

East Donyland Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting – 12th September 2019

87/19

St Lawrence School, Rectory Rd, Rowhedge starting 7.30pm.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Phil George, Richard Helliwell & Tracie Guy; Clerk Nicki Matthews and 17 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil George, opened the meeting at 7.30pm with thanks to all who had attended the earlier VE Day 75 planning meeting, particularly the RHT. It was a very useful and positive meeting, and promises to be a great event, more details to follow very soon.

85/19 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllrs Anna Appleyard, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, Dave Myers, ECC Cllr Kevin Bentley and CBC Ward Cllr Lee Scordis.

86/19 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: none.

87/19 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2019: PG proposed the minutes to be correct; TG 2nd – all agreed.

88/19 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 100/19 – L Bannatyne, RHT Chairperson, outlined the background on the project as follows: In May, Hill submitted a planning application to demolish the Pump House as part of their housing build. 150+ objections were made, mainly relating to the Pump House. The RHT, in contact with EDPC, met with Hills who offered a 3 month purchase option on the Pump House at a price of £120,000 and confirmed that funds would not be required by 19.09.19. EDPC's required timescales meant that they could not take this forward, so the RHT pursued this by themselves. They sought and secured public support through a very successful and well attended public meeting, researched funding options and prepared to carry out due diligence (commissioning contamination reports etc). On 29.07.19 the RHT received an email from Hills stating that they were required to exchange and complete by 19.09.19 with the full £120,000 paid. This is not realistic or reasonable for the RHT, and so Hills went on to propose retaining and commercially renting the Pump House, possibly to EDPC. The RHT have therefore stopped work on preparing for the purchase and thankfully had not committed funds at that point. They are now continuing to try and save the Pump House, and are in correspondence with CBC, looking into funding options and keeping in communication with Hills. Recently, Hills have submitted an amended planning application which retains the Pump House, but it is likely that they may seek to show lack of support / commitment and reapply to demolish in the future. The RHT urge EDPC to support them, as they believe that restoring the building to become a heritage facility is still achievable. K Phillips spoke about their planned use of the Pump House – the intention is that it will be used to store artefacts, host displays and exhibitions, engage with and celebrate Rowhedge heritage, facilitate cultural and educational activities, be used by groups and artists etc, be a base for a range of activities given its location, a social focus and meeting place with refreshments etc. PG noted that Hills had made a range of offers but that they were unrealistic, including an offer to sell the building to EDPC within a very short timescale with funds to be raised through increasing council tax and the council to take on responsibility for contamination risks etc. It was not possible for the council to meet their requirements, and councillors elected not to call an extra ordinary meeting to pursue this.
- Are the council quorate this evening? The Clerk confirmed that yes, 3 councillors is the minimum number required to be able to vote and make decisions.

89/19 To receive and note reports from:

- i) Essex County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: no report
- ii) CBC Ward Councillor Scordis - report provided via email:
 - Sewage smell Rectory Rd – this is due to the Bloor septic tank, and will be emptied later this month
 - Sewage smell Hythe – this is due to an uncovered tank which is to be addressed
 - Caravans on Hythe quayside – still awaiting ECC action

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 12th September 2019
St Lawrence School, Rectory Rd, Rowhedge starting 7.30pm.

MINUTES

iii) The Clerk: report noted; the bin replacement programme is still planned to take place this year.

90/19 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Appleyard & Clay:

Noted that the storage box is for recycling stock, purchase approved by PG. PG proposed that the payments list be approved, RH 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*

91/19 To note the draft minutes from the Maintenance Committee on 14th August and consider the following proposal: noted

i) **The council to receive quotes and define a way forward to repair and decorate the Burial Ground Fence:** It was noted that the quote from Company A has been amended to exclude the gate which is now being rebuilt by F Bush; the total for Co. A is now £2,050. RH proposed that Company B's quote of £1,612 be accepted; PG 2nd – all agreed. *Action – Asst Clerk*

92/19 To receive a report from EDCA in relation to providing additional lighting and CCTV coverage in the community car park outside the village hall (refer attached) and to consider the proposals outlined within the report to install 2-3 x cameras on the village hall, movement sensitive lights on the hall and entrance road and white line marking on the entrance road pavement, total estimated cost approx. £1,600: PG thanked EDCA for their hard work in preparing this; it is a good idea and will encourage antisocial behaviour. RH noted that a licence is required to monitor public spaces with CCTV and will need to ensure this is in place to comply with data protection legislation, EDCA to check. If the entrance road path is extended as proposed in item 93/19 an additional bollard may be required. PG proposed that the council agree the proposal and £1,600 expenditure (includes installation) subject to the required licenses being in place and to take this forward in conjunction with EDCA; TG 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk / EDCA*

93/19 To consider whether to undertake works to the boundary between 28 Rectory Road (consent in principle has already been obtained from the property owner) and the village hall entrance road in order to improve safe access for pedestrians; by removing trees, adjusting the fence line and extending the path. An initial quote of £980 has been obtained for removal of the trees: It was noted that this will improve safety and is a good idea in principle. The initial cost for tree work appears high; it was agreed that two further quotes for the tree work should be obtained, as well as three quotes for the hard landscaping. An application to CBC will also be required for the tree removal. *Action – the Clerk*

94/19 To consider a proposal from the Rowhedge Going Greener group to implement a tree adoption scheme to be managed by the council; location of trees to be agreed but could include an avenue of cherry trees along the Recreation Ground path and trees planted on verges with the permission of ECC: No representative from RGG was present. Cllrs agreed this is a good idea in principle but requires further thought and detail. An avenue of trees on the Recreation Ground would need to be considered in line with plans to widen the path, and with consideration to issues of leaves on the path etc. How many trees would be needed? Would it make it darker and less safe at night? It was agreed to invite the RGG to further discussion on this and bring it back to council with a more detailed plan. *Action – the Clerk*

95/19 To approve an application to ECC to install 10 x festive lights on the High Street 29 November – 6 January and the associated installation and electricity costs, estimated £550: Noted that last year there were 5 lights, the purchase of the new lights was funded by CBC. PG proposed the application be approved; TG 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*

96/19 To consider a proposal from Cllr Appleyard that the council signs the Colchester Cycling Charter (attached): Cllrs agreed this is a positive campaign and the council should support it. RH proposed the council sign the charter; TG 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*

97/19 To receive an invitation to participate in the North Essex Local Plan Technical Consultation and agree any response: PG noted concerns about the sustainability of the infrastructure detailed in the documentation relating to the garden communities, given the proposed level of growth in the borough. Cllrs agreed that guidance and clarification from our CBC Ward Cllrs

East Donyland Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting – 12th September 2019

St Lawrence School, Rectory Rd, Rowhedge starting 7.30pm.

MINUTES

would be helpful in responding to this consultation due to the technical information and detail involved – the Clerk to ask ML/AF/LS for guidance and revisit this at the October meeting. *Action – the Clerk/Ward Cllrs*

- 98/19 To consider a quote from Wicksteed for £1,012 + VAT to replace the universal joint on the pendulum swing in the playground as required every 5 years:** Noted that the only other option would be to decommission the swing entirely. TG proposed the quote be accepted; RH 2nd – all agreed.
- 99/19 To receive an update from the Clerk regarding the land transfer required to enable EDCA to build their planned annexe, and agree how additional identified costs of £300 for further land registry compliant plans should be met:** NM explained that on receipt of the surveyor's plans, the Diocese's solicitors identified that the proposed boundary of the current fence line would not accommodate the planned annexe build. Having revisited the site with EDCA, a revised boundary line has now been established, 75 cm beyond the current fence line, within the existing school playground. Consent for this new boundary is being sought from the school and Diocese, and if granted will require a new set of plans to be drawn and submitted to the solicitors. K Malcolm advised that the boundary proposal will need to be submitted to the school governors at their meeting on 24.09.19 as it is beyond what was previously agreed (which was to move the boundary from within the preschool garden to the current fence line) but is hopeful that it can be agreed. EDCA noted that they now hope to start works at Easter if all is approved. RH proposed that the council meets the £300 cost for the plans once written approval is received from both the school and Diocese; PG 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*
- 100/19 To receive an update from Cllr George regarding the Pump House and an offer made by Jonathan Hills to the parish council; and to consider a proposal from Cllr George that the council record their support for the Rowhedge Heritage Trust in their efforts to prevent the Pump House from being demolished and retain it as a heritage facility for the community:** Noted the discussion under item 88/19; cllrs reiterated what has already been said, that Hills' offers appear disingenuous, thanked the RHT for the huge amount of work they have done and expressed their confidence in the RHT to continue the fight to save the Pump House. PG proposed that council support the RHT in their efforts to prevent the Pump House from being demolished and retain it as a heritage facility for the community; RH 2nd – all agreed.
- 101/19 To receive and agree the renewal of the allotment licence (attached) to run from the signing of the agreement until 31st December 2025 (an extension of five years to the current licence) with all terms remaining the same including the licence fee of £1,000 per annum:** PG proposed that the licence renewal be agreed; RH 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*
- 102/19 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda:** The action list was noted, and the following *actions* agreed:
Burial Ground database – *Asst Clerk* to progress this or remove the action as appropriate
Shower on Lion Quay – *Clerk* to contact RCRC
MUGA – agenda item for Oct for update from *CBC Ward Cllrs* on planning advice
Policing – agenda item for Oct for update from *CBC Ward Cllrs*
20mph campaign – Clerk to follow up with *ECC Cllr Bentley*
Tyre Wall – Clerk to follow up with *ECC Cllr Bentley*
Football Club matters - *Clerk/PG* to meet with club 17.09.19
Quality Council – panel meeting Sept, *Clerk* to update at Oct meeting
- 103/19 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed:** *Action – the Clerk*
i) **Planning application 191947: 34 High St; minor alterations to raise rear chimney stack and to paint joinery details on the front elevation of the house:** PG proposed the council makes no comment – all agreed
ii) **Planning application 192218: 39 Parkfield St; work to trees, Silver Birch - crown reduction of 30% due to overhanging and shading neighbour's gardens:** PG proposed the council supports this application – all agreed

East Donyland Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting – 12th September 2019

St Lawrence School, Rectory Rd, Rowhedge starting 7.30pm.

MINUTES

- iii) **Planning decision 191708: 10 Waterfront Promenade; erection of first floor balcony and conversion of existing first floor windows to french doors – conditional approval granted: noted**
- iv) **Planning decision 173205: Rowhedge Wharf; application to discharge conditions 5, 15,26,44,45 of planning permission 144693 c44 discharged c5 discharged under 171278 c26 W/D as included in 171278 c45 relates to ongoing highway works – discharge of conditions approved: noted**
- v) **Planning decision 190052: 30 Rectory Road; proposed conversion of single dwelling into 2 separate units and associated extensions and alterations – application withdrawn: noted**

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:

Chairman