

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 11th August 2016
St Lawrence's School, Rectory Road, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Phil George, Anna Appleyard, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, Tony Pullon, John Rowland; CBC Ward Cllrs Mike Lilley & Lee Scordis; Clerk – Nicki Matthews and 7 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil George, opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed Cllr Appleyard to her first meeting. PG noted that the council has had a very busy month, including a number of additional meetings and workload has had to be re-prioritised accordingly.

64/16 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllr Helliwell and Ward Cllr Fox.

65/16 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: NC – non-pecuniary 82/16 iii); PG – pecuniary 82/16 i)

66/16 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2016:
The minutes were proposed as correct by PG, 2nd NC – all agreed; minutes approved.

67/16 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 73/16 – it was suggested that although this is additional work, it is worth doing to secure assets.
- Item 74/16 – it was recommended this should be subject to adequate drainage being in place and the open spaces handed over being fit for purpose.
- Item 79/16 – the council should consider the number of bikes, arrival time and potential impact of rain.
- Item 81/16 – does the council need to get 3 quotes for tree work? Dog relating signage around the Rec ground needs reviewing
- Footpaths – there is a closed section by the wharf development which has become very overgrown but could be reopened if cut back. The P3 are seeking to have this re-opened and hope the council will support this request.
- Burial ground – please could the Maintenance Committee look into tidying this up?
- Village sign – still needs repainting; PG advised that this is on the Action List already.
- Speeding on Rowhedge Rd – PG advised that the council are looking into speedwatch options, and recently met to consider speed restrictions in the village.
- Community Day of Action – will need a lot of publicity and involvement from different groups; NM advised this is in hand with RRA already involved, and the school to be contacted when term starts.

68/16 To receive and note reports from:

- i) County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: absent, no report received.
- ii) CBC Councillors Mike Lilley & Lee Scordis:
 - ML recently attended a speedwatch meeting; there are issues regarding the resources available but they are hoping to resurrect this for Rowhedge Rd – will need volunteers. LS has investigated 20mph speed limits and EDPC need to provide a petition with majority resident support and support from K Bentley.
 - Littering campaign – CBC will be focusing on litter from vehicles, cigarette butts and chewing gum with increased fines. They plan to involve fast food chains; ML to pass details to NM.
 - Highways – ML has passed details of proposed actions to NM to distribute; it doesn't look promising but they hope to achieve action on broken kerbstones.

East Donyland Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting – 11th August 2016

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MINUTES

- Parking – CBC are targeting parking near schools e.g. on zig zags, and there will be a camera car touring the borough to catch offenders.
 - Local Plan consultation – it was important to have such a good turnout at the consultation event, even though there was no opportunity to submit comments on the day, as the number of attendees is reported as part of the consultation. Only 36 comments have been submitted online so far, ML has 'boosted' the facebook post regarding the consultation, but more responses are needed. TP noted that it is difficult to access online, but residents can submit comments in writing and the ward councillors are producing a petition for residents to sign as well. LS has printed a leaflet for Old Heath and will email a draft to NM for approval for use in Rowhedge.
 - Simon Cairns has offered to meet with EDPC to discuss planning issues, including the S106 process and decisions, which should be a beneficial meeting.
 - Buses – services are currently under scrutiny, LS is involved and has raised the issue of the pick-up stop in the High St which has been discontinued.
- iii) The Clerk: noted. PG highlighted that the Pump House, Village Plan and allotment site projects are still ongoing, but the council is waiting for responses in order to progress these.
- iv) Village Bus Representative – Elizabeth Trellis:
- LS has advised the 174/5 service to Fingringhoe may be partially withdrawn, ET to investigate.
 - Some services including the 61/62/65/67 have revised timetables as of end August, but not 66.
 - ET has been contacted by the East Anglian Daily Times to comment on a potential fare increase of 5%. The last fare increase was approx. 1 year ago.
- v) Rowhedge Residents' Association – Trisha Curran: apologies from TC. S Allen reported:
- The next committee meeting is Monday 15th August, items for discussion include the demonstration at the wharf development on the 18th Sept, the Community Day of Action, and 20's Plenty. TP noted that he met with the wharf site manager on the 10th, and they believe they have resolved the drainage issues and it does appear to be much improved at present. SA advised that the RRA will continue to monitor this as autumn arrives and rain increases.

69/16 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Pullon & Clay: TP proposed the payments to be correct, 2nd NC all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

70/16 To note the draft minutes from the Maintenance Committee 15th June and any proposals/recommendations as a result: noted

- i) **Proposal from Maintenance Committee to begin gradually replacing the waste bins on the Recreation Ground with covered units to prevent litter being blown out, at a cost of £450 per bin; initially the two bins near the entrances to Church Hill and Taylors Rd:**

TP asked why only two new bins were being proposed initially. PG advised that this was in line with the budget set for this financial year, and NM noted that additional spend from the reserves could be allocated if council wished to do so. TP proposed that four bins be purchased, two as proposed by Maintenance Committee plus the two nearest the Village Hall; 2nd AA – all agreed. *Action – Asst Clerk.*

71/16 To note the draft minutes from the Finance & Personnel Committee 27th July and notes any proposals/recommendations as a result: noted

- i) **To consider the options for continuing card payments in light of the withdrawal of the Alto prepaid debit card and determine whether to apply for either a Multipay charge card via Unity Bank, or a separate prepaid debit card:**

PG proposed that the council agree the Clerk's recommendation to apply for a FAIRFX prepaid debit card; PC 2nd – all agreed.

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 11th August 2016
St Lawrence’s School, Rectory Road, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.
MINUTES

72/16 To agree a response to the proposal submitted to the North Essex Parking Partnership to introduce a waiting restriction outside the surgery on Rectory Road to prevent parking and improve safety when using the access:

ML explained that the proposal was submitted by Rowhedge surgery, to extend the double yellow lines. The NEPP work on a point scoring system, and proposals need to show support from residents, the parish council and ward councillors. ML has already given his support, and the surgery have a petition in place to evidence resident support. Councillors discussed the potential impact on residents of extending the restrictions, alternative possible options and the hazard presented by the current situation. PG proposed that the council support the proposal to extend the waiting restrictions; DC 2nd – all agreed.

73/16 To note that the nominations submitted by the parish council for the CBC Assets of Community Value Register will not be approved unless evidence is provided of identified community groups with an active interest in purchasing the assets in question should they become available; and to consider whether the council wishes to develop any of these nominations further:

The council has been advised that CAMRA have submitted a nomination for Ye Olde Albion, and this is the type of nomination which is more likely to be successful as the applicant has a clear and active interest in purchasing the asset if it became available. Other types of community assets are often only added to the register when they come under threat and a group forms to try and protect them for the future, which is not the case in Rowhedge currently. Councillors noted that to form such groups at this time would be a significant amount of work, given that the assets don’t appear to be in immediate danger and the council has limited resources available. The council does have the ability to submit a nomination at a later date should an asset come under threat. PG proposed that EDPC takes no further action to develop the nominations at this time; TP 2nd – all agreed.

74/16 To consider whether the parish council wishes to take on ownership and management of the public open green spaces that will form part of the Hills Group wharf site development, and on what terms:

At an informal meeting with the developer before the planning application was submitted, councillors discussed the possibility of taking ownership and/or having input into the development of the public green spaces. Hills have indicated that transferring the spaces to the parish council would be their preferred option, with a management company being the back-up option. Following a discussion of the terms on which they would wish to take the spaces on, TP proposed that the parish council request that they take ownership of the public open green spaces on completion, on the following terms:

- That either funding be made available to EDPC by the developer to commission the planting of the spaces, or the developer commissions the planting to specifications provided by EDPC
- That the developer is asked to provide a fixed remuneration sum for maintenance of the spaces for up to 20 years
- That the developer shall be responsible for any flooding issues or underground springs relating to the spaces in perpetuity

JR 2nd – all agreed. NM to respond to Hills Group with the above request. *Action – the Clerk*

75/16 To receive an update from the Clerk on quotes received from planning consultants for preparing a professional response to the Local Plan draft in opposition to the inclusion of the greenfield site at Rowhedge, and agree a way forward, including authorisation of expenditure or instigation of crowdfunding if appropriate:

NM has sought quotes from seven companies, and has received two quotes, with a further three companies indicating a conflict of interest. The first quote received is from Birketts, who have proposed

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 11th August 2016
St Lawrence's School, Rectory Road, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.
MINUTES

10-13 hrs work, at an approximate cost of up to £3,500 + VAT. The second quote is from GovResources, who were recommended by another parish council, and estimate a day's work at a cost of £500 + VAT to produce a written statement of response. Both companies have indicated that they can provide the required response in line with the timescales for the consultation. TP explained the concept of crowdfunding but noted that the low response rate to the consultation to date might suggest that it would not be successful in achieving the funds required. Councillors discussed what could be considered a proportionate use of public funds in this case. TP proposed that the parish council appoint GovResources to prepare a professional response on behalf of the parish council, and allocate £750 for this work to allow for possible increase in the number of hours required to complete the work, given that the quote is an estimate; DC 2nd – all agreed.

76/16 To review the proposed draft regulations for the dinghy park and slipway that form part of the Bloor wharf development, to be operated by a third party management company, and to agree any response or questions to be raised regarding these:

Councillors noted the following points and questions to be raised with Bloor and CBC regarding the draft: Slipway term 1) – Why only non-motorised craft? Outboard motors and small motorised vessels should be allowed.

Slipway term 2) – Why only April to Sept? Should be all year round public access in line with other slipways in the vicinity; if there does need to be winter closure, Oct-Mar is too long.

Slipway term 3) – Not reasonable to expect individuals to hold £2m PLI. Also how would this be policed or enforced?

Slipway term 7) – Where will users be expected to park? How will this be policed?

Dinghy Park term 3) – No preference given to Rowhedge residents?

Dinghy Park term 5) & 6) – unclear who is responsible, how this will work.

Dinghy Park term 8) – should this say dinghy park not slipway?

Dinghy Park term 12) – Whose judgement will determine if a boat is seaworthy?

Dinghy Park term 13) – Not practical, running repairs will often need to be carried out in situ.

Who will be building the slipway? Need to ensure that the angle is less steep than the Heritage Quay slipway.

Is there an option for EDPC to take on the dinghy park as the management company?

NM to compile the above into a response and report back to CBC & Bloor Homes. *Action – the Clerk*

77/16 To note that CBC have now prepared draft transfer documents to correct the Land Registry entry relating to the village hall and car park site, and to agree the appointment of a solicitor to represent the parish council in this matter:

CBC have now offered to pay 50% of EDPC's costs in this matter, although they have not admitted liability for the error. PG proposed that the council appoint Sparlings solicitors to represent the parish council at a maximum cost of £450 + VAT, with 50% to be paid by CBC; JR 2nd – all agreed.

78/16 To receive a proposal from Cllr Rowland that the parish council submit an application to the Community Initiatives Fund for £40,000 to develop a climbing bouldering area on the small patch of land next to the footpath by the boat moorings:

JR took councillors through the proposal outlined in the background documents, and explained that the intention is to create an outdoor climbing site that can be used by novices as well as more experienced climbers, that protects and enhances the area where it is situated. The nearest outdoor rock climbing facility is currently 150 miles away, and the indoor climbing wall in Colchester requires climbers to have a partner whereas this facility could be used by individuals. It is a relatively safe sport, and JR has included sufficient funds in his proposal to include works required to the surfacing, access and signage as appropriate. It would be used by 1-2 people at a time, so parking is not likely to become an issue. The

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 11th August 2016
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MINUTES

only notable maintenance issue could be with graffiti which could be painted over relatively easily. The ‘rocks’ are artificial and would be constructed on site. The site belongs to CBC and is leased by EDPC so permission for this development would need to be obtained. JR also advised that the proposal is not to apply for the current round of CIF funding which is about to close, but to prepare an application for 2017. TP noted that the facility could help to promote visitors to the parish and would provide infrastructure for health and wellbeing, both of which form part of EDPC’s remit.

PG proposed an amendment to JR’s original proposal, that the application should be made as detailed in the agenda, subject to permission being granted from CBC for use of their land in this way. TP 2nd the amended proposal – all agreed.

79/16 To consider a request from the Harley-Davidson Club for permission to use Pearson’s Quay as a bike parking point on their ride-out event on 10th September:

PG noted that there had been no issues in previous years with this event, and proposed that permission be granted; PC 2nd – all agreed.

80/16 To note that the Indian Circus event previously approved by the council has now been reduced due to funding issues, and will be a one hour Kavaad storytelling picnic and workshop event with musical accompaniment, held on the Recreation Ground on the 28th August: noted.

81/16 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda: The Action List was noted.

82/16 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed:

- i) **Planning application 161905, 34 Regent St; application for a proposed lawful certificate, so previous driveway can be restored for purpose:** PG left the room. DC proposed that the council support this application; NC 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*
- ii) **Planning decision 161286, 145 Rowhedge Rd; Proposed extensions and conversion into a residential care home – conditional permission granted:** noted.
- iii) **Planning decision 161460, Heritage Trust Hut, High St; Variation of condition 1 on planning permission 144734 to allow re- locatable single storey building to remain on site for a further 3 years managed by Rowhedge Coastal Club, continuing to serve refreshments to the community and a base – temporary approval granted:** noted.
- iv) **Planning decision 161387, 157 Rowhedge Rd; Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed building – permission refused:** noted.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:

Chairman