

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 10th January 2019
St Lawrence School, Rectory Rd, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Richard Helliwell, Anna Appleyard, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, Tracie Guy & John Rowland, Clerk Nicki Matthews and 10 members of the public.

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Richard Helliwell, opened the meeting at 7pm, welcoming Cllr Tracie Guy to her first meeting as a parish councillor.

155/18 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllrs Phil George & Dave Myers; no ECC/CBC cllrs present. Note – apologies from ECC Cllr Bentley & CBC Cllr Fox received after the meeting.

156/18 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: AA – non pecuniary, item 168/18.

157/18 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2018: RH proposed the minutes to be correct; NC 2nd – all agreed.

158/18 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:

- Buses – during the Rowhedge Road closure, some drivers used Wharf Rd for turning due to parking on the turning circle preventing access, which meant passengers for the journey to Colchester were not picked up. There was no information about the diverted service on the First Bus website; the service is often poor with numerous buses not turning up. Discussion regarding whether double yellow lines on the inside of the turning circle would be beneficial; residents advised that buses need to enter the circle from the lower end and then turning is possible, without needing parking restrictions. The most recent works to the turning circle by Bloor under the advice of CBC made use of tarmac which invites people to use it as a parking area.
- MOD – R Keeble reported trial bikes on MOD land over the Christmas period using the published number; it was a voice mail service but he did receive a call back from the MOD so the service is working. However, RK was advised that a different contact number would be provided which would be more effective and is still waiting to receive that information.
- Parkfield Street sign – damaged by refuse lorry; please report to ECC. *Action – the Clerk.*
- Queen St crossing – both pedestrian crossings are not functioning, making it dangerous to access the bus stop for the 66 service; needs to be reinstated, NM to report to ECC. *Action – the Clerk.*
- C Needle thanked EDPC for their service to the community, and in particular for promoting the Local Health Matters meetings. CN offered to be a point of contact within the community as a representative on health matters affecting residents, e.g. securing the future of the GP surgery. He would like to encourage more participation from residents through attending the LHM (4th Wednesday of each month) and patient group meetings, or issues can be raised via CN. RH suggested that a member of the parish council will aim to attend future meetings, which was supported by other cllrs. *Action – all Cllrs*

159/18 To receive and note reports from:

- i) Essex County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: - not present, no report.
- ii) CBC Ward Councillors Mike Lilley, Adam Fox & Lee Scordis: not present, no report.
- iii) The Clerk: report noted. The letter to First Bus & ECC has now been sent.
- iv) Village Bus Representative, Elizabeth Trellis:
 - ET has written to the Gazette as there has been no progress on the issues previously raised; NM to publish copy of letter on EDPC website. *Action – the Clerk.*
 - ET has been advised the bus station office is for tickets only, not advice.
 - ET is looking for a new bus rep to take over the position as it has become too onerous with her reduced mobility; RH and the council thanked ET for all her hard work, which is much appreciated. NM to advertise post in Friday catch up newsletter. *Action – the Clerk.*

160/18 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Appleyard & Clay:

RH proposed that the payments list be approved, PC 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*

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- 161/18 To note the draft minutes of the Maintenance Committee held 13th December 2018:** Noted. JR confirmed that quotes have not yet been obtained for the works required to Pearsons Quay.
- 162/18 To agree the budget and parish precept request for 2019-20:** It was noted that this will be the 5th year that the precept has not been increased by the parish council. The grant from CBC has reduced as in previous years and is likely to be eliminated within the next 2 years. The budget was previously approved by the Finance & Personnel Committee, with the increase in precept received from the new housing being allocated towards community projects & grants, potentially to be used for funding a community policing initiative. DC proposed that the budget and parish precept request be agreed as prepared; PC 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*
- 163/18 To review the prioritised list of projects potentially to be taken forward using the £285,032 S106 funding to be received from the Hills development, and agree the next steps to take:** The purchase of land for allotments has been identified as the number one priority by cllrs; RH noted that this cannot proceed without definite information from Cadman about the future, i.e. whether the lease will be renewed. Secondly, there are a lot of items proposed for the Recreation Ground, and a working group may be needed to review these to see what is possible within the site. AA noted that the space required for a skate park may make it unfeasible. Cllrs DC & TG expressed interest in joining a working party, and it was suggested that stakeholder groups should also be included. RH proposed that the council i) requests more definite information from Cadman regarding the lease renewal, and ii) sets up a working party to review the range of proposals relating to the Recreation Ground and report back to full council. Further to this, should Cadman state that they will not renew the lease, the parish council should approach other local landowners to see if another site may be available. AA 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*
- 164/18 To receive a proposal from EDCA to amend the lease between EDPC and EDCA for the village hall:** RH & PG have previously met with EDCA to discuss this issue and it was felt that, due to the age of the existing lease, rather than making minor amendments (as proposed here by EDCA) it may be more appropriate to fully revise the lease. RH proposed that the council submit the proposed amendments to Holmes & Hills for their advice on whether these are sufficient or if a fuller revision is recommended; AA 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*
- 165/18 To receive a proposal from Cllr Helliwell that the remaining balance of £1034.85 credit held with Christmas Direct (donated by CBC for festive lighting in the village), be used to purchase five further snowflake motif lights. The credit must be used before 30th March 2019:** It was noted that ECC are likely to grant permission for a further 5 lights to be installed in future years. The council will also need to ensure that the tree lights are fully functioning before their next planned use as they were only partially working this year. RH proposed the lights be purchased using the remaining credit balance; AA 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk*
- 166/18 To consider a proposal from Cllr George to make a donation of £200 to the campaign organised by D. Meakin to purchase a Help the Heroes Tommy Silhouette for Rowhedge:** It was noted that the intention is for the silhouette to be a permanent fixture on the quayside by the memorial. There are several similar silhouettes in nearby parishes already. NC proposed the donation be agreed; DC 2nd – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*
- 167/18 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda:** The action list was noted. The work to the burial ground fence to be chased up as it is outstanding, and Cllr Bentley to be contacted again regarding the fingerpost signs still to be reinstalled. *Action – Asst Clerk.*
- 168/18 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed:**
- i) **Planning application 183054: Will O The Wisp, Parkfield Street; application for a side single storey extension:** RH proposed the council comments with no objections to the application – all agreed.
 - ii) **Planning decision 182671: 111 Hillview Close; application for proposed loft conversion and rear facing dormer – conditional approval granted:** noted.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 7.38pm.

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Part 2 - Closed to the press and public due to the sensitivity of the item under discussion

169/18 To agree the appointment of a new Water Bailiff for 2019, and approve the honorarium and contract: RH proposed that the council appoint J Brett as the new Water Bailiff for 2019, and approve an honorarium of £160 and the contract as prepared; NC 2nd – all agreed.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:
Chairman