

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 14th September 2017
St Lawrence School, Rectory Rd, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Phil George, Anna Appleyard, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman; Clerk – Nicki Matthews and 9 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil George, opened the meeting at 7pm.

76/17 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllrs Helliwell & Rowland, CBC Ward Cllrs Lilley, Scordis & Fox, and RRA Chair Trisha Curran.

77/17 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: PG – non pecuniary, item 83/17.

78/17 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th August 2017: The minutes were proposed as correct by PG, 2nd DC – agreed; minutes approved.

79/17 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 issues and questions were raised:

- Item 80/17 iii) – pleased to see that the cycle path on Rowhedge Rd is being taken forward.
- Item 82/17 – question whether the damage is connected to the pontoon, suggest an engineer's advice is sought.
- Item 83/17 – support for this request to be approved.
- Item 88/17 – is the welcome pack being progressed? Advised that the final draft has now been produced.
- Item 89/17 – Concern about the proposed changes to the houses, less eco-friendly than the original design and aesthetic impact on area. Concern about the impact of the road, laybys and garages on the riverfront PROW. Also concerns about the overall impact on the footpaths of the development, with long closures and possible changes to the routes.
- Please could councillors ensure they speak clearly and loudly enough for the public to hear.
- Footpath crossing the top of the Wharf Rd – please could signs be reinstated warning road users of pedestrians crossing. Action – the Clerk to contact Bloor Homes to request this.
- Birch Brook – the landowner needs to keep this clear to prevent further flooding, who is responsible? Advised that it is the Environment Agency, and the matter has been reported but no action appears to have been taken yet. Action – the Clerk to follow this up with the Environment Agency.
- Right to Roam – there is little public access land in the Colchester area, could the council seek to acquire more in the Rowhedge area?

80/17 To receive and note reports from

- i) County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: not present, no report.
- ii) CBC Ward Councillors Mike Lilley & Lee Scordis: apologies given, report by email as follows:
 - Albion St – LS has reported the issues of street lights remaining on all night, awaiting reply
 - Battleswick – the six month appeal deadline has passed but CBC are still awaiting confirmation from the central Planning Inspectorate as to whether Gladman have submitted an appeal.
 - Mobile Library – LS is involved in the consultation on this as ECC look into changes to this service, please forward any views to LS who will take them forward.
 - Bloor Homes development – the area by the High St barrier has been seeded as a temporary measure but will be asphalt surface as agreed later in the development.
 - Local Plan – the consultation is complete and the new plan will be reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate in early 2018.

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- iii) Clerk: noted.
- iv) Village Bus Representative – Elizabeth Trellis: The new timetable includes a 9am bus, which enable free bus pass users to travel to town earlier in the morning. Peter Kay (volunteer who puts notices on bus stops around Colchester to advise of changes etc) has now been granted a free bus pass to enable him to continue his work. There is a new generic email address for reporting issues with the buses.
- v) Rowhedge Residents Association – Trisha Curran: apologies received, no report.

81/17 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Appleyard & Clay: PG proposed the payments be agreed, NC 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

82/17 To review the correspondence received from Sapphire Management regarding the quayside and pontoon and quote(s) received to carry out repair work (refer attached) and agree a way forward: The letter of the 26th July was reviewed, and it was noted that a copy of the pontoon insurance has already been sent to Sapphire. It was confirmed that the attachments referred to in the letter were not authorised by the council and the council was not aware of any attachments prior to Sapphire alerting the council. The Senior Engineer from Colchester Borough Council has inspected the pontoon and quayside, and his report advises that the lifting of the capping / twisting of the piling referred to in the letter from Sapphire is not caused by the pontoon or the gangway, but instead is due to corrosion of the capping underside. However, there has been some damage to the tarmac caused by the gangway footplate. A second engineer has been consulted, whose opinion concurs. PG proposed that the council shares the information in the engineer's report with Sapphire Management, and suggests that the council offers to repair to the tarmac as per the report. AA 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

83/17 To receive a request from N & L Baker regarding mooring a barge on Pearson's Quay October – March (refer attached letter): Councillors expressed support for the request, as the owners have considered all aspects carefully, and noted that there is an existing arrangement with Our Boys, with a monthly fee payable. PG proposed that the request be granted with the same monthly fee as for Our Boys; DC 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

84/17 To consider the draft action plan (refer attached) produced using the results of the village plan survey, agree any further actions to be included and how the plan should be communicated: PG thanked the Village Plan Group for their work which has enabled this plan to be produced, and the Clerk for preparing it. He noted that it contains 38 areas for potential action, 19 of which have already been actioned, 10 are awaiting release of S106 funds which the council has achieved agreement for, and 9 are pending. In each of the 9 pending areas, external parties such as ECC, the Police, or the RCCE are the lead agency. Overall, it is a very positive plan and shows that a lot of work has already been undertaken to address the issues raised by residents. AA asked about the release of S106 funds to the Social Club and how that will be managed – PG advised that CBC will have a number of conditions regarding the use of the funds, and the parish council can check that toilets will be included in those conditions, but that funds won't be released until the trigger point in the Hills development is reached, which may be another 12-18 months. Councillors discussed the communication of the plan, and PG proposed that the plan be agreed and published on the council's website; also circulated via the email newsletter, with notices put on the boards advising that paper copies can be obtained from the office; AA 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

85/17 To note the updated risk assessments following their annual review (previously circulated): noted.

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86/17 To consider an offer from J & C Sharp to extend the Crow's Nest lease for a further 2 years from 1st November at an increased rent of £238 per month, all other terms to remain the same: The rent is currently £210/month, and councillors noted that the proposed increase still leaves it well below current commercial rates. AA proposed that the council accepts the offer and signs a further two-year lease; PC 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

87/17 To agree that Cllr Appleyard be appointed as an authorised signatory to the council's Unity bank accounts as the Chair of Finance & Personnel Committee: PG proposed this be agreed, NC 2nd – all agreed.

88/17 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda (refer Action List): Action list noted.

89/17 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed:

i) i) **Planning application 172220: Rowhedge Wharf development; application for revised house types on Plots 109-113 & 129-133:** Following a discussion of the points raised in item 79/17, PG proposed that the council objects to the application on the basis of the new designs being less eco-friendly; AA 2nd – all agreed.

90/17 To consider the applications received from Daniel Slade, Susan Allen & Dave Myers to join the parish council, and to agree whether to co-opt any new member(s) to fill the two vacant seats: PG explained the process, and reminded councillors that they may vote for up to two candidates for the two vacant seats. Each candidate spoke in support of their application, and then a vote was taken (paper ballot). Before the result was announced by the Clerk, PG proposed that the two candidates with the most votes be co-opted to join the council – all agreed. Daniel Slade & Dave Myers received the most votes and were duly co-opted onto the council as members. PG thanked Susan Allen for her application and ongoing support.

i) **Any newly co-opted member(s) to sign the declaration of acceptance of office:** DS & DM signed the declarations.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:

Chairman