



Theydon Bois Parish Council

Parish Office, The Village Hall, Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Essex CM16 7ER

Acting Clerk to the Council: Mrs Caroline Carroll
Assistant Clerk to the Council: Mrs Julia Gale

Minutes of Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Held on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 11.00 AM via Zoom Video Conferencing

- **Councillors Present:** Cllrs Soutar (Chair) Gooch, Hannibal, Burn, Morton & Blake
- **Apologies for Absence:** None
- **Officers Present:** Caroline Carroll, Acting Parish Clerk
- **Others:** None

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None
2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2020**
APPROVED
3. **Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2020**
APPROVED
4. **Matters arising from the previous minutes:**
NONE
5. **Disclosure of Interests with regard to items on the Agenda:**
NONE
6. **Public Participation session with regards to items on the Agenda:**
NONE
7. **Green Glade Garden**

Cllr Soutar provided an update to the committee on the Green Glade project (rose garden) and thanked Cllr Morton for the work so far on the design. Cllr Morton emailed the previous evening, the proposed design and talked through the suggested layout and recommendations having met with Thornwood Grounds Maintenance earlier along with Cllr Soutar.

The objective is to keep the garden as simple as possible and low maintenance. The design Cllr Morton submitted to the committee consisted of a square structure of raised beds planted with roses and a space for a tree in the centre of the plot and potentially a second tree elsewhere. The reason for the raised beds was to keep the costs within our budget as hard landscaping can become very expensive. It was also noted that we would not have to carry out a CAT scan of what utilities were under the roundel as raised beds would not have to be dug as deep as a ground level planter. It was also agreed, that if we approved the idea for raised beds the structure used to create the design would be timber and not railway sleepers as these are very expensive and Cllr Burn pointed out we should not be using any reclaimed sleepers due to the tar deposits.

Cllr Morton confirmed that the size for the beds would need to be 450mm deep by 1200 wide. Thornwood have confirmed they are able to carry out the work for £800 + VAT + soil which is well within our £3,000 budget, allowing also for roses and maintenance for the first year.

Cllr Gooch had concerns over the use of raised beds due to the additional longer-term maintenance involved. Following a report from Capel Manor it was noted that their advice was raised beds would need watering more often and the wood treated once a year. The soil would also need topping up and there were questions raised about the ability for roses to become established and grow fully in raised beds

instead of directly into the ground. Cllr Gooch also questioned why we were not going ahead with a CAT scan to try to look at a different design with planting directly into the ground.

The design also consists of two new trees and Cllr Burn advised that EFDC would need to know the location of the two trees we are planning on planting within the garden – one has been agreed for the middle section as the residents would like to light this at Christmas and we would need to consider the location of the second tree and give EFDC the required notice. Cllr Burn was also concerned around the planting of any tree into a raised bed and strongly advised this should be planted directly into the ground.

Cllr Hannibal in principle was supportive of the design but the Council would need to consider the long-term maintenance and plan accordingly. There was also a suggestion that should the Committee require additional funding from the Council to undertake the CAT scan beforehand to consider a different design option then the Committee should do so at the next Full Council meeting. We need to make sure we are not cutting any corners and consider the support of the Council if necessary. The scan we believe would cost in the region of £1,000 but Cllr Gooch would investigate this.

Cllr Blake suggested a Mediterranean garden may be a suitable alternative if we were to look at something different and that would require less watering longer term.

Cllr Gooch advised that he had confirmed that the housing association own and maintain this piece of land and we would therefore need to seek permission and approval of the design. Assistant Clerk had emailed yesterday to start this process.

We would also need to ensure that if going directly into the ground and away from the raised beds design a soil profile was undertaken as it was felt that the ground underneath the grass may not be suitable for planting as it stands. Cllr Morton did advise that there are ways to ensure water is retained within the raised beds using certain types of compost and possibly miniature roses which would allow growth within the beds.

It was then decided the next steps would be: -

- Cllr Morton would revert to Thornwood for a cost for planting directly into the ground
- Cllr Gooch would investigate the costs of a CAT scan through independent companies
- Cllr Burn would provide details of the contact for the trees that EFDC use
- Clerk to book another meeting, same time next week

8. Christmas in Theydon Bois

Cllr Soutar and Acting Clerk Caroline met with Louise Bullman from Aylesford Electrical last week to discuss installation dates for the village Christmas trees and the additional trees in Station Road above the Bagel Shop and Florist and also on Coppice Row, above Greens, the Butchers, the Watch Shop, Tikadi and two trees either side of the Indian Ocean on the brick pillars. The owners of the flats have all consented to this and Aylesford have submitted their quote which falls slightly outside of our main Christmas budget however we are negotiating this with Aylesford. Clerk to advise in the next meeting of installation dates. The main village tree will be arriving during the week of 16th November 2020.

Cllr Hannibal updated the Committee on the carol Service which would incorporate the lighting of the tree. Due to the current restrictions it is likely this will go ahead online either pre-recorded or live. Clerk to discuss further logistics with John Fry and revert back to the Committee.

9. Any Other Urgent Business for report (without decision)

None.

10. Date of next community liaison meeting

Tuesday 20th October at 11.00 AM

Cllr Soutar closed the meeting at 12.15 pm

Signed by Clerk--/--/-

Signed by Chair Cllr Beverly Soutar--/--/--