

# MATCHING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010

AT THE FOX, MATCHING TYE

### **COUNCIL MEETING**

#### **MINUTE**

#### **ACTION**

#### **PRESENT**

Cllr Richard Morgan (RM) (Chairman) Cllrs John E Binder (JEB), Joan Bowerman (JB), Anita Darken (AD), Derrick Lawrence (DL), Paul Moulds (PM) and Michael Taylor (MT)

In attendance: Ernie Fenwick (Clerk to the Council) and 10 members of the public Brian Russell, Carol Foulser, Michael Collins, Stephanie Webb, Bob Barnes, Michael Lichtig, Alison Moulds, Tony Greenfield, Martin Bartholomew, Alan Darken.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman warmly welcomed new councillor Michael Taylor, the members of the public and said that due to the Clerk being on holiday, the notice of the meeting was not published the requisite number of days before the meeting but on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> instead of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April and asked Councils permission to proceed with the meeting. AD and DL opposed this request saying the meeting was illegal. RM requested a vote. 5 in favour, RM, JEB, JB, PM, MT. 2 abstentions AD DL. Chairman then opened the meeting with The Open Forum  
Martin Bartholomew asked what costs have been incurred in the election and the complaint against the chairman. RM advised him that these items would come up on the Agenda

Carol Foulser raised a Point of Order and said the meeting was illegal as the Agenda had not been published in the required time. RM said that he had asked permission of the council to proceed with the meeting and that had been given. DL said that any decision taken would not be legal. RM said that any decisions taken could be ratified at the next meeting.

Michael Collins said that it was about time the vile feeling within the council was ended. He was concerned that in regards to the by-election, there was no consideration to the cost of the election to the parish. The Parish Council should have sat down with the candidates and sorted it out amicably. The cost of the new councillor is £125 per month until the next election in May 2011. Certain members of the council should be ashamed of themselves and perhaps should resign and re-imburse the council. The reason is because certain members of the council lost the argument regarding the cricket pavilion. He thanked Chairman Richard Morgan for standing firm against those councillors.

AD responded and made several statements regarding the cricket pavilion and the complaint against the Chairman. Chairman stood up to bring order to the meeting and then proceeded with the open forum

Alison Moulds is concerned that speed signs are not slowing traffic down. She feels that she is taking her life in her hands as she walks to and from pre-school. People don't feel safe to walk. Clerk said that Essex police were prepared to train parishioners in the use of speed guns if there were sufficient volunteers. Item to be placed on next Agenda.

Wendy Edwards joined the meeting.

RM asked Wendy if she wished to address the meeting and she declined.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, the chairman continued with the agenda.

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## **198. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

None

## **199. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> March were approved and signed as a true record. AD said she could not accept the minutes as they were not in the format the Clerk had previously agreed. DL asked it to be recorded that he had been handed an incorrect version of the Agenda which was then replaced with a correct version. JEB proposed that the minutes be adopted as accurate. AD proposed that the minutes be rewritten DL seconded 2 for (DL, AD) 4 against (RM, JEB, JB, PM). MT abstained as he had not attended the last meeting as a councillor. AD raised the point that the Chairman had said in his welcome that the "complaints had completely exonerated the chairman" and asked for this to be rewritten. The Clerk pointed out that the item was in the open forum and had been said by Tony Porter and was accurately reported. No resolution made

## **200. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

RM is a District councillor. All councillors declared personal not prejudicial interest in The Fox (Item 205b)

## **201. PARTICIPATION WITH RESPECT TO AGENDA ITEMS**

No comments from public with respect to agenda items.

## **202. CLERKS REPORT**

- a. On matters from the last meeting.
  - i. Response from MB & The Lavers re grass triangle. Request did not reach Clerk in time for inclusion onto the Agenda. DL asked why the Clerk had not got the request to the other council in time. RM said that their meeting was just a few days after ours.
- b. Election Result
  - i. To report on the by election result. EDWARDS Wendy 72 votes, TAYLOR Michael 131 votes and Michael TAYLOR was declared elected. Michael thanked everyone for voting and thanked Wendy for standing and promised to work with all councillors for the benefit of the whole community.
- c. Correspondence
  - i. Review of Public Transport in Epping Forest District. Clerk has circulated letter from Wendy Edwards ECC Senior Transport Liaison Officer who will visit on the mobile library to speak to residents, and is also prepared to come to a parish meeting. Clerk to invite for May 10<sup>th</sup> (annual assembly.)
  - ii. Essex School Organisation Plan 2009-2014
  - iii. Letter received from parishioner regarding election issues. Clerk will take advice before presenting that to the council.
  - iv. Letter received from EFDC regarding complaint costs £3600. AD asked that we respond to the letter welcoming the opportunity to have some sort of mediation.
- d. Training Courses
  - i. Risk Management Course 26<sup>th</sup> May Foakes Hall Dunmow £57
  - ii. Advanced Councillor Training Day 28<sup>th</sup> April Foakes Hall £57  
Clerk reported he had spoken to John Kenney and due to Clerks holiday and John Kenney's work schedule a date for a site meeting to be late April.

## **203. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

RM said that he had recently attended the Citizen of the Year Awards ceremony and reported that a special posthumous award was made to Chris Gibson for his outstanding work in the community. The citation in the press was read out by JEB.

RM had asked EFDC why dog bin had been placed in the position it was. Position selected by Dog Warden as the most appropriate and a second dog bin has been

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placed outside The Chequers.

## **204. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The current bank balance is £10,911.58 of which £4.87 is in the current account after payment of the following cheques.

The following payments were approved

E Fenwick	Clerk Salary & Expenses	£259.36
Epping Forest District Council	Election Charges	£1738.88
EALC	Subscription Fees	£169.37

The Clerk said that the EOY Accounts were now prepared for submission to the internal auditor and had circulated various financial reports to all councillors. The Clerk has also prepared an End of Year Reconciliation showing that the net balance at the end of March 2010 was £1867.44

Brian Russell left the meeting.

## **205. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a. Decisions by EFDC Planning Department
  - i. TPO/EPF/70/10 Land adjacent to Down Hall, Matching
- b. Applications
  - i. EPF/0521/10 The Fox Inn Matching Tye: Replacement Permanent Storage building : No objections

## **206. LAND REGISTRATION – HOUSHAM TYE**

Land Registry have dismissed the application to register Housham Tye as there is insufficient evidence that the Parish Council owns the land. Clerk has spoken to ECC Commons Registration Department who feel that it is unlikely that they can issue the relevant notice required by Land Registry. DL suggests that EALC are approached with a request for assistance.

## **207. MATCHING GREEN –PLAY AREA**

JB has made an approach to two suppliers with suggestions  
DL suggested the Clerk approach ECC and contact A-Z suppliers for quotations.  
AD suggested we try to raise money via other grants. RM asked for suggestions for grant applications. JB suggested that we approach EFDC

## **208. JUBILEE FIELD - FENCING**

RM said he had looked at the fencing part will be replaceable and part is missing 6 -7 m is missing. Work party will erect it on a Sunday morning

## **209. JUBILEE FIELD – GARDENS**

JB reminded the PC that Mr & Mrs Knight had looked after the gardens and were prepared to continue to do so in memory of Chris Gibson. Clerk to write to Mr & Mrs Knight thanking them for their kind offer.

## **210. CUTTING OF RURAL VERGES**

Clerk is still awaiting response from ECC Highways. Clerk has now spoken to ECC Cabinet Office of Norman Hume and requested they take action and has strongly expressed displeasure at lack of courtesy of a reply and forwarding of information regarding acting as agent for the cutting of rural verges.  
DL suggested we make an official complaint. AD suggested that we should approach our county councillor.

## **211. WEBSITE**

Clerk has identified a problem with the website in that items may not be published before 1<sup>st</sup> January for the new year, which delays publication of early

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Agenda or notices, and multiple notices for the same day cannot be posted.  
Quotation from Kevin Joyce received for £60 to remedy. Query from JB as to whether the glitch was a fault which should not have occurred

## **212. HIGHWAYS – POTHOLES & SIGNAGE**

RM reported that some potholes have been filled in. No progress yet on Watery Lane signage which has been approved for a feasibility study.

## **213. HIGHWAYS – CYCLE RACES**

Complaint received regarding recent cycle race. Clerk has circulated rules governing cycle races to all councillors. Clerk read out complaint. AD said lead car is supposed to travel slowly ahead of the pack. Clerk to write to cycling club regarding complaint. Please continue to notify PC.

## **214. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

RM and JB attended Local councils liaison meeting  
REPORT ON EPPING FOREST LOCAL COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING  
on 17th March 2010

Mr. MacNabe for EFDC wanted Parish/Town Councils to liaise with EFDC if we were planning any celebrations of the Olympic/Paralympics' Games locally so that none would "clash". It was also reported that the white water event is to be held in Lee Valley Park and the course, which has been designed for beginners as well as experienced canoeists will be open in April 2011. The white water course does not run 24/7, it is only in operation when booked. For the Olympics there will be no private transport allowed near the site, but a park and ride will be in operation.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS have increased considerably over the past year and it has therefore increased its budget by £5,000 for 2009/2010 (making a total of £10,000) to fund ongoing work in connection with investigations and other measures such as training, conflict resolutions and mediation. In 2010/2011 this will be increased by a further £5,000 for the same purposes. These investigations are expensive to run and all Parish and Town Councils are asked to see if the attendance of the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer (or both) at one of their meetings would help before taking the problem to the Standards Board therefore cutting the cost, as the money for the SCI comes from our rates.

ELECTIONS – We were informed that Clerks were reminded that Parliamentary and Parish elections cannot be held together.

VILLAGE HALL RUBBISH COLLECTION – This was a very very heated discussion. Evidently because of charges many village hall committees took their rubbish home and put it through their own household refuse. We had hoped EFDC would drop these charges, but after 18 months wait it was finally discussed at Cabinet on 8th March and the outcome left many Clerks and Councillors disgruntled. EFDC will remove all recyclable rubbish free of charge, but all other waste will be charged at £7.50 per 1100 ltr bin each time it is emptied, plus if you have one of EFDC's bins you will be charged an extra £2.00 per removal. A letter from the refuse department should be arriving to all Village Halls in the next month (Matching hasn't received theirs yet) when it explains EFDC's "Duty of Care" agreement and an offer to come and talk to the Management Committees regarding the new charges. Watch this space!!!!

JB also attended the West Essex Area Form which was mostly about health  
RM attended Stansted Community Airport Trust meeting re off track flying and noise fines

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**215. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Traffic calming measures in Matching Tye.  
Public Transport Meeting for 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**216. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

10<sup>th</sup> May (AGM) (Parish assembly)

7<sup>th</sup> June

5<sup>th</sup> July

Meeting closed 9:20 PM

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_