

**East Donyland Parish Council**  
Annual Parish Assembly – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
St Lawrence’s School, Rectory Road, Rowhedge starting 6.30pm  
**Minutes**

28 members of the public attended along with Cllrs Phil George, Richard Helliwell, Peter Case, Doug Clay, John Rowland, Anna Appleyard, Dave Myers, Dan Slade, CBC Cllr Lee Scordis. Also present was the Locum Clerk Kevin B. Money and Asst. Clerk Elizabeth Nelson.

**Welcome address by Cllr Phil George, Chairman of EDPC:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and being part of an active community. He explained the format of the evening, and proposed that the minutes of the 2017 Parish Assembly be approved. The minutes were duly agreed by majority vote of those present.

**Chairman’s Report:**

Cllr Phil George stated that

- This year has been a very positive one for the community of Rowhedge
- This time last year we, as a community, supported by our Borough and County Councillors, were in the middle of putting up a coherent response to the proposed development by Gladmans on the site of Battleswick Farm. We didn’t know what the outcome would be, but we did know that we had done our best in attempting to stop the development by this heavyweight national firm. We now know that not only was the planning application refused, but development on that site is not included in Colchester Borough Council’s Local Plan, which means that development on that site cannot be considered until 2033, unless there is a change in Government Policy. So, as a community, I think we should congratulate ourselves on this very positive outcome!
- This year our community are campaigning for a roundabout at the walnut tree junction, following a series of accidents at this spot. I sincerely hope that this time next year we will be able to report positively on this issue, as I have been able to this evening about the Gladmans proposed development.
- The dock development is progressing on both the Bloor’s site and the Mersea Homes site – our community was largely supportive of this development and I would like to offer a very warm welcome to newcomers to our village.
- Last summer saw yet another fantastic Rowhedge Regatta – the weather was excellent, and this made for some spectacular scenes of historic sailing vessels sailing up river. There were wins for the Rowhedge Coastal Rowing Club, a club founded just a few years ago which continues to go from strength to strength. For those of you who attended the Regatta you may have seen a film crew attending the event.
- The reason for their attendance was a result of an excellent idea from Cllr Anna Appleyard to enter Rowhedge into Channel 4’s Village of the Year programme. It seems a long time ago that we were hastily filling in the application form for the show in the Albion one Thursday night. I’m very glad we did, and I thank Anna for the idea and for putting in the hard work and also the community of Rowhedge for making this such a great place to live. The television programme could have made a bit more about the community, but they showed the village in a very positive light and we should be very proud of this.
- November saw a very successful firework display, organised by St Lawrence’s School and held on the recreation ground. The display was superb, and many families attended the very well organised event, which made £5000 for the PTA. The

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school also organised another great Strawberry fair back in June of last year, raising money for the under 5s.

- So, I would like to thank everybody involved in these highlights from the past year and long may these great events continue!
- Local Elections take place next week and I would like to wish our Borough Councillors good luck. They do a great job and we are lucky that they take such a great interest in Rowhedge and support us at Borough Council.
- Elections for Parish Councillors will take place in two years’ time – I know it seems a long way off, but they will come around soon enough. If anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, then please give it some serious consideration over the next couple of years – it would be great to have more candidates than the 9 seats on the council. It is a privilege to serve as a Parish Councillor and it is very rewarding, so if anyone is interested then feel free to have a chat with any of us or with Beth and Kevin in the office.
- Finally, I would like to thank Beth, Kevin and Nicki for all their hard work over the last year
- I would now like to hand over to Anna Appleyard to give a report from the Finance and Personnel Committee

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**Parish Council Financial Update:**

As Chairman of the Finance & Personnel Committee, using figures taken from the unaudited draft accounts for EDPC for the year 01.04.17 to 31.03.18. The full accounts will be published for public scrutiny once they have been finalised and agreed: The precept (parish tax) collected for the Council by Colchester Borough Council for the financial year 2017-18 was £53,875. Additional income was £11,937, giving total receipts of £65,812. That income was made up as follows:

£4692 Local Council Tax Support grant: £48 interest received: £625 rents received  
£3326 burial income: £1245 moorings income: £2001 Other Donations received and miscellaneous Income Total payments for the year were £63254, giving a closing balance of £70214 general reserves. This represents a total increase of £2558 from the opening 2017 balance.

In January 2018 EDPC resolved that the Council tax Band "D" per household for the financial year 01.03.18 to 31.03.19 should not be increased. However, with the Precept not increasing and the combination of CBC decrease in Localism funding and the decrease in government funding for Parish Councils, the current budget forecast for 2018-19 is that about £4,000 will be taken from reserves for the required planned expenditures.

The management of the Council’s financial accounts is done by the Responsible Financial Officer.

EDPC has had an internal and external audit and confirmed that the Council has sound financial management practices in place, which means that the council has certainty and clarity regarding its financial position and are able to plan and make decisions more easily as a result.

**Parish Council Maintenance Update:**

After another positive year and the added resource of the Rowhedge village page which has proven to be very useful to us all we have been able to achieve so much. We have received good feed back and trying to act on it. Posts were created about the bins on the quay which need to be changed, we hope to have them updated by the regatta.

Dog poo is always a problem, not just in Rowhedge, its great that a lot of people are taking an active role to help find a solution.

The footpath group is another asset, people taking control to keep the paths clear for everyone.

The Heath Rd garden, lovely and positive with volunteers helping to keep the area tidy. We have built up a good set of people looking after things, we can always use more hands to help with keeping Rowhedge at it's very best, so if you would like to help in any way, please get in touch with the people in the office or go on the Rowhedge Village facebook page.

**Community Awards:**

The Chairman explained that these awards were set up to recognise positive contributions to the community, and that this year the Council is making Five awards. These awards were reintroduced four years ago, and are a celebration of what people in our community do for one another.

Cllr Phil George read out the following list of nominees with a testimonial for each person, detailing the reasons for their nomination:

- Emma Lawrence

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- Emma Peel
- Mrs Tony Clay
- Rick Green & Julian Brett
- Emma Holiday
- Elizabeth Trellis & Barabara Sanderson
- Dave Slavinkas
- Kerry Malcolm

Cllr George then announced the winners of this year’s awards as follows:

- Elizabeth Trellis & Barabara Sanderson
- Kerry Malcolm
- Emma Peel
- Rick Green & Julian Brett

The winners were then invited to come to the front for photographs and applause; each winner receives a £50 donation from the Chairman’s fund, to be given to the group or organisation of their choice within Rowhedge.

**Open Forum:**

The following groups and organisations gave reports about their previous years’ achievements and ongoing activities:

- Rowhedge Heritage Trust
- Rowhedge Walking Football
- Youth Club
- Friends of St. Lawrence Church
- Elizabeth Trellis about Bus transport
- Water baliff
- Co-Director of Rowhedge ferry
- St. Lawrence School
- St. Lawrence School PTA
- Barbara Sanderson Village Lunch Group
- RCRC
- Residents Association
- Mariners Chapel
- Regatta Association
- CBC Cllr Lee Scordis

All those who spoke gave thanks to the residents for their support throughout the year, and to those who have helped and been involved in making these community groups a success.

**Closing summary by Chairman:**

Cllr George thanked everyone for coming to the assembly, Kerry Malcolm for the use of the school hall. Congraulations to all the Community Award winners.

He closed by saying that Rowhedge is a great place to live because of its community, not just its location, and invited everyone to stay for refreshments and a chat.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.