**Theydon Mount Parish Council OGM Agenda 12th June 2023 at 7:00 pm**

**To be held at Mount Farm conference venue, Tawney Common, CM16 7PX.**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes of meeting(s) held 17th April 2023 to be ratified – at Appendix A

1. **Declarations of Interest**
2. **Business**

4.1 Finger posts, Verge side Signs and footpath signposts – general update – All + RA to brief on Essex Highways reply re Verge Side Gateway features

4.2 Local Highways

4.2.1 Update on our Traffic Calming Initiatives and progress– All

4.2.2 Newsletter – Is it time for another? – All

4.2.3 Affinity Water Leaks and Pot Holes – Exchange between PC and Alex Burghart.

4.3 Report on Street Party

4.3.1 Finances – PB

4.3.2 Lessons Learned - All

5. **Finance**

* Approval of any invoices/payments due – PB Report
* Budget Update – PB to Lead discussions

1. **Training**
2. **District/County Councillor Report**
3. **Correspondence**

* Letters and emails received - RA

1. **Planning**
   1. Review all extant planning matters as follows:

* London Alpacas EFP/1505/22
* Norton Fisheries EFP/2389/22
* Hornes Farm EFP/2578/22
* Broadhill Barn, Colemans Farm EFP/2879/22 (no current application)
* Carisbrooke Farm EFP/1452/21
* Abridge Golf Club EFP/0282/23
* Peakes Farmhouse EFP/0727/23 & EFP/0743/23
* Solar Farm – Stanford Rivers

1. **Clerk Matters and Questions**

* Summer Projects

**Signed Rod Angood (Parish Clerk) Dated 05/06/2023**

**Appendix A – Minutes of Theydon Mount Parish Council AGM**

**Held at the Gatehouse, All Saints Church, Coopersale Lane, Theydon Garnon, CM167NX** **on 17th April 2023**

**1. Election of Chairman –** Peter Connell (PC) was proposed by Hilliard Brewitt (HTB) and seconded by Patrick Bamford (PB). Decision - PC elected as chairman.

**2. Election of Vice Chairman-** Keith Farrow (KF) was proposed by HTB, seconded by PB. KF elected as Vice Chairman

**3. Apologies –** had been received from Heather Brady (HB)

**4. Minutes of last meeting -** Minutes of meeting held 27th February 2023 were ratified as were the minutes of the previous AGM.

**5. Declarations of Interest -** None

**6. Finance –** PB briefed council on the years finances including income, expenditure, reserves against commitments and current bank balance.

It was agreed that the Clerk should be paid £1000 for services which was agreed by council and approved.

PB then advised council regarding the AGAR return and sought relevant signatures from appropriate councillors.

Internal Auditor for 2023/24 was confirmed and signatures on certificate of exemption were obtained from council members.

Renewal of Annual Insurance – RA advised council that BHIB Insurance had just sent him the reminder regarding annual parish council insurance with the schedule and renewal quotation which he would forward to PB shortly. Renewal date = 1 June 2023.

PB circulated a number of cheques against outstanding payments and obtained appropriate signatures and counter-signatures for them.

**7. Review and adoption of governance policies for 2023/24**

PB advised TMPC that there being no changes required to the current governance policies that he sought approval for their adoption for the coming year. Decision - approved

**8. Chairman’s report**

PB advised TMPC that since he would be providing his report to the immediately following Parish AGM, it could be held over for a few minutes. Decision – agreed.

The meeting closed at 19:30

**Signed…Shape

Description automatically generated Peter Connell Chair of TMPC**

**Dated: 21/4/2023**

**Theydon Mount Parish Council**

**Chairman’s report to TMPC AGM and Parish Meeting 17th April 2023.**

Peter Connell, as chairman, welcomed (21) attendees to the meeting. Apologies had been received from 12 residents who were unable to attend as well as Councillors Heather Brady and Keith Farrow, the latter of whom celebrated 35 years as a parish councillor on the day of the meeting. Peter introduced himself, Hilliard Brewitt and Pat Bamford as the remaining councillors , all of whom had joined the council two years ago, together with Rod Angood who had joined as parish clerk in August last year.

The chairman reviewed the work of the council during the past year. He emphasised that the power of a parish council is limited but was able to exert influence and be a louder voice than individual residents in a number of important areas as follows:-

**Planning**

All planning applications within the parish and surrounding area are notified to the parish council which always comments on applications and where it considers it appropriate, supports or objects to applications. In doing so the council follows two main principles – 1. The protection of Green Belt land from inappropriate overdevelopment and 2. The impact on traffic levels. Any comment is guided by National Planning Policy and the Local Plan . The Epping Plan has only recently been adopted. It provides for significant housing and business development but no large scale development in Theydon Mount. However, nearby developments can have an impact on traffic levels on our roads.

With this in mind your council formally objected to a planned concrete crushing plant in Abridge on the basis of increased volumes of heavy traffic in Epping Lane and Mount Road. The application was refused.

There is currently a pending application to convert agricultural buildings to commercial use at Hornes Farm in Mount Road. Developments of this nature are permitted under the National Planning Policy and even though the site is situated in our neighbouring parish of Theydon Garnon, we have objected on the basis of the traffic impact the development would have on our roads – Epping Lane, Mount Road and Banks Lane. A decision is pending on the application.

During the year an application was made to use fields on historic parkland adjacent to Hill Hall as a commercial alpaca experience including public access to the site. The parish council expressed local concerns at the planning meeting following which planning permission was refused on the basis of the increased traffic and the nuisance to neighbours.

**Condition of parish highways**

*Affinity Water* - The parish council has supported local residents in expressing concerns about water leaks especially in Mount Road. We are now in correspondence with our local MP, Alex Burghart who is communicating with both Affinity Water and Essex Highways on this issue. We hope to see a positive reaction in the near future.

***Potholes and flytipping*** - We have been lobbying our local county councillor, Jaymee McIvor and EFDC district councillor, Holly Whitbread, who have been made very aware of the issues we face. Holly is working with Councillor Lee Scott, who is the county councillor responsible for highways in Essex. Central Government has made an additional £14.5 million available to Essex for road repair and we are lobbying for our share of that.

***Traffic calming and speed limits***. - We have formally applied to Essex Highways via our county councillor for the imposition of speed limits and traffic calming measures on our roads. Sadly, our applications have been rejected. A copy of the rejection note is attached. The reasoning behind the refusals seems to be misplaced and the data relied upon is inaccurate. The parish council is determined to pursue our traffic problems with Essex Highways. Residents will be asked to sign a petition to support these efforts.

***Community events***. - One of our main objectives is to promote the community of Theydon Mount. We held a Jubilee Lunch last year (jointly with our neighbouring parishes, Theydon Garnon and Stapleford Tawney} which was a great success. This year we will host a Coronation street party on the 8th May. Later in the year we also hope to hold a parish BBQ.

We believe all of these events help to bring the community together.

**There being no questions from the audience, the AGM closed and councillors were able to meet with and talk with the attendees**.