

**East Donyland Parish Council**  
Full Parish Council Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Zoom starting 7.00pm.

**MINUTES**

Present; Cllrs Helliwell, Appleyard, Brett, Clay, Crouchman, Guy, Myers & Pettitt, Clerk E Nelson-Hayes, 8 members of the public.

The Chair thanked everyone for logging on to Zoom, a full agenda.

**130/20 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences;** None.

**131/20 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda:** None.

**132/20 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (*attached*):** NC proposed to minutes to be correct & DC 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed.

**133/20 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:**  
Is there an update on the 20mph initiative? It is an agenda point this evening. Mrs Trellis had returned to the village to continue her recuperation and Mrs Sanderson sent her best wishes to the Parish Council via Mr Philips. The RHT have started to think about hosting the Harris Rally on the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> October this year.

**134/20 To receive and note reports from:**

- i) **County Councillor Kevin Bentley;** KB informed everyone that the 20mph initiative is on its way. It has taken time because of all the legal requirements and will be signed off imminently. Schools returned this week successfully. The Essex County Council budget has 2 parts. The first part is the Council tax which is set at 0% and the second part is Adult Social Care which is set at 0.5% reminding everyone that a lot of money went into this in the past year to help those who are struggling with the pandemic. Questions; an accident occurred in Hillview Close involving a child and a scooter on the terrible road surface, is it possible to review where on the list Hillview is in terms of resurfacing in light of the accident. Hillview Close is high on the list for the next budget year. The Walnut Tree junction has not been forgotten. The Local Highways Panel (LHP) are going to be doing an assessment of speed, KB will inform us of when that is happening, and he has applied for designs for a roundabout to be drawn up.
- ii) **Borough Councillors Mike Lilley & Lee Scordis:** Cllr Lilley-there was a meeting with the planning officers regarding the field at Battleswick farm, which is owned by different people to the actual farm itself. The landowners have asked for the field to be added to the Local Plan written by CBC, this has been refused, they can ask again in 10 years. The fact that it isn't in the Local Plan is encouraging. The slightly concerning thing could be if there is a call to remove Middlewick (potential 1000 home development on the ranges) then Battleswick could come back into play. Local MP Bob Russell is asking for a country park to be created at Middlewick, to preserve nature and to build houses where it won't have a massive impact on the countryside. Footpath to Fingringhoe, there have been some complaints about the state of the path itself, ML suggested talking to Jason at ECC who would be able to advise, but it's been Winter with wet weather and this happens every year and being in the countryside there needs to be some common sense and expectation with this. The Clerk pointed out that she has also received complaints and has spoken to Jason who said the same thing regarding this footpath and the one leading to the burial ground from Wharf Rd. Bloors, the developer of the first section of the wharf area will receive their court date imminently as they are being prosecuted for the horrendous smell in Rowhedge. They have purchased new machinery to deal with the problem. Anglian Water will be visiting for heavy duty cleaning of the main pit, so there might be a smell whilst that is being dealt with. Cllr Fox noted that Bob Russell has set up a Local Forum to find out how to protect some land at Middlewick for nature.

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Footpath to the Hythe, a significant portion has been closed due to the quayside collapsing. CBC are waiting for costed proposals. An alternative route? Due to the businesses surrounding the area an alternative route cannot be found as yet.

There is 2.8 million pounds for Colchester to create opportunities for walking routes and youth facilities across the area, it is hoped that Rowhedge will benefit from this as well in some way. The footpath route from the High Street, Rowhedge through the development seems to have changed, there have been complaints from residents. Need to check to see if there has been a change of route - *Action the Clerk*

- iii) **The Clerk:** Noted. – Wheelchair borrowing scheme mentioned. Cllr Pettitt is looking into this as an idea of a facility for Rowhedge and hopes to update everyone at the April Full Council meeting.

- 135/20 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Appleyard & Helliwell (refer attached):** minor typos on Google G Suite & Tax & NI, Cllrs RH & AA are happy to sign the payment list off with amendments. TG proposed the payment list to be correct, NC 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed – *Action The Clerk*
- 136/20 To note the draft minutes from the Maintenance Committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February;** \*Agenda point after 138/20 Noted, signage throughout the village is being looked at.
- 137/20 To receive an update from Cllr Helliwell regarding the 20mph speed limit initiative.**  
The new gate will be located at the bottom of Rowhedge Rd where the old noticeboard used to be on the right hand side at the bend. The other gate will be at the top of Rectory Rd. at a height of 1.8m as the verge gets rather overgrown in summer. The whole of the 20mph will be as it was asked for initially by the parish council. It is no longer going to be in 2 phases as Rectory Rd is included from the start. As Rectory Rd is now included there won't be flashing lights outside of the school.  
The Council will perform a sanity check of the plans & graphics when they are received, to make sure all signage is there and the right amount of roundals are displayed. Cross checking with residents responses regarding signage when the initial consultation went out is being done to hopefully allay fears, concerns and dislikes as far as is practicable.
- 138/20 To receive an update on the riverside path closure and, if warranted, to agree a course of action for EDPC.** Questions, when will the repairs start? Is there any sort of time frame for this? Concerns that this will get lost amongst other CBC issues or projects. What pressure are the ward councillors giving CBC? Everyone was assured that It is an important path, it is at the top of the ward councillors agenda and they will make CBC aware of how important it is that it is reopened as soon as possible and an alternative route needs to be found. CBC can use their borrowing powers as it is a capital project. The whole jetty all the way along from the damaged quayside to the bridge needs to be replaced at a cost of approx £4 million in one go, it can't be fixed in phases. Developers of student accommodation built nearby had been approached but it is beyond their remit. The sewage pipe hasn't collapsed so it isn't an Anglian Water issue.
- 139/20 To receive and agree the renewal price of £2121.66 from Colchester Borough Council for bin emptying and outside area inspections.** Noted that there is a 30% rise in costs. There is an £8 million deficit within CBC and all costs are going up everywhere. Carparks used to earn CBC £3-4million a year, last year only £500,000 due to COVID-19. Cllr Guy asked does this increase set a precedent for a year on year increase or is it a one off? To send the details to Cllr Fox who will ask CBC these questions – *Action the Clerk*. Check when Play Area inspection training is being rescheduled to, to potentially save costs in the future – *Action the Clerk*. Cllr Helliwell proposed to accept the increase and renew the CBC contract for another year, DC 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed – *Action the Clerk*

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- 140/20 To consider the annual review of the grant awarding policy, agree updates and amendments (*policy circulated to council separately*):** TG proposed that the policy is renewed for another year no changes made or proposed, DC 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed. – *Action the Clerk*
- 141/20 To receive a general update from Councillor Helliwell on S106 funding, also an update regarding funding for the path widening on the recreation ground. 2 parts.** RH has spoken to Yana Saxby from CBC working with the council on section 106 funds, to create a deed of variation for the £22,000 for allotment purchases, Yana will take the request forward asking the developer to allow the council to use the money on the quayside. The second part was asking Siobhan Mcleod (CBC) to release S106 money for the path widening. This request has been passed to David Carter in CBC, unsure if this is correct & he is the right person to take this forward.
- 142/20 To receive an update on the environmental review regarding the potential move of the MUGA on the recreation ground.** JB presented sketches of the memorial tree canopy over the possible new MUGA location. It seems that it could fit. Another meeting to be set up with the Walking Football group. Cllr Lilley to speak to someone at CBC to see if they can advise on the impact of building work close to the tree root system and report back to full council. There isn't a TPO on any of the memorial trees. Set up a meeting with the Walking Football Group – *Action JB/RH*
- 143/20 To discuss a plan for replacing the fencing on the barrier line between the school and recreation ground using some of the 106 funding.** The school wrote to the parish council asking for help to replace the fence possibly using S106 money, which has been vandalised and people have scaled it to go on the school roof – where the Police were called. The Council support the suggestion to see how the Section 106 money is broken down and if possible to use some of the money to replace the fence. Update the school on the Councils support – *Action the Clerk & DC*
- 144/20 To discuss the plan for planting on the turning circle & decide a potential budget for this project.** The plan was received with thanks, the residents Mr Keeble and Mr Lewis met with Cllr Guy to discuss the plan earlier this week. A positive project, so far the Clerk has been unsuccessful getting advice from Essex County Council about adopting the turning circle. To repeat the request for info to Cllr Bentley and ask Sonia Church, an engineer from Essex County Council who has been very helpful in the past, for advice. – *Action the Clerk*
- 145/20 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda (*refer attached Action List*):** Signage at the village hall entrance, Rowhedge Football Club will be in touch regarding this, circulate designs to the council upon receipt. – *Action the Clerk*  
Tighten up the detail on the new benches, installation times and delivery times with SPG – *Action the Clerk*
- 146/20 To consider the applications received to join the parish council and to agree whether to co-opt 1 of the applicants to fill the vacant seat.**  
The Council heard from every candidate a little about themselves & what skills they could bring to the council.  
The Council using the private chat facility on zoom & sent their vote to the Clerk to count.

**Commented [1]:** Could you please add who Yana is

**Commented [2]:** Please add who Sonya Church is eg (CBC)

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Cllr Helliwell and members of the council thanks all the candidates for their applications. The calibre of their applications was outstanding, and the council are grateful for their time.

Maxiene Cartwright won the majority and was welcomed to the Council.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting & moved on to Part 2 of the meeting.

**Part 2 – Closed to the Press and public due to the sensitivity of the item under discussion.**

**147/20 To consider advertising for a role of assistant Clerk, the number of hours and pay scale.**

Change to the advert to reflect more flexibility in hour structure. The budget set and agreed can accommodate a member of staff.

Closing date mid April, 4-6 weeks, RH proposed to advertise position for 9hrs a week subject to finalising the advert, NC 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed – *Action the Clerk.*

**The meeting closed at 9.16pm**

Agreed as a true record.

Signed:  
Chairman

Date: