

**East Donyland Parish Council**  
Full Parish Council Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
St Lawrence’s School, Rectory Road, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Richard Helliwell, Anna Appleyard, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, Tony Pullon, John Rowland; Clerk – Nicki Matthews and 9 members of the public.

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Richard Helliwell, opened the meeting at 7pm and presided as chair in Cllr George’s absence.

**148/16 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences:** Apologies received from Cllr Phil George, Ward Cllrs Lilley, Scordis & Fox and RRA Chair, Trisha Curran.

**149/16 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda:** none declared.

**150/16 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016:** The minutes were proposed as correct by TP, 2<sup>nd</sup> NC – all agreed; minutes approved.

**151/16 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:**

The following issues and questions were raised:

- Item 154/16 – how are the edible gardens being replanted? JR advised replanting will be with drought resistant non-edible plants. Could part of the EDPC garage be used for MUGA equipment rather than a separate secure container?
- Item 156/16 – the competition should be expanded to include all residents, not just those on the High St; need to consider the ongoing costs and power issues related with any new light installations.
- Item 157/16 – have the trigger points for the wharf development S106 funds been reached yet?
- Item 158/16 – the proposed trees are too tall and will have a negative impact on the views and the integrity of the quayside.
- Item 160/16 – would prefer to see Our Boys moved to a new mud berth, leaving the quayside free for visiting boats.
- Item 162/16 – have any planned changes to the bus route been considered in relation to the new seats for shelters?
- Dog bag dispensers – these are being emptied regularly, could Mrs Chart be asked to monitor and refill alongside her litter picking role?
- Footpath from Thanet Walk to the stile – current poor condition.
- Contact information – could the details for the Beavers group be updated to read ‘vacant’?
- Over 60s health and wellbeing classes – thank you to the council for funding these.

**152/16 To receive and note reports from**

- i) County Councillor, Kevin Bentley – no report
- ii) CBC Councillors Mike Lilley, Adam Fox & Lee Scordis: - no report, but have advised that the planning application for Battleswick Farm is no longer on the agenda for the CBC Planning Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. It has been postponed pending further archaeological survey results. Will advise when rescheduled.
- iii) Clerk – noted. RH advised that the Co-op reopening date has been set for 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- iv) Village Bus Representative – Elizabeth Trellis: ET is looking into recent reports of some Sunday services not running.
- v) Rowhedge Residents’ Association – Trisha Curran, sent apologies, but passed on the following:
  - RRA are holding a quiz night at the Social Club on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, tickets £2.50 - contact TC
  - Neighbourhood Watch meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan at the Football Club

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- There is a public meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- RRA will be holding an open gardens event in June – details to follow.

**153/16 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Pullon & Clay:** TP proposed the payments to be correct, 2nd DC - all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

**154/16 To note the draft minutes from the Maintenance Committee 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Noted

**155/16 To agree the budget and parish precept request for 2017-18:**

NM advised these documents were prepared on the principle of keeping the council tax per household the same, and due to a decrease in the tax base (number of paying households in the parish) the total precept is slightly lower than in the current year. TP suggested that the council may wish to consider increasing the council tax by £6 per household to assist with funding for the Pump House project if it goes ahead. RH stated his preference that reserves be used in the next year if needed, as this project has not yet been agreed. RH proposed that the budget and precept request be agreed as prepared; JR 2<sup>nd</sup> – agreed by majority. *Action – the Clerk*

**156/16 To consider two proposals from Cllr Rowland regarding festive lighting and decorations:**

i) **EDPC to hold a competition on an annual basis for best decorated front of house on the High Street with food shopping vouchers or similar as prizes, to a value of £50 for first prize and £25 for two runners up:** JR proposed that the competition be amended to include the whole village, and that it be for the best eco-friendly decorated house. Entries for the competition would be entered onto a trail map, and during December people could walk the trail to see each entry and then vote for a winner. It was noted that eco-friendly decorations could include lighting but the type and number would be relevant. TP asked whether the council has the power to award prizes to individuals in this way, and noted that if so the community award prizes should be changed accordingly. The council agreed that the Clerk should investigate this issue before this proposal is considered further. *Action – the Clerk.*

ii) **EDPC to install festive lighting on the lamp posts along the High Street and river in future years, potentially funded through donations:** JR explained that his intention would be to ask High St businesses to contribute towards installation costs for additional festive lighting, to build on the lighting installed in the Holm Oak this year. It may be possible to connect into the power sources on the lamp posts themselves; will need to investigate costs and options further and ensure EDPC could obtain permission from ECC to do this. RH agreed to work with JR to develop this proposal and bring back to council. *Action – JR/RH.*

**157/16 To draft a prioritised list of potential community facility projects to be costed and submitted to CBC for use in ongoing and future S106 discussions, and update the previously agreed list of open space and recreation projects (refer attached):** The following suggestions were made for projects that could potentially be included – an artificial all season sports pitch; purchase of a village boat to be available for hire to increase access to the river; extension of Pearsons Quay by filling in the Hard, with installation of a new pontoon alongside for dinghy moorings. It was agreed that more ideas are required, and residents should be asked to contribute their suggestions via the Friday catch up, website and Donyland Despatches. To be reconsidered by council once ideas have been submitted. *Action – the Clerk.*

**158/16 To consider a proposal from Cllr Rowland to purchase and plant a group of three small Himalayan Birch trees on Pearson’s quay on the far end near the rowing boats, with tree watering bags to help water these trees in their early years; total purchase cost £192.91 + VAT:** JR

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explained that his intention is for the council to promote the planting of trees, using this high-profile location in the village. It could be one or three trees, max height for this species approx. 7m, with a 2-3m spread. JR has considered the impact on the view which he believes would be minimal with no properties affected due to the position. It would also provide a nesting site for birds, and the roots would help to bind the soil together. JR proposed the planting of one Himalayan Birch tree on Pearson's Quay, to be moved at a later date if it caused any problems; TP 2<sup>nd</sup> – not passed.

**159/16 To agree the council's policy for dealing with lost property:** RH proposed this be approved; TP 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed. Information posters to be placed on noticeboards advising public of lost property procedures. *Action – the Clerk*

**160/16 To consider a request from S Watsham that the parish council support his application to CBC for a mud berth, to permanently moor a restored steam tug at the far end of the existing Moorings Association berths near Thanet Walk. S Watsham additionally requests permission from the council to temporarily moor the tug on Lion Quay for a maximum of five weeks during the period Jan-Mar 2017 (exact dates dependent on tides and other logistical arrangements), to enable the public to view the vessel and gain further understanding of the project being undertaken. Mr Watsham will then move the tug to a temporary mooring in Colchester pending approval for a permanent berth in Rowhedge as above. Mr Watsham has obtained support from Brightlingsea Harbour Office and has also applied to the Moorings Association for their support:** S Watsham advised that CBC will make a decision on the Colchester mooring on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, which will be a permanent mooring that can be used should the Rowhedge mud berth not be approved. The tug was seaworthy until recently, and total repair time is estimated at 1-2 years. SW is aiming to form a trust to share management & responsibility for the tug. RH advised that the parish council need to see the approval for the Colchester mooring before they can grant permission for the tug to be temporarily moored on the quayside, and suggested that SW resubmit his request once this has been received. SW advised that due to issues with the current mooring, he will need to move the tug prior to the next council meeting and will therefore move it directly to the Colchester mooring, provided CBC approve this.

**161/16 To discuss the potential construction of a footpath in front of the dinghy Hard:** This idea has been submitted by D Myers, who has a background in engineering and stress testing. The plan is to construct a 4ft wide path using RSJs and concrete sleepers, backfilled. DM believes it could be constructed in a day using a mini digger. Estimated costs are under £2,000 using materials which DM has access to and volunteer labour. RH noted that the diagram circulated is incorrect as the steps down to the Hard from Pearsons Quay would remain in use, which is not shown. This path would effectively move the edge of the quayside out by 4ft, which would increase water depth for users of the moorings; other impact on users would be minimal, although would need to assess any impact on the RCRC pontoon. It was agreed that RH should work with DM to develop this proposal further. *Action - RH*

**162/16 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda (refer Action List):** RH to follow up issue re Pearson's Quay subsidence with Asst Clerk. *Action – RH/Asst Clerk*

**147/16 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed:**

- i) **Planning application 163189, wharf development; discharge of condition 25 of planning permission 160551 Dormouse survey report:** it was noted that the dormouse survey revealed no evidence of dormice on site; no response proposed.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 7.55pm

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Agreed as a true record.

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
Chairman