

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 13th July 2017
St Lawrence's School, Rectory Road, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Richard Helliwell, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, John Rowland; CBC Ward Cllrs Mike Lilley, Adam Fox & Lee Scordis; Clerk – Nicki Matthews and 8 members of the public.

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Richard Helliwell, opened the meeting at 7pm.

47/17 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllrs George and Appleyard. RH also noted the resignation of Cllr Jamie Gledhill due to a new job which will affect his ability to commit time to the council. RH thanked JG for his hard work during his time on the council and wished him success for the future.

48/17 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: JR – pecuniary item 53/17; RH – non-pecuniary item 55/17; NC – non-pecuniary item 54/17; DC – non-pecuniary item 55/17

49/17 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2017: The minutes were proposed as correct by JR, 2nd NC – all agreed; minutes approved.

50/17 To receive a presentation from Robert Horn, Rural Housing Enabler from the Rural Community Council of Essex, about the housing needs in our community identified by the survey undertaken last year, and how those needs could be met to provide affordable housing for local people: apologies received from R Horn who was unable to attend; to be rescheduled.

51/17 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 54/17 – support for the RCRC's application for a facility on the site. Also noted that the original agreement for use of the site included a condition relating to its use for a heritage purpose.
- Item 55/17 – suggestion that further streets adjacent to the Rec should be leafleted in addition to those listed on the application.
- Media report re Hills wharf development S106 contributions – how will this money be allocated? ML advised that this report related to funds already allocated in a S106 agreement, including funds towards footpath improvements, a contribution to the social club, and funding for sports and recreation facilities in the village.
- Village sign – thanks for the refurbishment, much improved.

52/17 To receive and note reports from

i) County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: apologies received, no report.

ii) CBC Ward Councillors Mike Lilley, Adam Fox & Lee Scordis:

- A speed camera has now been purchased for use in the ward, including on Rowhedge Rd, as part of a new speedwatch initiative. Volunteers needed to deliver the scheme, all training provided. Please contact ML if interested. *Action – the Clerk* to add to Friday Catch Up newsletter.
- 20mph speed campaign – more signatures being collected, LS following up with Cllr Bentley.
- Cutting verges / overhanging vegetation on public highways – ECC will now only be cutting once each year, so will need to consider local action to address issues. The parish council and volunteers are allowed to cut back any vegetation which encroaches on the highways.
- Refuse – please report any missed collections as there are a few ongoing issues with the new routes and systems.

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- Middlewick Range – please contact the ward cllrs for information on how to object to the inclusion of this site in the draft Local Plan for development. This issue will also be addressed at the Residents Assoc public mtg on 20th July.
- Local Plan draft – consultation is ongoing. The key points for Rowhedge are that Battleswick has been removed, the Business Park is now included as a site for up to 40 homes and a new medical surgery, and Middlewick Range is outlined as a potential site for up to 1,000 homes. If the range was excluded from the plan it is likely it would go to a planning inspector under appeal and the result could be the site being increased to include 2,000 homes. Site surveys are still ongoing to determine the viability of the site and number of homes. Contamination issues will need to be considered in light of current usage – ammunition etc.
- Battleswick – Gladman have not yet lodged an appeal against the planning decision on this application, their six month period to do so ends in the early autumn.
- iii) Clerk: noted, with congratulations on the achievement of the CiLCA qualification. The details regarding the parish cllr vacancies were highlighted.
- iv) Village Bus Representative – Elizabeth Trellis: there are potential interruptions to services on Mon 17th/Tues 18th July due to planned closure of Queen St but timings are unclear. ET to advise the Clerk, with information to be included in the Friday catch up newsletter. *Action – the Clerk.*
- v) Rowhedge Residents' Association – Trisha Curran: there will be a public meeting on Thurs 20th July, 7pm at the school to discuss: a response to the draft Local Plan in particular regarding Middlewick Range; the 20mph campaign; Speedwatch, and any other issues raised.

53/17 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Helliwell & Clay: Cllr Rowland left the room. PC proposed the payments be agreed, NC 2nd – all agreed. JR rejoined the meeting. *Action – the Clerk.*

54/17 To consider the future use of the land adjacent to Lion Quay, and determine whether it should become open space once the current agreed two-year period of RCRC hut operation expires on 30 April 2018, or whether the council is open to proposals from third parties for a permanent facility there. To note that temporary planning permission for the existing operation is in place until March 2019, and an expression of interest has already been received from the RCRC to put in a proposal for a permanent facility: Cllrs expressed positive views about the possibility of a permanent facility on the site, similar in scale to the existing hut. JR noted a desire that any plans put forward should be ecologically sound. RH proposed that the council should be open to receive proposals from third parties for a permanent facility; JR 2nd – agreed (NC abstained).

55/17 To receive an application from St Lawrence Primary School PTA for a fireworks event on the Recreation Ground (refer attached): Cllrs noted their support for the idea, JR proposed that consent be granted; NC 2nd – all agreed.

56/17 To consider the council's response to the Colchester Borough Council Local Plan Publication Draft consultation (*circulated previously*): RH summarised the main issues as noted by AF in item 52/17 ii). It was noted that the new draft is a significant improvement for the community compared to the previous one, and there is a key statement in the plan which identifies that the wharf development and 'exceptional constraints to expansion surrounding the village renders Rowhedge unsuitable for extensive new development'. The Middlewick Range is a huge area, and the current proposal for 1,000 homes is a significant reduction to original proposals. The proposed development is outside the parish boundaries and does not border the allotment land. Cllrs agreed that they would consider the outcome of the RRA mtg which should inform their response to the consultation.

East Donyland Parish Council

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57/17 To resolve that the council meets the following criteria, and is therefore eligible to hold and utilise the General Power of Competence (GPC):

- **The number of councillors elected at the last election equals or exceeds two thirds of the total number of seats on the council**
- **The clerk holds either the CiLCA qualification or the Level 4 qualification for clerks awarded by the University of Gloucestershire**

The Clerk explained the benefits of the GPC, which enables the council to carry out a wider range of functions for the benefit of the community without needing to identify a specific power in statute. RH proposed that the council meets the criteria and is therefore eligible to hold and utilise the GPC; NC 2nd – all agreed.

58/17 To consider the possibility of seeking funding to develop a community minibus scheme, potentially through S106 funds, grant funding, partnership working etc (estimated start-up cost approx. £45,000): JR advised that there is a similar scheme operating in Wivenhoe which is very successful and pays for itself in terms of running costs. The bus is available for community use at low/no cost, and income is generated through private hire. The key issue is finding sufficient drivers. The council could consider partnering with Fingringhoe on a joint scheme, and will need to look at ways to raise the capital funding required. It was suggested that there may be an opportunity to partner with Wivenhoe's existing scheme if it is not at full capacity. It was agreed that JR should research this further as there is support for the scheme in principle. *Action - JR*

59/17 To consider installing an outdoor shower on Lion Quay (refer attached estimate quotes): JR noted that the aim of this proposal is to improve facilities for river users, with a solar powered shower to wash off salt/mud. Suggested location is between the current hut site and the river, with extension to the existing water supply to the hut. The issue of vandalism was discussed, but the units are very hard wearing and designed to be situated in public spaces. A push tap would prevent water being left running, and a lockable turn tap could be installed as well with a charge for use by boat owners etc. Concerns were raised about drainage due to potential issues with subsidence, and options of soakaways / connection to drainage discussed. It was agreed that full costs need to be obtained for connection, installation etc with professional advice on drainage. *Action – JR.*

60/17 To receive a complaint from an individual regarding damage to their boat while moored on the pontoon and a request for the council to meet the repair costs (refer attached): RH noted that although the Water Bailiff had acted entirely properly, there was a possibility that the accidental damage had been caused when the boat was moved. The repair quote is £150 and the council's insurance excess is £250. RH therefore proposed that the council make a gesture of goodwill settlement of £150 without any acceptance of liability; NC 2nd – all agreed.

61/17 To draw a name for the Shipyard Corner rowing boat from those suggested by members of the public: Elizabeth Trellis drew a name at random from those submitted; the name selected is Sunshine. The Clerk to arrange for the name to be painted on the boat. *Action – the Clerk*

62/17 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda (refer Action List): It was noted that the fallen tree on the Recreation Ground has been removed by members of the public.

63/17 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed: none received.

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 13th July 2017
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The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:
Chairman

DRAFT