**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… Peter Connell Chair of TMPC**

**Dated: 21/4/2023**

**Context:**

***In January 2023 Theydon Mount Parish Council (TMPC) submitted a portfolio of evidence (photographs, documents etc) covering around 11 separate accidents on the roads within the parish over the previous 6 months to Councillor Jaymey McIvor (Essex County Councillor for Ongar and Rural)***

***It was requested that Councillor McIvor forward this portfolio on to Essex Highways with our request for serious consideration of some traffic calming and speed limit reduction initiatives to make our parish roads safer.***

***The current speed limits on all roads within the parish is 60 mph, which are narrow, without pavements and traversed by every conceivable vehicle including heavy goods vehicles that when mixed with people, dogs, horses, cyclists, cars and farm equipment constitutes what TMPC considered was an unacceptable risk to all.***

***Below is the response from Essex Highways that was passed back to TMPC through Councillor McIvor.***

**From Essex Highways**:

**BANKS LANE**

Unfortunately, there is no evidence of a pattern of collisions along the stretch of Banks Lane. There has been one serious collision in 2021. The road is a PR2 route, and the traffic authorities are encouraged to adopt the Institution of Highways and Transportation’s3 urban safety management guidelines, in which road hierarchies are adopted that reflect a road's function and the mix of traffic that it carries. The layout and length of Banks Lane is capable of facilitating two-way traffic.

We would NOT suggest a speed survey along the varying stretches of Banks Lane, as it would probably result in no evidence of speeding. The status of the road combined with the collision data does not warrant reducing the speed from the current speed.

The lack of signage at the blind bend at Gaynes Park is something that could be considered to alert driver travelling in both directions that the bend is approaching.

**MOUNT ROAD JUNCTION WITH BANKS LANE**

There is evidence of two collisions over the last five years. Again, the road is a PR2 route and if a speed survey was to be carried out the results would probably show no evidence of speeding. Extra signage could be considered for both directions warning drivers of the approaching Banks Lane turn. A reduction in speed would not be appropriate for this length of road.

**MOUNT ROAD 3 NEAR MOUNT HILL FARM**

There have been no recorded collisions over the last five years. The layout on this length of Mount Road is capable of facilitating two-way traffic. This section of the road does not warrant a 30mph speed limit.

**MOUNT ROAD JUNCTION WITH EPPING LANE**

There has been one slight accident at this location over the last three years. A speed survey would probably not show evidence of speeding.

There is give way signage 100 yards and at the junction onto Epping Lane, alerting drivers that the junction is approaching. The visibility is good at the junction. A reduction in speed would not be appropriate for this length of road.

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**EPPING LANE – SKINNERS FARM**

There has been one slight collision over the last five years. Whilst the road does narrow in parts, the layout on the designated length of Epping Lane is capable of facilitating two-way traffic. A reduction of speed at this location would not be appropriate.

Whilst it can be appreciated that certain rural PR2 roads do narrow in parts it would not be possible to restrict larger vehicles from these roads.

Signage can be looked into on the lengths of road suggested but we must take into account signage clutter on rural roadways.

The fact is, we can take into account that collisions have happened on occasions, but we cannot stop those drivers that continue to speed. Changing the speed limits does not guarantee adherent to the speed limit on these stretches of roads and compliance would be difficult.

Speed surveys are currently on hold until funding is available.

**From Councillor McIvor:**

Following this response I appreciate it will be disappointing so my suggestions and ways forwards are as below:

1. If you have further evidence or support for action (such as petitions) I can submit these for you.
2. If any of the above information is incorrect I can ask officers to reconsider.
3. We can take up the offer to increase/improve signage and see if that has any impact.

As mentioned at your meeting, we have an Essex Wide review on our speed limits which, I hope, will identify areas in our rural communities which I think we agree require evaluation.

I will await your instruction before I respond to officers.

Kind regards,

Cllr McIvor