

East Donyland Parish Council
Full Parish Council Meeting – 12th October 2017
St Lawrence School, Rectory Rd, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.
MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Phil George, Richard Helliwell, Anna Appleyard, John Rowland, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, Dave Myers; CBC Ward Cllrs Mike Lilley & Adam Fox; Clerk – Nicki Matthews and 15 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil George, opened the meeting at 7pm.

92/17 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences: Apologies received from Cllrs Case & Slade, and CBC Ward Cllr Scordis.

93/17 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda: NC – non pecuniary, items 100/17 & 104/17; DC – non pecuniary, item 99/17.

94/17 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2017: The minutes were proposed as correct by PG, 2nd NC – agreed; minutes approved.

95/17 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 100/17 – support for the continued operation of the hut, with a permanent structure as it is a well use facility, not only by residents of Rowhedge but also from visitors to the village.
- Item 101/17 – comments on how great the garden is looking, and support for further development but concerns over impact on lawn space. Could the council consider planting daffodil bulbs on Rowhedge Road as well? Should the compost bin be lockable as it's likely to be used by residents? Also, could the council consider installing some stepping stones from the path to the new bench for ease of access when the ground gets muddy?
- Item 102/17 – concerns that trees would reduce the open space, impact on views, potential damage caused to structure of quayside. There are lots of items of street furniture on Pearsons Quay already, would it be preferable on Lion Quay which has more space?
- Dog fouling – it is getting worse, notably on Lion Quay, presumably because we are moving towards the darker winter months. Could the council ask for signs re fines on fouling to be put up on the quays?
- Notice boards – are commercial adverts allowed on the community boards? Advised yes, if there is space and they are placed responsibly in line with the board rules. Community notices will have precedence and any incorrectly posted adverts will be removed.

96/17 To receive and note reports from

- i) County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: not present, no report.
- ii) CBC Ward Councillors Mike Lilley & Adam Fox:
 - Local Plan – there is a new government consultation taking place, which could potentially increase the annual housing allocation for Colchester from 920 to 1,100. However, provided CBC submit the new Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate by Mar 18, which they are on track to do, this should not apply.
 - Slipway – as noted in the Clerk's report there have been concerns regarding the 'private access' signs installed. It has been confirmed that a private management company will control access, with the slipway locked during winter months due to nesting bird issues, but open for public use the rest of the year.
 - Bulbs – CBC has a supply of bulbs available if the parish council decide to plant some.
 - Dog fouling – as mentioned in item 95/17, this is always worse in the winter months. Fines have been increased but no-one has yet been caught. CBC will shortly be launching a new campaign

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targeting fouling after dark, ‘we are watching you’, with luminous signs reminding owners that wardens are still patrolling after dark to catch offenders. ML hopes to launch the scheme in Rowhedge, with the Recreation Ground already identified as a problem area. He will add Lion Quay to the list of potential sites for the scheme, and notify the parish council when details are confirmed.

- A-boards – a new zero tolerance policy has been agreed for the town centre, due to ongoing problems for people with limited mobility / sight accessing the town’s pavements. From 23rd Oct all boards must be removed from the public highway, with a two-week period to remove them before confiscation / fines are imposed.
- iii) Clerk: noted. NM’s progress review has now been completed, and as noted in the CBC report, the slipway issue has now been addressed.
- iv) Village Bus Representative – Elizabeth Trellis: The 174/175 route has been adjusted to include the Barn Hall Estate. ET has provided the Clerk with a copy of the revised timetable.
- v) Rowhedge Residents Association – Trisha Curran: nothing further to report.

97/17 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Appleyard & Clay: DM declared a pecuniary interest in this item and took no further part. PG proposed the payments be agreed, RH 2nd – agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

98/17 To note the draft minutes from the Finance & Personnel Committee 27th September, and to consider any proposals/recommendations arising: noted

- i) **Recommendation to approve the Fees & Charges Review and proposed charges schedule for 2018-19:** PG proposed the review and schedule be approved; JR 2nd – all agreed.

99/17 To receive a proposal from the Walking Football Club for the future redevelopment of the MUGA on the Recreation Ground: In summary this is a proposal to increase the size of the MUGA and replace the surfacing with a different material to make it more usable for a wider range of sports. Cllrs noted that S106 funds for developing sports and recreation have been agreed which are expected to be released in 2018, to include development of facilities at the Recreation Ground, and the potential purchase of the allotment site. Cllrs noted their support for the project, but it was suggested that it may be sensible to defer a decision on this proposal until the funds are released, as it may well be possible to deliver this using those S106 funds. DC noted that if the land adjacent to the allotment site is purchased using S106 funds, the council could also consider the development of an all-season pitch on that site which would be well used and a possible source of income from hire. RH proposed that the council defer a decision on this proposal pending the release of S106 funds for sports and recreation when the position of projects which can be funded will be clearer; PG 2nd – all agreed.

100/17 To receive and consider an initial proposal from the RCRC to install a permanent building with permanent planning permission, to replace the existing temporary hut, on the heritage land adjacent to Lion Quay: PG invited NC to present the proposal verbally from the floor, in her position as Chair of RCRC. NC explained that the RCRC are currently operating the hut, and wish to continue to do so, but are aware that the current agreement and planning permission are temporary and a permanent build is needed for it to continue. The RCRC’s proposal is to replace the hut with a slightly larger building (60cm longer, 80cm wider, same height) on the same site, to include a disabled access toilet facility and a veranda to provide shade/shelter. The toilet would be open during hut opening hours. The building would remain below building reg thresholds for size. The proposed build is similar in design to the existing hut and would not intrude onto the quayside beyond

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the existing patio area. NC distributed images of the proposed building and costings for construction. The RCRC have already submitted a funding application for a grant which would cover the full costs if awarded.

Cllrs noted that as mentioned in item 95/17, the hut has been a well-used and valuable resource for the community, and this was highlighted in the village plan survey results. The council has previously had discussions regarding a permanent building for this site with the RHT, and must be mindful of the procedures and criteria put in place at that time to ensure consistency of approach. With the RHT proposal, the council formed a working party with councillors and members of the RHT to look at moving the project forward. The council has standard terms of reference for working parties, as well as a formally adopted list of items that should form the basis for Heads of Terms for future leases. PG noted that the council cannot make any formal decisions in response to the proposal made by the RCRC as the information detailed in the papers circulated was not available when the agenda was published. PG proposed that the council sets up a working party with the RCRC to look at their proposal and move the project forward. The working party to consist of four councillors, PG/RH/DM/JR plus representatives from the RCRC, with a quorum of two councillors plus one RCRC rep (not a parish cllr). The working party to be governed by the standard terms of reference, bound by the agreed Heads of Terms document and to report back to full council their findings and recommendations. RH 2nd – agreed (NC abstained). *Action – the Clerk.*

101/17 To consider a proposal from Cllr Rowland to further develop the Heath Road Garden:

- i) To plant some native daffodils in the lawn area at a maximum cost of £160 for 1000 daffodils and arrange a community planting day to put them in the ground.**
- ii) To allow the grass to grow tall on the smaller mini orchard area. The lawn is full of wildflowers such as yarrow, with more native wildflowers to be added to maximise biodiversity. It will need one cut after the first blooms have gone to seed to tidy it up and to allow perennials to grow strong.**
- iii) To build a composting area using pallets and reclaimed wood in the far corner of the orchard area of the garden behind the large laurel bush. This will be used to compost all cut back and weeds taken from the garden. A series of 3-5 compost bins would allow this material to break down and then be added back to the garden to improve the fertility of the soil.**

JR clarified that the bulbs referred to in item i) would be planted in the mini orchard area, rather than the main lawned area; the orchard area is not frequently walked on so reducing mowing would have a low impact. In item ii) JR suggested that a 1m band could be cut alongside the pathway to prevent overspill from long grass. The reason for proposing this item is to promote biodiversity; insects and wildflowers are currently in severe decline in Britain. JR proposed that items i) and ii) be agreed with the amendment that bulbs be planted in the mini orchard area rather than the main lawn; PG 2nd – all agreed. *Action – JR.*

With regard to item iii), JR explained that it could be made to look attractive, and the proposed location combined with longer grass would minimise and soften the visual impact. It would provide a way to dispose of cuttings and through using the compost, replacing and maintaining needed nutrient levels in the soil. Cllrs noted concern that the bins could be misused by residents as mentioned in item 95/17; JR advised that a lock would be possible but would make it less user-friendly, and suggested that some community use is unlikely to present a problem. JR proposed that a 3 bin store be installed as above, and be carefully monitored with a strategy in place to add a locking mechanism and make secure if needed. PG 2nd – all agreed. *Action – JR.*

102/17 To consider a proposal from Cllr Rowland to plant three Rowan trees behind or in-between the benches on Pearson's Quay (refer attached illustrative images); Cllr Rowland to plant, stake and water them until established on a voluntary basis:

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Option 1: young 1.5–2m trees, £50 each plus root anchoring system £40 per tree

Option 2: larger 2-2.5m trees, £132 each, plus root anchoring system £40 per tree

Additional costs: £50 for watering bag and fertiliser for all three trees.

The trees to be sponsored by residents in memory of a loved one, £100 per tree for option 1, £200 per tree for option 2, to cover costs as detailed: JR explained that the proposal is intended to support local wildlife by creating a wildlife ‘corridor’; currently there are very few trees in the area of the quays to do this. Cllrs discussed the proposal in depth, including issues relating to: visual impact, potential loss of open space, whether the root structure could damage the quayside, whether residents living adjacent were supportive, leaf/fruit fall, protection of trees during events, provision of shade/shelter, and other potential locations for trees. Following the discussion, JR proposed option 2 as detailed; AA 2nd – not carried.

103/17 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda (refer Action List): Action list noted.

104/17 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed:

i) **Planning application 172188: 77 High Street; application for a two-storey rear, single storey front extension including garage conversion/internal alterations:** PG proposed that the council comments with no objections; DM 2nd – agreed (NC abstained).

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: Date:

Chairman