



Theydon Bois Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Jennifer Endean
Deputy Clerk to the Council: Mrs Julia Gale

Minutes of the Meeting of the Highways & Environments Committee of Theydon Bois Parish Council held at the Village Hall at 9.30am on Friday 27th August 2021.

Councillors Present: Cllrs Purkiss (Chair), Cowup, Gooch, Gill, and Morris.
Apologies: Cllr Hannibal
Officers Present: Julia Gale – Deputy Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Hannibal.

2. Disclosure of Interests with regard to items on the Agenda

(Existence of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or existence and nature of Other Pecuniary Interest or a Non-Pecuniary Interest). The Council has adopted the Essex Public Law Partnership Code of Conduct.

None

3. Public Participation session with regard to items on the Agenda

None

4. To discuss Highways matters within the village

Cllr Purkiss advised the Committee of excavations, levelling of ground, and addition of hardcore to the Old Foresters site in Station Hill. Epping Forest District Council Planning Enforcement have been informed, but it was felt that they have let Theydon down by not moving quickly enough with the Enforcement action. Consequently, the Committee were asked to approve an Extraordinary Traffic restriction Order (ETRO) to restrict access to Station Hill by installation of Height/Width restriction posts or a gate. This can only be enacted by Essex Highways. Preliminary approval has been sought from Essex Highways, Cllr Lee Scott at Essex County Council (portfolio holder for highways) and local Cllrs Whitbread at Essex County Council. All have indicated their support. The Parish Council would have to demonstrate they have the funds to pay for this and a good reason for enacting legislation. Councillors were confident they have both, with the environmental damage caused and activity reported around this site. District Councillors will also be approached for their support.

The ETRO would temporarily prevent commuter parking in this road, but it was agreed that this could hopefully be reversed later with proper parking bays installed, patrolled by North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP). It is also hoped that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex would contribute towards the cost of the ETRO. **Approved.**

The committee was also advised that Forestry England Officers had been observed at the back of the site. After a telephone call with them it was ascertained that the site is being considered as a carbon offsetting site for the Thames Crossing. This would involve planting trees and wildflower meadows to store carbon. The landowner then will be paid a rent by Forestry England for this service. Cllr Morris pointed out that sites of this nature often have Mountain bike tracks and access for the public. This could become a tourist destination with resultant traffic and parking problems. This matter will need to be discussed at Full Council Meeting to decide what the Parish Councils stance is on this matter.

Finally, the committee were asked to approve a legal enquiry by the Parish Council's Solicitors, Fosketts, to carry out further investigations into land ownership of the Old Foresters Site in connection with the ETRO. A sum of up to £2000 was suggested for this enquiry. **Approved.**

Cllr Purkiss updated the committee regarding Covid grant funding towards repair of the allotment car park. This has been approved by Essex County Council. He is hoping Harringtons, the council's contractor can repair the potholes in the access road. Harringtons have also indicated they will be ready to start the repairs to kerbs in Orchard drive in September.

Thornwood Grounds Maintenance have been trimming hedges in the Cemetery. The gates have been installed to the extension land. Cllr Morris advise that the land should be consecrated by the Church as soon as possible.

The Parish is hoping to start work digging out the ditches on the Green to improve drainage. An approved contractor must be employed to ensure permission from City of London.

Cllr Cowup reported that the scheme to ask Shopkeepers to water the Planters in Forest Drive has been a success. He suggested that the Parish Council may wish to look at changing the planters in due course to lower ones and moving them to more convenient locations.

Cllr Gooch reported that the Roses in Green Glade needed to be pruned. The District Council's housing department will need to be asked to do this as they undertook to maintain the Roses.

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

Please note that no decisions can be lawfully made under this item. The Local Government Act 1972 section 12 10 (2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore, the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for decision.

None

Cllr Purkiss closed the meeting at 10.55am

Signed on behalf of the Committee as a true record

Councillor Anthony Purkiss

Dated: