



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 Full Council Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall 7:30pm on Thursday 26th October 2023

Councillors Present: Cllrs Gooch (Chairman), Purkiss, Amos, Blake, Burn, Cowup, Gill, Hannibal, Morris and Morton.

- **Officers Present:** Julia Gale Deputy Parish Clerk
- **Members of the Public:** The meeting was attended by 5 members of the public.

Cllr Gooch advised the Council that Mrs Endean, the Parish Clerk has decided to step down from her role and has tendered her resignation. He thanked Jen for all her hard work over the past 4 years.

1687. Apologies for Absence. Cllr Wood - Cllr Gooch advised the meeting that Cllr Wood is presently ill at home and sent her best wishes from the Parish Council.

1688. To discuss and approve the minutes from 28th September 2023. [Approved.](#)

1689. Disclosure of Interests with regard to specific 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 Essex Public Law Partnership Code of Conduct. **[None.](#)**

1690. Public participation session with regard to specific items on the Agenda. [None](#)

19.42 Cllr Hannibal joined the meeting.

1691. Police report.

PC Cook presented the crime figures for last three months.

There was one dwelling burglary and 1 non dwelling burglary.

There has been a big increase in motor vehicle thefts. Particularly in Station Hill, where 2 cars were stolen and six others had parts stolen, bumpers, wings etc.

One vehicle stolen from Blackacre was recovered today.

All the cars stolen were keyless entry, PC Cook said that he has faraday cases should anyone need them. PC Cook stated that the police are ready for Halloween and will have dispersal orders in place. He will also be in attendance for Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Market.

1692. Clerks Report.

One request for CCTV of a collision between two cars at Coppice row crossing.

One complaint from a resident about speeding in Coppice Row.

Complaint from a resident about the rats around the pond. I have spoken to the City of London, and they recommended a company they use to deal with similar problems around their ponds. Their representative is going to have a look at the pond and get back to me with a quote. [Cllrs suggested putting up signage asking people not to feed rats and putting a notice in the Village News.](#)

Christopher Davey of Ride London has contacted the office to ask if we would like him to come along to a Parish meeting to outline proposals to support activities in the area, hear your suggestions for overall improvements and further develop the Local Access Plans (LAPs) for residents and businesses, and answer any other questions you may have in relation to the event. [Check the route, will it come through Theydon?](#)

EFDC have sent out a consultation document for their proposed Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order. This has been forwarded to all Councillors if you would like to fill in the survey.

Essex Local Nature Partnerships have been in contact to invite us to a webinar for Parish Councils to discuss Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Essex. From 2024 these LNRS will be mandatory under the Environment Act 2021. They will highlight existing spaces for nature and areas of importance for biodiversity. Essex County Council will have responsibility for the Essex LNRS. The webinar will be on Tuesday 21st November 11-12. [Cllr Morris will attend please advise him of details.](#)

1693. Reports from District and/or County Councillors'.

Cllr Amos reported from Epping Forest District Council (EFDC)- he asked at EFDC Full Council whether Epping Forest District Council was owed any money from Thurrock Council. He was told that no monies are owed by Thurrock council to EFDC.

The new Multi story car park is opening in Epping on 2nd November.

No planning matters of any note has come before the District Planning Committee.

1694. Reports from Parish Representatives on outside organisations.

None.

1695. Finance Committee.

1695.1 To approve the payments for October. [Approved.](#)

1695.2 To discuss and approve possible donation to Essex Air Ambulance.

After a discussion, Cllr Amos proposed a donation of £1000, seconded by Cllr Morris. **Approved by majority under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

Cllr Hannibal stated that he is preparing the budget and has not had any notification from Committee chairs that they wish to change their budget.

1696. Planning Committee.

1696.1 To receive an update on planning matters since the last meeting.

Cllr Burn gave a report:

Since the previous Full Council Meeting, on 28th September 2023, the Planning Committee has considered seven planning applications, to which it returned one strong objection, three objections, two no objections, with a further application 'noted'.

The application to which a strong objection was raised related to the proposed remodelling and heightening of a substantial dwelling house, located in a prominent position, which was felt to be overly-dominant. Objections were also submitted with respect to the extension of a property in the Green Belt, which could adversely affect neighbour amenity, whilst a new vehicular access at Piggotts Farm was felt to compromise an attractive copse of protected trees. That application has since been refused by Epping Forest District Council ('EFDC').

Changes to parking arrangements at the front of an extended residential property which would not appear to accord with the provisions of the Essex Parking Standards, and may jeopardise the longevity of an adjacent verge tree, also met with objection.

Since the last Full Council Meeting, the Parish Council has received notification of three planning appeals. The Planning Committee will respond to one of these, where written representation is permitted.

The Parish Council has been notified of a consultation conducted by the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) re. potential changes to the Essex Parking Standards, which were first adopted by EFDC in 2009. Comments are invited by 4th December 2023 via an Online Survey - details can be obtained from: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/essex-parking-guidance-consultation-2023>

Notification has also been received re. a Public Consultation on the proposed Latton Priory Design Code. EFDC is hosting four in-person events - on 28 October, and 1 and 2 November 2023 - where residents can discuss a Draft Design Code and put forward their views. Details can be found at Latton Priory Design Code Events - via Epping Forest District Council (eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Cllr Amos mentioned 31 Piercing Hill and whether the building work is meeting requirements. Cllr Burn will check with EFDC planning department regarding this.

1697. Highways, Cemetery and Environment Committee.

1697.1 To receive an update on Highways, Cemetery and Environment matters within the Village.

Cllr Purkiss gave an update:

He is still trying to get quotes to clear the footpath along the Abridge Road with a flail.

The Parish Council are establishing a specification for tender for agreed works in the new Cemetery extension. Essex Highways have now decided to go out to tender for the planned works of new kerbing and pavement in Loughton Lane. This process has now been going on for three years.

1697.2 To note Consultation on Recycling Centre bookings and decide on a parish response.

After discussion it was decided that the Parish Council response would be a negative. The Parish Council believes that the booking system deters recycling, is a waste of recycling centre staffs time and may increase fly tipping. It was noted that since the rubble skip has been removed from Waltham Abbey to the recycling centre to Harlow, residents now must drive further, which is environmentally unfriendly.

1697.3 To discuss reinstatement of a drinking fountain and trough on the top green in view of grant funding available.

Cllr Purkiss advised the Council that he took the opportunity to speak to the City of London dignitaries at the tree planting last week about reinstating the drinking fountain on the top green. The original drinking fountain was installed in Victorian times and removed in 1910. EFDC Cllr Phillip advised that a grant of up to £30000 is available towards the cost. Cllr Morris will check with the City to see if they have an original drinking fountain in their store. Approved if funding is available to take this forward.

1698.1 To receive an update on Community Engagement matters within the Village.

Cllr Gill updated the meeting:

The Christmas Market is ticking along nicely, Jen has everything under control.

The issue with the P.A system has hopefully been resolved, and there should be better sound this year.

The Repair Café is ticking along nicely.

Cllr Gooch added that the Villager of the Year award is being presented at the Tree lighting ceremony this year.

1698.2 To discuss and agree proposal to loan out donated mobility aid equipment to villagers.

Cllr Gill asked the meeting to agree to a new scheme to loan out mobility aids to villagers. He will source the crutches and wheelchairs from free items online and get them checked by the Repair Café. He would loan them out to villagers on short term loan. The council approved subject to: A waiver form and checking public liability from Zurich Insurance.

1698.3 To discuss and agree the donation of £150 towards three extra Community Cuppa/warm hub sessions.

Cllr Gill advised that he has asked Lisa, of the Community Cuppa to run three extra sessions over the winter as a warm room/hub, to this end, he would like to pay for the extra food costs and rent. The extra session in December would be a Christmas lunch. **Approved.**

1698.4 To discuss and agree to donation of £150 to cover Community Cuppa's annual rent. **Approved.**

1698.5 To discuss and agree £780 for website development. [Approved.](#)

1699 Any Other Urgent Business for report (without decision).

Cllr Morris stated that COL are responsible for the rats on green as they are the landowner. He will follow up.
Cllr Morris stated that Dame Eleanor Laing MP is behind us if we want to have a meeting regarding The Limes. Cllr Blake said that she is still getting feedback from residents about the poor service from the local surgery.

1700. Public Participation session with regard to items of interest to the Parish.

Resident said that footpath at the back of the Green needs reinstating.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Signed:
Cllr Peter Gooch
Chairman

Dated: 30/11/2023