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Present: Cllrs Phil George, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, Tracie Guy & Dave Myers; CBC Ward Cllr Lee Scordis; Clerk Nicki Matthews and 4 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil George, opened the meeting at 7pm noting that the agenda for tonight is very brief due to the holiday period, with several items postponed until the September meeting. PG also noted that the Rowhedge Going Greener meeting took place on the 7th August and was an inspirational meeting with lots of good ideas; PG is looking forward to seeing the group's plans and objectives develop and identifying how the parish council can assist them in achieving those aims.

73/19 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllrs Richard Helliwell & Anna Appleyard, and CBC Ward Cllrs Mike Lilley & Adam Fox.

74/19 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: DM - pecuniary, item 78/19; TG – non-pecuniary item 80/19 ii); DC – non-pecuniary item 80/19 ii)

75/19 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2019: PG proposed the minutes to be correct; NC 2nd – all agreed.

76/19 Have your say! The Chairman will allocate a max.15 minutes to ask members of the public to speak (max. 3 minutes each) on any matters relevant to parish business:

- Item 81/19 i) – comment that resident would like to see if a green solution is achievable
- Item 81/19 ii) – support for this as residue from dog fouling is dangerous to young children.
- Wharf development – is there going to be any social housing? PG & LS advised that the Bloor development does not include any affordable housing and the Hills development was due to include some but it is currently unclear whether any will be on the Rowhedge site or whether it has been allocated by the developers in alternative sites in the borough instead of on the wharf.
- Anti-social behaviour – recent reports of ASB on the recreation ground and in the car park, including drinking & littering. TG noted there have recently been reports of young people from other areas in Colchester using Rowhedge as a meeting place, with aggressive behaviour being reported although it may be moving away from the village now as parents take action. PG noted that all ASB should be reported to the police and caution should be exercised when using social media to highlight issues. NM to contact CBC re the removal of hazardous waste from the youth shelter. *Action – the Clerk*

77/19 To receive and note reports from:

- i) Essex County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: no report
- ii) CBC Ward Councillor Scordis:
 - Rowhedge Going Greener – very positive meeting with ideas about improving life in our communities
 - Pump House – the public meeting was very well attended, with the main issue identified being the cost. The RHT are seeking volunteers and funding to help with the project but the purchase price and Hills' timescales may make it unachievable. The planning application has been called into committee anyway which may influence the outcome.
 - Recycling levels in Colchester have improved year on year since the collection changes were implemented; some issues in urban areas still to be addressed.
 - S106 funding for the footpath towards Fingringhoe has now been released by the developers; ECC are preparing the works, focusing on cutting back vegetation until the funds are received. CBC are due to carry out the improvements to the section of the tow path by the moorings in autumn.
 - River usage – CBC recently held a policy meeting to discuss how to encourage use of the river and improve access, and positive feedback was given on how Rowhedge quaysides are managed. The idea of a bridge was raised again and has caused a lot of discussion on social media. One issue with encouraging river usage is that the oyster fishery has control of the riverbed due to an old contract.

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- Middlewick Ranges – consultations are ongoing, with current plans for most building to be in the Abbots Road area, between Monkwick and Old Heath. Birch Brook and the river are protected from development, and the MOD are retaining the farmland as a revenue stream. CBC had hoped to set up a steering group with residents to try and influence the planning process, but an independent group has already been set up, which unfortunately has circulated some false information and not been very helpful to the process. The land will be sold in 2021 and CBC are hoping that Essex Housing will be given the development, which would ensure 30-40% social housing. CBC are also hoping to reduce the number of houses planned to below 1,000 although below 800 would mean no new primary school was built and there would be less infrastructure put in place. TG asked about who the social housing would benefit, and LS advised it would be local people already on the waiting list.
- King Edward Quay – DM asked about where boats and caravans are putting their waste as this is a serious issue around river usage in Rowhedge. LS advised that there is an issue with dumping waste in the river and will liaise with Environmental Health to see what action can be taken. LS advised that work is ongoing in this area, and cllrs noted that some improvements have been made with parking restrictions now in place and some vehicles removed already. S106 funds have also been allocated to improve the area as part of the public realm.

iii) The Clerk: report noted.

78/19 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Appleyard & Clay:

PG proposed that the payments list be approved, NC 2nd – all agreed (DM left the room for this item). *Action – the Clerk*

79/19 To note the draft minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee on 11th July: noted.

80/19 To receive the following event applications:

- i) **Pop up yoga on Lion Quay over the summer:** Cllrs noted that no maximum numbers or risk assessment were provided. PG proposed that the application be approved, with a requirement for a risk assessment to be submitted and maximum numbers agreed with the Clerk. TG 2nd – all agreed.
- ii) **Rowhedge PTA Firework display 3rd November 2019:** Cllrs noted that this is a fantastic and successful village event, with parking being the only real issue and this is already being considered to minimise any problems. PG proposed the application be approved with more parking marshals to be provided, PC 2nd – all agreed.

81/19 To receive an email from a resident (refer attached) asking the council to consider:

- i) **Installing new surfacing for the area of Pearson's Quay leased by the Albion:** DM suggested that grass cutting and strimming this area is the responsibility of the Albion as the tables are left in situ at all times. Cllrs agreed that installing hard standing is likely to create more issues on the quayside with due to weight, lack of drainage etc and in light of the existing issues on Pearson's Quay should be avoided if possible. The area currently has hexagonal matting installed; adding more topsoil and reseeding may help to improve the appearance. Cllrs agreed to refer this to the Maintenance Committee to consider in conjunction with the other issues relating to Pearson's Quay. *Action – Maintenance Committee*
- ii) **Designating areas on the quaysides where dogs are not permitted in summer months:** Cllrs noted that it is a valid issue as residue exists even after fouling is cleared up and there are other areas nearby where dogs can be taken for their toilet needs. However, cllrs also agreed that the only way to enforce any ban would be to fence off the area completely which is not desirable or practical. Educating all dog owners about the risk to public health/young children (even when fouling is cleared up) and asking people not to use this area for dog toileting may be a measure which could reduce the problem. PG proposed that notices to this effect be produced and prominently displayed on both quaysides; DM 2nd – all agreed. Cllr Guy agreed to lead on drafting these notices. *Action – TG*

82/19 To receive a letter (refer attached) from a resident requesting a Rowhedge skate park: PG noted that the letter was submitted by a 10year old resident and it is really positive for a young person in the village to be engaging with the council in this way. Cllrs noted that this suggestion is

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already on the list of possible projects which could potentially be accommodated on the Recreation Ground using S106 funding, if funding and space allow. There are two issues currently holding this process up; firstly the council is waiting for advice from CBC regarding the archaeological work they have indicated would be required for any development on the Rec, and secondly a scale map of the Rec is needed to identify which facilities could be mapped in the available space. NM will continue to pursue the advice from CBC, and will reassess how to produce the required map. Cllrs agreed that a response should be sent to the resident thanking them for their letter and advising that their suggestions is being seriously considered. *Action – the Clerk*

83/19 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda: The action list was noted. NM to ensure all excess pallets are removed from Heath Rd. *Action – the Clerk*

84/19 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed: *Action – the Clerk*

- i) Planning application 191708: 10 Waterfront Promenade; erection of first floor balcony and conversion of existing first floor windows to french doors:** PG proposed that the council comments with no objections; DC 2nd – all agreed.
- ii) Planning decision 191314: conditional approval granted for proposed side and rear extension 2 storey with single storey lean to on rear:** noted.
- iii) Planning application 191870: Land adjacent 18 Rectory Rd; Erection of new 2 bedroom house on land to the side of No18 Rectory Road:** Cllrs noted that there appears to be sufficient space for the build and parking spaces have been included. PG proposed that the council makes no comment on this application; PC 2nd – all agreed.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:

Chairman