

East Donyland Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting – 9th June 2016

St Lawrence's School, Rectory Road, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Tony Pullon, Phil George, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, Richard Helliwell, John Rowland; Ward Councillors Adam Fox & Lee Scordis; Asst. Clerk – Elizabeth Nelson-Hayes and 9 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil George, opened the meeting at 7pm, giving thanks to everyone for attending, Cllr Clay for his 10 years of dedicated service to the council & fellow councillors for voting to place him as Chairman. Cllr George was delighted with the numbers at the recent Rowhedge Residents Association meeting and found the free flow of ideas helpful, he stated that by contrast the council has to run its meetings according to statutory rules which may seem prohibitive and frustrating but the council tries to do the best job it can within the statutory constraints.

37/16 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllr Case, County Cllr Kevin Bentley, village bus representative Elizabeth Trellis and Colchester Borough Cllr Mike Lilley.

38/16 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: RH – non pecuniary 48/16(iii)

39/16 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2016:

The minutes were proposed as correct by PG, 2nd RH – all agreed; minutes approved.

40/16 Have your say! The Chairman will close the meeting for a max.15 minutes to ask members of the public to speak on any matters relevant to parish business:

The following points and questions were raised:

- Item 43/16 – Traffic Calming; if there are any questions regarding the 2010 report, resident Susan Allen is happy to answer them as she helped with the report.
- Item 44/16 – Questions were raised about how the Coastal Path initiative will implement its work.
- Item 45/16 – “Great audit – well done” from S.Allen
- Item 47/16 – Interpretation panels, please could the council push forward with these. Concerns regarding overgrown greenery on Head Street between the junction to Chapel Street & West Street. In fact there has been a lot of extra growth in Rowhedge recently where the pavements are becoming inaccessible. The grass verges from Marsh Crescent all the way up to the top of the village are making the litter pickers' job difficult.
- Tricia Curren would like to know if there is anything organised to celebrate the Queen's birthday, if not, maybe something in September to include the whole village.
- Village in Bloom, is Rowhedge entering? Not this year, but something to think about for the future.
- Flooding in Hillview Close has been heavy this past few weeks, is there a record of flooding incidents in the village, which would be useful for any future development, also who is it reported to?

26/16 To receive and note reports from:

- i) County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: apologies were received, alas, no report, but he said that he is looking forward to his meeting with the Clerk regarding LHP issues.
- ii) CBC Councillors Mike Lilley, Adam Fox & Lee Scordis: Apologies received from ML, who is attending a planning meeting. Cllr's Fox & Scordis reported
 - Enjoyed the RRA meeting, nice to hear about issues.
 - Cllr Lilley is now a member of the cabinet & Julia Young is now the Mayor of Colchester.
 - The Local Plan for the Borough has discussed major development plans for garden communities/settlements. An area in Marks Tey & close to Salary Brook has been identified for around 15,000 houses over at least a 20 year period. It has been intimated that that is sufficient

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housing for the area and further development isn't necessary. Which puts Rowhedge in a great position for the Battleswick Farm area. Colchester Borough Council has a local plan which helps with development & other Councils do not. There is a local planning meeting on the 5th July, Cllr Scordis will be attending and will report back.

- Cllr Scordis & Cllr Lilley received reports of flooding at the dock area, they investigated but couldn't see any and will return if more reports come in or heavy weather.
- iii) The Clerk: noted. TP asks for the RRA to advertise the Over 60's Health & Wellbeing project. A poster is to be created to send through to the secretary. – *action the Clerk*
- iv) Village Bus Representative – Elizabeth Trellis sent through apologies, no report.
- v) Rowhedge Residents' Association – Trisha Curran:
 - The AGM will be in July
 - The open gardens' was a great success with 40 programmes sold & 10 gardens opened.

42/16 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs George & Clay (refer attached): PG proposed the payments to be correct, 2nd RH all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

43/16 To review the 2007 report from the Traffic Calming Sub-Committee and 2010 Parking & Traffic Calming Review (refer attached) in light of recent concerns raised regarding traffic speed within the village, and agree an appropriate course of action:

PG thought the reports useful albeit parking being prevalent within the reports. After speaking to CB Cllr Lilley about the bid for the action day (1 bid already received) the bid was well received even with only ½ the committee there. The decision will be made on the 20th June. Hopefully using the experience that Cllr Scordis has within Highways to see what options are available to the Council. RH suggested looking to update the reports as some years have passed and developments have changed circumstances possibly. TP reminded the Council that parking was investigated, a gentleman from the parking partnership did inform the Council that it wouldn't be something to pursue in a small village where there isn't much space and too many cars. EDPC could use funds on traffic calming measures. A meeting needs to be set with Cllr Scordis, Fox & Lilley along with all councillors to move this forward – *Action the Clerk*

44/16 To note that the Natural England has now started work to extend the England Coast Path along the Essex coast, and that the path will run through Rowhedge, primarily following existing public rights of way (refer attached report): After a short discussion it was noted that the main footpath affected is number 24. RH drew the Councils attention to the "Spreading room" part of the initiative. It was noted that it wouldn't be through people's gardens. TP drew the Councils attention to the public liability part of the initiative, common sense prevails when it comes to personal safety of walkers. DG asked about maintenance of the paths, which does come under ECC at present.

45/16 To receive the internal audit report for the financial year ending 31.03.16, carried out by Jan Stobart.

PG read out the letter received from Jan and stated it is good to have such positive feedback.

46/16 To consider how to make best use of the data provided by the village plan consultation report, and agree how to develop this into a village plan.

The Village plan group were thanked for all their hard work over the last 2 1/2 years. 3 options were available from the very first meeting; A design statement, neighbourhood plan & a parish plan, which the residents decided would be the best option. Within the flowchart the Chairman had provided – we are half way down "Publish Report; share survey findings and objectives established". To move forward it is best to speak to RCCE sharing with them the preliminary report and possibly the raw data (if it can be done securely) but making reference to the original village plan group to be involved them in the

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discussions. Ask for advice for the next step, RCCE's initial thoughts and who would be the best fit to head the ongoing project. To report back to the Council – *action the Clerk*

47/16 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda (refer attached Action List): RH, JR & DMyers will be clearing the fallen tree at the weekend, so the path adjacent to the burial ground will be closed.

48/16 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed (refer attached):

i) Planning application 161095, 10 High Street; Proposed change of use of defunct post office premises (class A1) to coffee house/cafe (class A3):

PG proposed that the council support this application, seconded by RH – all agreed – *Action the Clerk*

ii) Planning application 161142, Rowhedge Wharf site; discharge of condition 24 contaminated land, 30 habitat enhancement, 32 surface water & 39 foul drainage of planning permission 144693:

RH questions whether this has been fulfilled after noting the following; "Following completion of a verified/validation report that demonstrates the effectiveness of the recommendation. Carried out must be produced and is subject to the approval in writing from the local planning authority" has this been received? PG proposed that a comment asking for verification that the report has been submitted for point 32. All agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

iii) Planning application 160754, 158 Rowhedge Rd; proposed side and rear extension, two storey with single storey lean-to at rear.

PG proposed that the Council make a no objection comment, seconded by TP – All agreed, RH abstained.

iv) Planning decision 160700, 11 Heath Rd; proposed 2 storey front extension – conditional permission granted: Noted.

v) Planning decision 160757, Post Office Stores 19 High St; Change of use from C3 dwelling house to mixed use A1/C3 mixed use retail/dwelling house. Existing ground floor to be used as coffee shop & upper two floors retained as living space – conditional permission granted: Noted.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman