**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**

**4.1 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.

**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.

**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.

**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** 
   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 Audit of road signs needed for submission to Essex Highways.**

**Similar audit for repainting of parish road markings for submission to Local Highways Panel.**

1. **Finance**

* **Progress Report on transfer of account – MH to update council**

1. **Planning**
2. **Clerk Matters and Questions**
3. **Correspondence – RA to update council**

**Signed A signature on a white background

Description automatically generated Rod Angood Clerk to TMPC Dated 04/05/2023**