

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 13th December 2018
St Lawrence School, Rectory Rd, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Phil George, Richard Helliwell, Anna Appleyard, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman & John Rowland, Clerk Nicki Matthews, ECC Cllr Kevin Bentley, CBC Cllr Lee Scordis and 8 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil George, opened the meeting at 7pm, and gave thanks to CBC for funding the festive lights which are now on display in the High Street. PG also thanked everyone involved in getting them installed.

140/18 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllr Dave Myers, and CBC Ward Cllrs Mike Lilley & Adam Fox.

141/18 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: NC – non pecuniary item 153/18; AA – pecuniary 145/18; RH – non pecuniary 149/18; DC – pecuniary 145/18 & non pecuniary 152/18.

142/18 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2018: PG proposed the minutes to be correct; RH 2nd – all agreed.

143/18 Have your say! The Chairman will close the meeting for 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 Hills car park? PG advised not yet.
- Will the boats moored to the wharf on the new development be paying mooring fees? Not to EDPC as it is not our land; it will be up to Bloor to manage.
- Sign posts – several still down around the village including the finger post by the Walnut Tree junction which has now been down for 4 years.
- B Sanderson thanked the council for their £50 donation towards the St Nicholas event.
- Will there ever be daffodils planted on Rowhedge Rd? JR advised that they would be smothered by the existing vegetation and it would be hard to achieve any visual impact; there are some at the bottom of Rowhedge Rd but these get overgrown in the same way.
- Please could we have a skate park?
- Will there be noticeboards on the new development in the future? EDPC to look into. *Action – the Clerk*

144/18 To receive and note reports from:

- i) Essex County Councillor, Kevin Bentley:
 - 20mph speed limit – optimistic this can be achieved with some caveats as it is unusual for a whole village to be limited. Will require Rowhedge & Rectory Rds to be speed tested; this will happen in the next financial year although at a cost of £200, EDPC could contribute to the cost to achieve it more quickly.
 - Leylandii – this has been reported to the Highway Rangers for action, and the other items on the defect list will be resolved asap.
 - Local settlement grant – this has been agreed today and is the penultimate yr of the existing arrangement. KB to advise the impact locally once it has been worked out.
 - Library consultation – Colchester central library is not included but Mersea is; usage monitoring has shown good use of libraries as a facility but a reduction in lending. KB encouraged everyone to take part in the consultation.
 - Highways – KB is now responsible for this directly and is working to improve communications. They have implemented a 20 defect initiative scheme, with parishes asked to report their top 10 defects before Christmas and a further 10 afterwards. EDPC have already provided this. They also have a buddy system, with each county cllr having an engineer they can contact directly to address issues. Devolution is moving ahead rapidly – they are planning a trial of 30 councils then staged implementation across the county. KB believes the results of the trial will demonstrate the benefits to local councils and residents. The funding of 68p per head of

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population is potentially open to negotiation dependent on the specific issues faces by each parish.

- Fingerposts – KB noted the point raised in 143/18 and will ensure this is resolved quickly.
 - Brexit – KB is chairing a cross party working group whose aim is to achieve the best result for local government, e.g. voting rights for EU nationals in the May local elections, trading standards, environmental health issues etc. They have achieved a guarantee that any EU funding for existing local projects that is due to carry on until 2020 will be honoured by the government.
- ii) CBC Ward Councillor, Lee Scordis:
- CBC have helped to fund 10 PCSOs and specials across the borough. ML to email EDPC info about the options for Rowhedge, would need to share with other parishes.
 - ECC have advised that the mobile library service for Rowhedge will remain in place, but Prettygate is under threat. LS encouraged everyone to participate in the consultation.
 - Post Office consultation – the aim is to move the town centre post office into WHSmith; it's likely to go ahead anyway but please do participate in the consultation.
 - Bus stop changes – the new stops are unclear with no information on the flags, these will hopefully be updated in the new year.
 - LS is chasing up the flooding issue on Rowhedge Rd which has been ongoing.
- iii) The Clerk: report noted. Thanks to AA & DC for meeting with EDCA.
- iv) Village Bus Representative, Elizabeth Trellis: ET reiterated LS's comments regarding the bus stops in the town centre, and noted that the buses are also not stopping at the correct pick up stops which has caused passengers to miss services. The contact number for complaints about buses is 03456 460707.

145/18 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs George & Helliwell:

PG proposed that the payments list be approved, PC 2nd – all agreed (AA/DC did not vote due to pecuniary interests).

146/18 To note the draft minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee held 8th November 2018:

Noted

147/18 To consider and agree the range of projects to be taken forward using the £285,032 S106 funding to be received from the Hills development, within the terms of the planning agreement:

PG explained that the council needs to look at individual proposals such as the MUGA within the context of the total amount of funding, to gauge where funds should be directed. The council has 10 years to spend the money so has time to make considered decisions.

It was noted that the proposal to install climbing rocks next to the river cannot now go ahead as the land has been identified as being designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Natural England have withheld permission.

The reason the sum of money is so high is that it was intended to purchase the allotment land, but Cadman who own the site have now advised that it is not for sale. However, they have also not guaranteed that they will renew the lease for it which expires in two years, and they could seek to increase the rent if they did renew. It was suggested that the council should look into other options for land purchase before committing the majority of funds to other projects. Battleswick is for sale, and it may be possible to purchase part of that site for allotment use. The business park site may not be suitable as it is too wet.

The MUGA proposal is the most expensive project on the list other than the land purchase, and RH noted some reservations which would need to be considered, such as the proximity to the neighbours' hedge, but that it is a good proposal and it would be sensible to consider all the options for developing this facility.

AA suggested that the lighting and CCTV for the car park could become a higher priority, due to the ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour and risk of damage to property etc. Cllrs discussed whether improved lighting would actually address the issue, but agreed it would improve safety for users, and different types of lighting could be used to address concerns about light pollution etc.

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If the MUGA project went ahead it would require electrical ground works which could be combined with installing lighting in the car park to reduce costs.

The dog exercise area has been included in the list of possible projects but there are likely to be issues with achieving this as previously discussed.

PG suggested that the skate park raised in item 143/18 be added to the list, and proposed that all councillors identify their top five priorities from the list and advise the Clerk, with a prioritised list to go on the agenda for January; all agreed. *Action – all Cllrs & the Clerk*

It was also agreed that NM should look into land purchase options. *Action – the Clerk*

148/18 To consider an event application from Rowhedge Football Club for a Christmas Fayre on 15th December 2018: It was noted that it is for a very good cause, but in future applications should be made at least six weeks in advance. Parking was discussed, but it was considered unlikely to be an issue. PG proposed the application be approved; AA 2nd – all agreed.

149/18 To consider an event application from Rowhedge Under 5s for the Strawberry Fayre on 15th June 2019: A very positive annual village event – PG proposed the application be approved; AA 2nd – all agreed.

150/18 To review and agree the updated policy for Use of EDPC Land and revised Event Application Form: It was clarified that event organisers will be responsible for promoting their event, but the Clerks will put up posters provided if requested. AA suggested that the form should include event start & finish times and should note that PLI may be a requirement for the event to go ahead. PG proposed the documents be agreed with the two amendments suggested above; RH 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*

151/18 To receive a quote to refurbish and update the Chairman’s badge of office and agree how to proceed: It was noted that although the cost is high, the chain dates back to the 19th century, and is the council’s only historical artefact. PG proposed that the work be commissioned, at a cost of £693.64 + VAT; AA 2nd – all agreed.

152/18 To agree the amendment of the Rowhedge Football Club lease to reflect the revisions to their trustees (refer attached): AA asked whether there should be something added to the lease regarding EDPC’s expectations regarding events held at the pavilion, as it has now become a successful social venue. PG noted that it may be appropriate for the council to consider a full review of the lease to update it in line with the new criteria for all leases, as per the RCRC and EDCA but that this would be separate to this amendment. PG proposed that the amendment relating to the trustees be agreed; RH 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*

153/18 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed:

i) **Planning application 182671: 111 Hillview Close; application for loft conversion and rear facing dormer:** PG proposed the council comments with no objections to the application; RH 2nd – all agreed.

154/18 To consider the application received from Tracie Guy to join the parish council, and to agree whether to co-opt the applicant to fill the vacant seat: PG thanked TG for applying. TG spoke in support of her application, and the council voted unanimously to co-opt TG as a member.
i) **If co-opted, the new councillor to sign the declaration of acceptance of office:** signed.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:

Chairman