

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 8th April 2021
Zoom starting 7.00pm.

MINUTES

Present; Cllrs Helliwell, Appleyard, Brett, Clay, Cartwright, Crouchman & Pettitt, Clerk E Nelson-Hayes, 4 members of the public.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. Welcomed Cllr Cartwright to her first full council meeting. There were some strong candidates for the recent vacancy, and they are thanked for their efforts.

148/20 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences; Cllr Guy has resigned from the council due to personal commitments; she is thanked for her hard work and dedication to the role. Cllr Myers was having trouble connecting.

149/20 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: None

150/20 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2021 (*attached*): RH proposed to minutes to be correct & NC 2nd – all agreed.

151/20 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:

Has a meeting between the walking football group and the football club taken place? The minutes are not on the website. The pump house is on the market, a resident had been informed that the owners "want it to be useful to the community".

A resident would like the council to consider when they create new signage for along the river front the tone and instruction. There is a difference between anti-social behaviour and swimming in the River Colne. Anti-social crime has lowered in this area. The council note that they do not want to deter people from visiting. Rowhedge has become a destination. The footpath up to the Walnut Tree has become too narrow. The signs in the woods, is there an update? – this is a live project which will be discussed further down the agenda. There are concerns that footballs kicked on the rec would damage the new planting outside the preschool annexe, would EDCA consider erecting a fence. An EDCA representative answered this query that the shrubs were chosen for their hardy nature, as they become more established they should be robust enough to withstand this and small pathways through the plants will make it easier to retrieve footballs.

152/20 To receive and note reports from:

i.**County Councillor Kevin Bentley;** Quick update, 20mph the paperwork has been signed and is with the legal department of ECC. LHP (Local Highways Panel) are looking at the Walnut Tree Junction and the feasibility of a roundabout, Cllr Bentley will point out the narrow path previously mentioned in the meeting. This will all go to LHP in June. COVID-19 cases are falling in Essex and vaccination numbers are up.

ii.**Borough Councillors Mike Lilley & Lee Scordis:** not in attendance. To email and ask for a report for the Friday catch up - *Action the Clerk*

iii.**The Clerk:** Noted.

153/20 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Appleyard & Helliwell (*refer attached*): RH proposed the payments to be correct, DC 2nd – all agreed – *Action the Clerk*

154/20 To note the draft minutes from the Finance & Personnel on 11th March, including agreement that Cllr Cartwright joins the committee and take on new Councillor training. To note the payment date for the lease with Ye Olde Albion has been pushed back to June, Cllr Cartwright has joined the committee and is happy to participate in training, to organise dates – *Action the Clerk*

155/20 To plan for future council meetings as the deadline for online meetings will not be extended. NALC are appealing this decision, the public would not be invited, NALC and EDPC can't see this making sense and would be a technological nightmare. Awaiting news. The Clerk has approached both the school & EDCA regarding a suitable venue to once again hold face to face meetings. The village hall is fully booked apart from a very small room, which would be unsuitable for the Council's needs. Waiting to hear back from the school.

156/20 To discuss the plan for planting on the bus turning circle & decide a potential budget for this project. After a short discussion, an exact budget figure couldn't be reached which reflected precise costings. The council are in favour of this project and have asked the residents to return to the council with a revision of figures, whilst we wait for ECC to agree to the licence application. The Chair was not comfortable putting this proposal forward due to budgetary changes at this time and it was withdrawn.-all agreed.

157/20 To receive an update from Cllr Helliwell regarding 20mph speed limit initiative. As updated by Cllr Bentley previously, the documents are with the legal team. The council is waiting for the plans to look at for the signage.

158/20 To receive an update from CBC regarding the riverside path issue, including possibilities for an alternative route. Will Quince wrote to CBC regarding the quayside. Pressure is building for CBC to fix the issue and find an alternative route. There is a need to fight & keep it in the public eye. It thought beneficial to look at trying to join with Wivenhoe & Fingringhoe making it easier to keep everyone informed. The question if anyone had spoken to Bernard Jenkins about this? Have a look at maps to see if there is a route that has been missed.

159/20 To receive & decide on an application from the Ferry Association to use the floating pontoon for the ferry between Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe & Rowhedge this season. RH proposed, subject to insurance being in place & they are abiding by government guideline for COVID-19 to wholeheartedly accept and support this service. NC 2nd – all agreed – *Action the Clerk*

160/20 To receive information from ECC regarding the possibility to have the footpath running through the woods adjacent to the Wharf Rd adopted as a Public Right of Way, the process in which to do so & decide whether to start the process. It was established that EDPC or an individual can submit an application-but which would carry more weight. A short discussion took place as to why the signs might have gone up, the Council don't want to upset the landowners. How easy it would be to notify people if we wanted to gather evidence was discussed, with social media it could be easily done. It was generally agreed that protecting well-used pathways is paramount. This will be on May's agenda.

161/20 To consider the annual review of the blue plaque policy and agree any updates and amendments (policy circulated to council separately, changed highlighted in yellow)

AA proposed to accept the changes in yellow, remove “*Proposals will not be considered where the person is commemorated by a plaque elsewhere in the borough of Colchester*” and update the review date. MC 2nd – all agreed – *Action the Clerk*

162/20 To receive an update on the S106 monies and the path widening. The Deed of Variation document previously agreed to submit has been submitted. This allows the Council to spend S106 funds on new projects as previously agreed projects cannot come to fruition. Cllr Mike Lilley thought, when in discussion with the chair that himself & Cllr Scordis would be able to deal with it. A meeting will be needed with the School, the Council and the Contractors closer to the time of starting the project.

163/20 To receive an update on the environmental review regarding the potential move of the MUGA on the recreation ground. This review is needed before the project can progress, need Cllr Lilley to tell us when the money will be released. Dave Evans has produced an updated document based on recent discussions. The formal process needs to be completed before we can go on to the next stage. There has been a repeated request for a skate park, which will need consideration also. The football club are keen to be involved. A wider dialogue can take place once the environmental review has been done.

164/20 To discuss potentially paying for extra patrols in the village by the Police, deciding hours, how best to patrol and a budget for this. This item to be parked as Cllr Lilley has been asked for his input and has an idea for community officers to work within the village to help with crime reduction. To nudge Cllr Lilley & put this on May’s agenda – *Action – The Clerk.*

165/20 To discuss the idea of providing free wheelchairs for Rowhedge residents to borrow, agree the policy, process & potential budget for this initiative – led by Cllr Pettitt. Cllr Pettitt approached another council who have been very successful in this. Cllr Pettitt is looking for permission to go away and get a proposal together for May Full Council meeting, which was supported and agreed on by the Council. Questions on gauging interesting, which shouldn’t be needed if it is marketed properly. *Action IP & The Clerk*

166/20 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda (refer attached Action List): Noted, the action list is now on google drive, a live document that can be updated by councillors as their actions are completed. – *Action the Council*

167/20 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed (refer attached):

i.Planning Application 210546 Battleswick Farm, make good roof by carefully removing the existing roof tiles to inspect the timber and treat woodworm. Replace only rotten timbers for solid timbers using traditional methods, true to its original construction. Reinstate existing tiles and any reclaim. RH proposed to support this work, NC 2nd – all agreed. – *Action the Clerk*

- ii.Planning Application 210672, Rowhedge Social Club, Elevations treatment: Replace existing external finishes with cedar cladding, hardiplank & render finished. RH proposed to support this application, DC 2nd – all agreed. – *Action the Clerk*
- iii.Planning Application 210724 Land adjacent to Police Station, 18 Rectory Rd; Application expired.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending & on a final note wanted to tell everyone that after 8 years, being Chair for 2.5 years & vice chair for 3 he is stepping down to pursue new projects. He will still be around to assist in any way needed. It had been a great privilege and pleasure. Cllr Pettitt thanked Cllr Helliwell for everything he has done for the Council, a fantastic speaker who can command an audience and will be a hard act to follow, it's sad and he will be missed.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:
Chairman