**Minutes of Theydon Mount Parish Council OGM held on 27TH February 2023 at 7:00 pm at Mount Farm conference venue, Tawney Common, CM16 7PX.**

1. **In Attendance:**

Peter Connell (Chair) (PC), Patrick Bamford (PB), Hilliard Brewitt (HTB), HB and RA

Councillor McIvor attended the meeting later to provide an update to the council. (See addendum to these minutes).

MH attended for the update to committee on progress against the Street Party scheduled for Monday 8th May 2023.

1. **Apologies:**

Were received from KPF.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting:**

Minutes of meeting held 26th January 2023 were ratified by council ***Action - RA to publish.***

1. **Declarations of Interest:**

None.

1. **Business:**
   1. Finger posts and signage – PB reported that a quote for the finger posts had been received. In respect of the finger posts that needed repair it was agreed that where necessary new centre posts would be ordered, and parish labour utilised to provide routed slots for the fingers, the fixing of the fingers into the routed slots the recovery of much of the old lettering to re-instate on the new fingers - augmented by new letters where necessary and the painting and installation of the refurbished posts. Expensive funding for the total requirement for finger posts would thus be minimised.

4.2 Local Highways

4.2.1 Traffic Calming in the parish

PB reported that a quotation for the manufacture of the required number of verge-side “Parish Welcome” devices had been received – the outlay was considered expensive and that provided a source of suitable timber could be identified and ordered, the work of constructing the required number of 4 x sets of the verge-side signs could be handled and made using parishioner resources.

Funding within the budget allocation for this reduced cost was in place.

PB also presented pictorial evidence of where his and HTB’s research had identified the most suitable locations for each set of verge-side signs

RA reported that he had chased Councillor McIvor twice regarding a progress update on the submission of our portfolio of accidents throughout the parish to Essex Highways. (See Addendum for Councillor McIvor’s report regarding this matter).

PC, MH and RA briefed members on progress to date regarding the Kings Coronation Street Party aimed at raising awareness and funds for the future costs of traffic calming measures should Essex Highways decline to reduce the speed limits on all roads throughout the parish.

* 1. Newsletter

RA, reported that PC’s letter alerting Mount End residents to the proposed road closure for the Kings Coronation Street Party had been circulated – responses from residents confirmed that the committee had a mandate to proceed with the road closure application to EFDC.

Discussion next centred on the preparation of immediate future Newsletters to parishioners.

***Action – PB and HTB to prepare an interim Newsletter containing general information and updates. This to be followed a little later by a specific newsletter regarding the Coronation Street Party, identifying what would be on offer, what attending parishioners would need to bring, general arrangements for the day and at least two response options (email reply and tear of strip at the bottom of the Newsletter) identifying the number of people intending to attend). This would be used to provide appropriate levels food stocks and liquid refreshments.***

5. **Finance:**

PB reported that the submission to elevate out precept for 2023-24 had been satisfactorily met by EFDC.

Much of this increase was intended to be directed to underpin events to promote the councils future traffic calming measures such as Vehicle Activated Road Signs which would need significant fund raising efforts and events.

1. **Training:**

RA reported that he had circulated the EALC Training Calendar t all members.

1. **District/County Councillor Report:**

HB reported that the local EFDC Plan had been found to be sound and would be voted on in the coming week. If not adopted, there was a risk that the land earmarked to accommodate the plan might instead go to other commercial developers.

1. **Correspondence:**

RA informed council of one communication seeking a donation. No Action required.

1. **Planning;**

TAW LODGE – 3rd party information suggested that this application had been refused. Efforts by all councillors to verify/confirm this reported decision.

HORNES FARM – Awaiting consideration by Planning committee. TMPC needs to lodge an application to speak to this planning forum regarding this planning application.

ABRIDGE GOLF COURSE – Decision – PC to lodge request that the current application should include any buildings to be constructed to replace the existing barns.  Any consent for  new buildings should comply with Green Belt restrictions.

ALPACA FARM CARAVAN – caravan still in place – RA to check with Enforcement office as to deadline date for its removal.

BARKERS FARM ADDITIONAL ROOF LIGHT – RA to check planning decision and report if necessary to EFDC Enforcement Office

1. **Clerk Matters and Questions**

Revision to OGM dates for 2023 – RA alerted council to the fact that he would not be available for the planned OGM scheduled for 21st August 2023.

**Signed Shape

Description automatically generatedPeter Connell (Chair TMPC) Dated 28/02/2023**

**Addendum – Notes of a Briefing to TMPC by Councillor Jaymey McIvor (JM) - 27/02/2023**

1. **JM reported that the TMPC portfolio bid of recent speed related accidents across the parish was “in the system” for Essex Highways consideration and action**
2. **JM noted that P.C. Cook was a useful person to seek advice from on traffic related matters.**
3. **JM also reported that a significant review of speed limits across the whole of Essex would commence shortly and whilst this might take time to realise outcomes it was a step in the right direction. In the interim we should continue to direct highways related issues and in particular zones of significant concern to JM.**
4. **JM also reported that the Essex County Budget looked to be in good shape – careful and sensible management of resources had ensured no great financial challenges and he added that an additional £9m had been allocated for highways expenditure. £4m to councillors to use against specific objectives, £3m for micro surfacing technologies and £2m to generally fund other highways related challenges.**
5. **JM told TMPC that the Ride London Event for 2023 was now allocated to just one day and would not utilise Mount End Road as it had last year.**
6. **JM encouraged TMPC to seek funding for Activity related initiatives from the “Active Essex” grant provision**
7. **JM took note of the fact that despite a very high deer population within the parish and the subsequent and inevitable deer/vehicle accidents, the parish had not a single advisory “Deer” road sign – JM would pursue this matter.**
8. **Useful contacts:**

**Ken Williams – for issues related to Access to planning notices and decisions.**

1. **TMPC was encouraged by JM to raise a Petition regarding speeding and general traffic calming concerns; to use the coming opportunity of the Coronation Street Party to attract signatures to the Petition and then to send the petition to Essex Highways, cc’d to EFDC and JM**