lighter one for next Christmas: Cllr Purkiss advocated looking at some Christmas decoration as displayed by Wells next the Sea – they are very good.

463. Reports from Representatives

None

464 Any Other Urgent Business for Report (without decision)

- Bus time tables: Cllr Wood commented:

These have gone up last week but they are not correct. People have been missing buses and are very unhappy. Replacements to be posted by Feb 3 2017: ECC want to make parish and town councils put up new timetables but it isn't our responsibility. Village News to flag up correct timetables.

- Parking on the Abridge Road: Cllr Philip commented:

This is moving forward and will come up in the next meeting of NEPP. I have given my support and that of TBPC, also Chris Whitbread's. It is heading in the right direction.

465 Following Agenda items will exclude Public and Press

None.

Councillor Philip closed the meeting at 9.03pm

**Julie Taylor
Clerk to the Council**

**Councillor John Philip
Chair of the Council**