

**East Donyland Parish Council**  
Maintenance Committee Meeting –16 June 2021  
At the RCRC Hut starting at 7pm

**MINUTES**

Present: Cllrs J Brett, D Clay, N Crouchman, D Myers, I Pettitt, A Appleyard, Clerk E Nelson-Hayes, Assistant Clerk M Small

- 001/21 To receive & accept apologies from members:** All present
- 002/21 To minute disclosable pecuniary & non-pecuniary interest of members:** JB -NP-RMA, DM-NP- RMA re 007/21
- 003/21 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 14 April 2021** JB proposed, NC 2<sup>nd</sup>, all agreed
- 004/21 Public forum - to receive information or queries from members of the public relevant to Maintenance Committee business.** None
- 005/21 To receive a report from the Water Bailiff Julian Brett.** JB discussed the main points from the report, see document EDPC- Water Bailiff Report June 2021.  
Matters arising: The RNLI session was a success, and it was felt that a further session would be beneficial, to include the wider community. **AP JB to contact RNLI.**  
The possibility of buying a boat for the PC to use for maintenance was discussed and it was agreed to look at this in the future.  
**AP The speed signs for the river were damaged and removed. ENH said under emergency process the Water Bailiff can spend up to £250 to purchase and put up new signs.**  
**AP To contact TLA and St Lawrence to ask if they can ensure the talk to the children on raising awareness of the tidal waters is done before the summer recess. DC to contact both schools.**
- 006/21 To receive a report from the Footpath Rep Julian Brett.** JB discussed the main points from the report, see document EDPC Footpath Officer June 2021 Report. **AP ENH to contact J Botello from ECC re the overgrown towpath going towards the Hythe and the overgrown path between Rowhedge and Fingringhoe**
- 007/21 To discuss & agree to pay for a skip contributing to Rowhedge Mooring Association riverside clean-up day on 11 August 2021.** The date has provisionally changed to 25 August 2021. Cooks skip yard has offered any skip size at a 50% reduction. The skip will be located at the end of the public slipway. JB proposed to get the biggest skip, full price is £402. DC 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed. **AP JB to get a letter of authority from EDPC to allow the skip to be put where needed and to send to Cooks Skip yard. JB will also arrange the booking for the skip**
- 008/21 To discuss & agree a budget to provide litter picking equipment to be free to use accessible to the public.** The idea is to promote community spirit and encourage families to litter pick to keep Rowhedge tidy. To consider discussing this initiative with the Agents of Change at St Lawrence school to encourage children to litter pick. To consider providing badges/stickers to children as a reward and to highlight on EDPC website. It was agreed a maximum budget of £160. AA proposed and JB 2<sup>nd</sup> and all agreed. **AP DC to provide to link to website which sells these items. To purchase litter pickers and a stand to locate outside the Crow's Nest, Council Office.**  
A short discussion took place about the contracted litter picker and it was agreed to discuss further in September 2021. This contract is for the Recreational ground and both quays.

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- 009/21 To discuss and agree a budget to replace the notice board outside the front of the parish council. office.** This would save money as currently have to laminate all posters and documents. JB proposed a budget of £450 for notice board. NC 2<sup>nd</sup> and all agreed.
- 010/21 To discuss replacing & reinstalling the “John Brunning Walk” signage within Rowhedge-agreeing a budget to complete these works.** The signs were put up as a memorial along the pathway from Fingringhoe to Rowhedge and the family have asked EDPC to reinstate the signs. The original signs were taken down by Bloors/Hills and have been lost. It was proposed to discuss with Fingringhoe Parish Council if they will contribute to the costs of reinstating the signage. JB proposed a budget of £300 for signs and labour. DC 2<sup>nd</sup> and all agreed.
- 011/21 To discuss the Essex Forest Planting Initiative , including potential locations species of tree desired, a potential site visit from a representative & inclusion of the school and/or local organisations.** It was suggested the burial ground would be a good place as it has recently lost 7 trees. The councillors all felt that advice should be sought as to where to plant any further trees. **AP JB and DM to arrange and attend a meeting with Essex Forest Planting Initiative EFPI to help decide where further trees could be planted.**
- 012/21 To discuss & decide a budget for replacing the play area fence.** The MC were aware that this repair needed fixing. After a discussion it was agreed to repair it on a like for like basis but maybe a little taller to discourage children from climbing on it. EDPC recently spent £400 on an emergency. repair. **AP The clerk and assistant clerk to obtain quotes.**
- 013/21 To review the updated Action List pertinent to the Maintenance Committee.** The Action List was looked at in detail. A lot of actions were dependant on receiving the S 106 money. **AP. AA to contact CBC to obtain an update.** The [Rolling Action List](#) was updated with further actions to be taken.
- 014/21 To note time and date of next meeting-** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at the RCRC Hut

Meeting closed at 20.45

**Further discussion after the meeting had closed**

Due to a serious incident on the river the previous weekend, NC brought up the subject of obtaining a further defib to be placed on the RCRC hut. All agreed this was a good idea and the assistant clerk will obtain more information and quotes.

NC also mentioned the anti-social behaviour on the quay and that the RCRC hut had been broken into. ENH suggested that RCRC apply to EDPC for a grant application to help with the costs of putting in security cameras.

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**Appendix**

Appendix 1 - Water Bailiff Report

Appendix 2 - Footpath Officer Report

**EDPC - Water Bailiff (WB) Report June 2021.**

1. General update.

1. Over the past few months the following progress has been made:

- Site meeting and walkthrough has been performed with the attendance of the RNLI and the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. The Fire and Rescue service attend local water rescue emergencies together with the Coastguard Rescue Service.
- Locations of Public Rescue equipment (PRE) which include lifebuoys and throw lines have been identified from these walkthroughs and subsequent risk assessments.
- Three estimates have been received for the replacement of 5 ladders to access the water from each quay and the pontoon.
- One contract has been awarded for the replacement of the ladders and their fabrication is taking place.
- New housings for the lifebuoys have been ordered together with encapsulated throw lines which will be installed within the housings and lifebuoys. It will form an integral unit and hopefully make maintenance and inspections easier as the line is stored in the centre of the lifebuoy - see images below.



- Water safety signage has been designed in accordance with RNLI guidance and will be sized to fit within the space between the poles of the housing.
  - Slipway signage has been designed in accordance with RNLI guidance.
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- Both Quays and the slipway have been coded in accordance with the RNLI guidance for creating Unique Location Codes. The COast Guard will be notified of these codes which aid in speedy identification of locations in an emergency.
- Each quay and slipway have been given its unique 'What3words' address which is a system used by the emergency services to also aid in speedy identification of locations in an emergency.
- An RNLI riverside demonstration and Community Responder training has taken place with the staff and landlords of The Albion and The Anchor attending as well as the Water Bailiff and some other members of the community. It covered the use of a throw bag/line and what to do if the public get into trouble in or near the water.
- Arrangements have been made for the Essex Fire and Rescue Service's Education department to give water safety presentations to Thomas Lord Audley School and St Lawrence's School to generally raise awareness of the dangers of tidal waters.
- The raised flower planters have been replaced and new plants planted - looking good.

2. Because of the work involved in the above, together with COVID restrictions, some other maintenance issues still need addressing and below is a recap of where we are.

1. Speed signs.

The speed signs on the pontoon and on the Bloor's railings, have been removed as they had become tatty and illegible. It would be good to replace these with new, more solid signs.

2. Public mooring signs.

Signs indicating the space allocated for public mooring need to be procured and installed. This has been agreed in earlier meetings but has not been followed up mainly because of COVID but the water safety issues took priority over this. It came about through comments from visiting sailors stating they were unsure where they could moor.

3. Swimmers and safety.

During the summer months there have been a number of, mainly youths, playing on the quay's and causing concern, for their own safety, from members of the community. A number of complaints have been reported to me and other councillors and it seems that some safety measures may be required. This also involves some concerns about antisocial behaviour and the need for more policing or other methods to reduce this.

4. General Overviews of each area.

1. Pearson's Quay.

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- Severely cracked paving stones outside Albion are still broken.
- New concrete base for seating has been installed.

2. Ferry Hard.

- Most boats have been identified and renewals have been sent out to owners.
- Two boats are causing an obstruction and look unsightly so the owners will be contacted and asked to remove them unless they can tidy them up considerably.
- The steps are still muddy and require sweeping regularly – hoping to involve sea cadets.
- One small boat is to be removed as the owner no longer wants it.

3. Lion Quay/Jetty.

- The railings of the gangway are showing further signs of corrosion where the paint has been worn away and require re-painting (as a minimum to the corroded area).



- Generally the pontoon needs inspecting and the date of it's last major maintenance overhaul checked.
- There are new holes appearing on the front of Lion Quay. They look like rat holes but could be corrosion. We have had this happen on Pearson's Quay and it needs to be monitored.

3. General Comments/Suggestions - carried over from the previous report.

1. Many thanks to Bob Wright and Graham Oakley for their general willingness to lend a hand.
  2. Interested in a way to make payment easier for mooring fees it would be good to introduce a way of paying electronically with a more voluntary system of payment, rather than physically going down to collect payment.
  3. There has been interest from the Thames Barge Trust who would like to sail to Rowhedge more often. It would be good to resurrect the idea of flattening out the riverbed by Lion's Quay.
  4. I have been in touch with the East Coast Pilot ( <http://www.eastcoastpilot.com/> ) – a book and online resource giving local information on the navigation and facilities at local coastal rivers and moorings. They are keen for an update on Rowhedge as it has been neglected for many years. I intend to send an update and have approached both pubs and other local
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establishments to ask if they would like a mention, and have received some very enthusiastic responses.

5. Is the possibility of EDPC obtaining their own vessel worth investigating? It is believed that it would be of value, useful and an asset to the village for maintenance purposes, especially cleaning up, and river assistance on a casual basis. At the moment we are dependent upon Graham Oakley assisting.

This ends the report.

Julian Brett (WB).

### EDPC Footpath Officer June 2021 Report.

Link to online Essex public right of way map..

<https://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/public-rights-of-way/prow-interactive-map.aspx>

There has been a surge in vegetation growth on some footpaths.

As usual any overgrown plants that look to be causing a hindrance to access have been cleared on general rounds of the footpaths. A big thank you, once again, to villagers who have been voluntarily trimming whist walking dogs etc.

Footpath 22 had overgrown nettles and ferns hindering access.

Footpath 33 also had the same and was practically impassable.

These have been cleared and should be ok now for the rest of the season.

Footpath 28 starting at Marsh Crescent is overgrown and I'm waiting for Essex CC to cut the verges and see if they do this footpath. If not it's next on the list.

This is probably one of the worst to do because of it's width, presence of brambles, dogs mess and it needs sweeping up after because it has a paved walkway.

We've had some heavy winds in recent months and this has caused some trees and branches to fall, blocking some footpaths. Once again members of the public have contributed to clearing these. I've also been out and cut some fallen branches back.

Just a reminder that the England Coast Path, a new National Trail around all of England's coast of which FP's 30, 25,24,26, 27 and 28 are part of. will be opening soon.

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Here ends the report  
Julian Brett.  
F.O.

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