**MINUTES OF THEYDON MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL OGM HELD**

**ON MONDAY 13TH MAY 2024.**

1. **Present: Peter Connell (PC) Chair, Keith Farrow (KF) Vice Chair, Hilliard Brewitt (HTB), Martin Hudson (MH) and Rod Angood (RA) Clerk.**
2. **Apologies – Heather Brady**
3. **Declarations of Interest: None**
4. **Minutes of the last AGM and Public Meeting – Ratified – RA to post**

1. **Business**

**5.1 Project Progress Reports** – PC sought progress reports on the telephone refurbishment project and the gateways submission. RA reported that the kit of replacement parts for and paint the telephone box had arrived as had the Brush Cutter. These were currently held by RA who circulated copy of the interim progress report he had forwarded to EFDC. Expenditure on these items amounted to £1099.40. The grant from EFDC amounted to £1271 representing 80% of the total estimated refurbishment cost leaving TMPC to match the grant with £317.75 of its own funds.

The total budget was thus projected to be £1588.75 but costs had risen since the grant application had been made. Having spent £1099 to date there was a residual balance of around £500. Discussion then centred on what work still had to be done to effect the electrical solution to enable Christmas lights to be installed.

RA pointed out that a small flexible solar panel stuck to the roof of the box connected to a charger (as used on small boats) might be a more cost effective way to keep a standard car battery charged up for the purpose.

HTB proposed that he discuss the outstanding work with a resident (DC) with a view to getting the work done given MH’s upcoming hospital appointment and RA’s upcoming house move.

RA reported no news regarding the gateways submission but that he believed it had passed to the legal team at Essex Highways. RA agreed to furnish HTB with contact details so that he could get a progress report from Essex Highways.

**5.2** **Newsletter:** PC then asked when the next Newsletter was planned. HTB suggested the next newsletter should be scheduled so as to be able to alert residents to the Summer Event planned for 26th August. HTB suggested July for the next newsletter.

**5.3** **Litter Pick:** - PC asked about the next Litter Pick and when should it occur. RA was asked to seek a suitable date sometime towards the end of June early July from HB.

**5.4 Parish Barbecue:** HTB and MH briefed TMPC on planning progress to date on the event. A document was circulated for discussion which described the proposed details of the event and its likely budget implications. It was suggested that TMPC should consider the full details with a view to a more detailed discussion at the next OMG. It was agreed that the event should be a ticketed event and discussion then centred on what a ticket buyer got for their money. Some concern was raised at the notion of £10 per head for the ticket which would exclude the option of the wine tasting particularly for a family of say 4. Whilst it was intended to be a “bring your own picnic” kind of event the barbecue would sell its products on a donation basis.

HTB sought suggestions for helpers in the lead up to the event.

1. **Local Highways**

**6.1 Parish Roads and Resurfacing –** PC opened the discussion by stating that he had sensed some disappointment from some councillors about the finished state of the recent Essex Highways re-surfacing of our parish roads. He added that he didn’t think the council was certain that ECC were not coming back to do remedial work or whether it was known that they were done.

It was noted that some sections of some of the roads had bare patched bereft of any grit. There was some belief that where the crews were perhaps aware of water flooding events they had filled the potholes but not added the surface grit. In other places it looked like the complete reverse in that grit had been laid but had subsequently washed away or at least disappeared from some stretches of road.

TMPC felt that a response to Highways was in order and some thought we should invoke the support and engagement of County Councillors and MP’s whilst others felt a softer - more enquiring - initial response to Highways would at least elicit whether they had finished their work or were planning remedial activities.

PC stated that he thought our best inroad was to prepare a thorough report that we could take before the highways surgery that Jaymey McIvor had promised us. It should include the fully updated dossier on RTA’s in the parish, evidence of the bad sections of the re-surfacing initiative allied to a list of the flooding events that have rendered the gritting ineffective and an audit of new signs required throughout the parish as a minimum.

**6.2 Road Signs and Road Markings –** RA sought confirmation from TMPC that the previous agenda items for cleaning existing road signs and undertaking an audit of required new signs and road markings should remain an agenda item and become a TMPC action. HTB suggested TMPC engage a parishioner to undertake the audits. KF offered to undertake the signage audit – TMPC approved his nomination.

1. **Finance - Progress Report on transfer of account –** MH updated TMPC on progress to date. Efforts to set up a new Natwest account had not proven easy. In the end MH had gone into Natwest to seek advice only to be advised that as a parish council the type of account we were attempting to establish was not permitted. On MH’s recommendation TMPC agreed to stay for now with the Barclays arrangements and to pursue any suitable alternative solution with them.

**7.**1 **New Financial Regulations –** PC noted that TMPC had been notified of new financial Regulations issued by NALC. RA was asked to resolve the access problem to these new regulations.

**7.2** **New Laptop and Printer -** MH reminded TMPC that the issue of a new laptop and printer remained outstanding/undecided. HTB sought clarification on the current amount in the bank. MH confirmed a healthy balance but reminded TMPC that we had committed to some future expenditures. (Clerks Stipend, Gateways installation Costs, Amount out standing to DC for preparation of the posts for the gateway signs). TMPC approved the expenditure to acquire a new It system.

1. **Planning –** PC opened discussion in respect of the Planning Application for a property at Theydon Meadows. TMPC opinion was that if EFDC had a mind to approve the application and there were no individual objections from neighbours that we should simply raise and submit our comments along such lines but reflect that this would be a development within the green belt. PC agreed to undertake this submission.

HTB noted that there was an outstanding issue regarding Hornes Farm and that EFDC had deferred a decision pending a number matters that it wanted clarification on or new data about traffic flows. PC noted that any such revision of data or information would ultimately result in the Planning Application being considered anew at a future EFDC Planning Meeting – at which time TMPC could ask to make a new objection.

***Post Meeting Note – it has been noted that traffic monitoring pressure lines have been installed across Mount Road to either side of Hornes Farm which may be part of EFDC’s review process.***

1. **Correspondence and Communications –** RA reported the notification received from our external auditors, the receipt of our EALC membership certificate and advised TMPC that EFDC had issued notification that applications for smart energy solutions would be encouraged throughout Essex. TMPC felt that this was not likely to affect/include residents of the parish.

PC noted that TMPC should review its Risk Assessment protocols which were posted to the TMPC web site. MH agreed to draft a revision for circulation and approval.

1. **Clerk Matters and Questions –** RA reminded TMPC that he was holding a significant amount of materials associated with the previous Street Party and the telephone refurbishment kit. RA was asked to notify TMPC of exactly what he was holding so that it could be taken over by others.

**Signed A black rope in the shape of a heart

Description automatically generated Peter Connel Chair of TMPC Dated 28/05/2023**