



Theydon Bois Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Caroline Carroll

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held at Theydon Bois Village Hall at 8.00 PM on Thursday 31st May 2018

- **Councillors Present:** Cllrs Philip, Hannibal, Howard, Purkiss, Wood and Burn
- **Apologies:** Councillors Gooch, Crook & Phillips
- **Officers Present:** Caroline Carroll – Clerk to the Council

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Gooch, Crook and Phillips

The Chairman announced the Lifetime Achievement Award and formally presented the Villager with the Theydon Bois Community Rose Bowl.

The presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Cllr Philip presented the Parish Council Lifetime Achievement Award to Sue Warren.

Sue has been involved in many village activities. She has worked as tree warden for many years alongside Jane Turner. Sue was a member of the Rural Preservation Society for 2 years where she was minute's secretary and she is also a key member of TBAG contributing significantly to their work. Sue has also done a huge amount of work for the Epping Forest District Council "Tree Wardens and Countrycare" initiatives and is a regular supporter of the main Parish Council meetings and also the fortnightly planning meeting. Sue has also been a regular attendee at the District Councillors monthly surgeries. She has done a fantastic job and we would like to present her with the Theydon Bois Rosebowl Award with our sincere thanks for all she has done.

2. Chairman's Welcome

Highlights for the year – The Parish Council had a stall at the Donkey Derby staffed by Cllr Howard and Phillips. We have had several Senior events throughout the year and of course the ever popular Christmas market. Also a lot of time has been spent on residents parking – Green Glade now have a residents permit scheme which then unfortunately lent to problems on the Abridge Road. Unfortunately parking for commuters and residents will continue to be a problem in the village. The Parish Council's Christmas Tree and Christmas Market were a great success. We also had some very generous donations from the villagers. The Tree at the Village Hall was very well received. The Councillors Saturday morning collection and the donations at the Market led to us raise just over £900 for the Playground at Theydon. This work has now started and the Parish Council are covering the cost of the flooring. We have had 3 Parish Clerks during this Council year and we are now looking for a new Assistant Clerk and the interviews will be happening shortly. Fiona Dodd is also an

extremely valued long standing team member who does a wonderful job looking after the running of our cemetery.

Finance Committee – Chairman’s Report

I am pleased to be able to open my report with that we have once again managed to budget without any increase in our precept for 2018/19.

Our financial activities over the last year included:

Our granting of a new and long lease of the Playground to PAT at a peppercorn rent and we have contributed to the new Playground now being constructed by funding the cost of the ground surfacing at £40,835 from the section 106 community project monies that we held. I would like to extend our congratulations to PAT for all they have achieved by their tireless and very significant fundraising for what will be a revitalised park for the children.

We also allocated from that community project money for this coming year a £3000 budget for the Primary School to use for the introduction of computer tablets in the classrooms.

These, along with our recent decision to finance a £16,590 major upgrade of the CCTV cameras around the village will effectively exhaust all the monies we had available from that restricted fund.

Activities going forward include:

As our Highways Chairman may mention, we have over recent years and will continue to reserve funds and seek to engage with Essex Highways to undertake some matched funding initiatives for our pavements and curbs. We have yet to receive any positive or encouraging responses from Essex Highways as we are informed that from a district perspective our pavements and curbs are not in a qualifying state of disrepair for their 2018/19 Budget.

In regard to planning, the Local Plan and its possible ramifications provides us with concerns that a planning situation may arise requiring us to take professional advices and we continue to have allocated from reserves £20,000 as a contingency for this. In addition we are continuing to proceed towards preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will involve a significant level of administrative work and we will continue to allocate £20,000 from reserves for that project management.

We have allowed for these anticipated potential expenses along with a budgeted £4500 precept deficit from our reserves held. Should they arise, then these expenditures during the coming year will result in a reduction in the level of our reserves as they are not being met from the current precept level.

In any event, we shall be continuing to look to assist new suitable community projects from our reserves. Thank you.

Highways & Environments

It’s been a very active year, maintaining c& A is a task with lots of pressures. Many thanks to the tree wardens for all of their work this year. We are hopeful our match funding will be met shortly with new kerbing particularly in Purlieu Way. CCTV has now been rolled out and upgraded with new ANPR and high definition wireless cameras and the system is now located in the Parish Office. However also need assistance from the police in order to make this worthwhile.

Community Liaison

One of the highlights of the year has to be the Christmas Market, which goes from strength to strength. This year not only a BBQ provided by Quality and Excellence butchers but also for the first time a Hog Roast provided by Greens the butcher supported by the Pop Up Vintage Tea Room. Must say from reports this went down very well as indeed did the prosecco tent provided by Butler & Stag. Much appreciated was the support

again from Belgique who allow us to use their facilities for the Santa's grotto each year – many thanks to them. We also had the Snow Globe and Teacup ride attractions again for the children and also some reindeer.

All this couldn't happen of course without the support of the shopkeepers, volunteers and stallholders and primary school choir. Nigel at the Theydon Bois Bakery donated mince pies again and mulled wine was provided by the Parish Council. The Fairlop Brass Band provided festive music throughout the evening.

Through the Market and further fund raising the council raised over £900 towards the playground equipment appeal.

Christmas Tree:

I am sure many would agree that our Christmas tree must have been one of the best looking around in the area. In my view, it looked stunning at the Village Hall. This could not have happened without the support from villagers through fund raising organised by Tippy at the post office and a generous donation from the Hammond family in remembrance of Peter who had been a Parish Councillor for many years.

Senior Events:

We normally hold an afternoon event in the Village Hall on a quarterly basis but this year we reduce the number of events held due to falling numbers. Despite that we are holding an event on the 15th June to acknowledge the ending of the Great War in 1918. On this occasion opening this up to all. However, if anyone has ideas on how we can revive these events we would like to hear from you.

Security:

Very much on the minds of all in the village with an ever increasing number of burglaries, car thefts and theft from care. Only recently Indian Ocean broken into and in Thrifts Mead taking to stealing car number plates. In an attempt to combat this raising crime rate new and additional security cameras are currently being installed and then Neighbourhood Watch programme is being revitalised. If anyone interested in being a coordinator for his or her road could contact the Parish Office.

Best kept village

We have again entered the Best Kept Essex Village Competition. Please to announce we have got through to the next round. Hopefully beating this last year where we received a runner up award.

New website

These last few months we have been exploring ways of improving the Council's use of social media. Needs to raise its profile and in doing so will be more interactive across the village.

Town Twinning

You may have seen the advert in the village news regarding Theydon twinning with a town in Normandy, Le Moley-Littry very near Bayeux. They have approached us regarding a twinning opportunity. Council accepts has not necessarily got the capacity to take this on and so had advertised to involve other interested villagers to get involved by way of a working group with Council support. Closing date is 29th June to get in touch with the Parish Office. We have explained our situation to the French town.

Planning Committee Report for the Annual Parish Meeting, May 2018

Another busy year for the Planning Committee. Some 90 planning applications were registered for Theydon Bois during the last 12 months. Of these, 65 applications have currently been determined, of which 58 were granted and 7 refused. There have been 6 appeals, of which 2 were allowed, and 4 dismissed.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Planning Committee for their dedication over the last year. I believe we have an experienced and knowledgeable team, which enables us to consider applications both thoroughly and fairly before coming to a decision. I would also like to thank the Rural Preservation Society and the Theydon Bois Action Group for their input at planning meetings, which I value. As Chairman, it has always been my view that anyone attending planning meetings should have the opportunity to speak and express their views, should they wish to do so.

As well as our normal business of considering planning applications, we have also responded to a number of consultations, not least our response to the Regulation 19 consultation on the new Local Plan. In this regard, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Cllr Liz Burn, who spent many hours researching, and then compiling, our response. This enabled us to forward a thoroughly comprehensive response. Although as a Village we currently have fared well, in terms of houses to be built, we still have major concerns over the lack of detailed planning policies within the new Local Plan, particularly the lack of Green Belt policies/guidance.

Moving forward, we are now looking towards creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Theydon Bois which, hopefully, will give us a little extra control over how this wonderful Village we live in will be developed in the future.

Meeting was closed by Cllr Philip at 8.20 pm

Signed: Caroline Carroll, Clerk to the Council

Dated:

Signed: John Philip, Chairman of the Council

Dated: