

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on
10th January 2007 at the Parish Office**

Present: Councillors J. Thomson (Chairman), A. Keeler (Vice Chairman),
S. Berlyn (ex officio), D. Whiteing, M. Wood (ex officio).

In attendance: Cllrs D. Bolwell, J. Langley and A. Wells
Clerk to Council
Christine Cooper Headteacher
St Johns Church of England Primary School

Public Question time One member of the Public

77 St Johns Primary School Travel Plan

Christine Cooper, Head-teacher from St Johns Primary School came to give the Council a presentation on a Travel Plan for the school. There would be a monetary gain for the school which would be spent in connection with the Travel Plan possibly a cycle shed or new lay-by. The children have been very much involved. The police were visiting with a radar gun to show the children at what speed traffic passes the school. It is hoped that a Travel Plan will promote staff and pupils to find alternative methods of travelling to school. Several choices have been identified including a road through, new lay-by, roundabout, a car parking area, a new entrance for pedestrians, remodelling of the school entrance, reducing vehicles by sharing, use of buses, walking bus, bus capacity increased new pedestrian entrance were all being investigated with safety of the children paramount. Research had been carried out on the route from Little Baddow but there was no pathway on some parts of the route to be deemed safe for children to walk although it is not far enough under the Essex County Council Scheme to be permitted to have a bus. The land outside the school is owned by the National Trust which would have to be overcome by an Act of Parliament to install a lay-by. Additionally the Head-teacher was investigating parking in the reservoir area, which may be possibility. If this was to go ahead consideration would have to be given as to how the children were to cross the road. Perhaps a request could be put in for a lollipop lady and a request to reduce the traffic speed to 20 mph with a flashing light for half an hour in the morning and evening. All children have been purchased a yellow vest which they wear when going out walking in a group from the school. Year 3 and Year 6 go out on foundation walks. Investigation is being made into installing cycle paths, use of minibuses and coach capacity. Further meetings have been planned at the school for Thursday 11th January and 1st February, 2- 3.00 p.m.

Members of the Parish Council expressed their concerns regarding a new entrance as they thought that would move the traffic problem to a different location within the village. Also that Essex County Highways saw the A414 a priority for keeping the traffic moving and were being involved in the Plan.

There was a deadline for the Travel Plan to be ready which was the end of February. The Clerk requested that a copy of the Travel Plan document be forwarded to her to

present to the Parish Council Meeting on 31st January, 2007 then Parish Council's comments could be forwarded with the document.

The Head-teacher was thanked and she left the meeting.

78 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs J Wells and John Bowen outside representative.

79 Declarations of Interest

S Berlyn declared an interest in Minute 77 by virtue of living in close proximity to the school.

S. Berlyn declared an interest in Item 90 by virtue of being employed by the National Health Service.

80 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6th December, 2006

The following alterations were made to the Minutes:

Minute 64.1 should read that a reduction in the speed limit "to 30 mph" should be sought and also in the RESOLUTION: under c) a reduction in the speed limit to 30 mph

Minute 51 should read the Chairman "of the Council".

RESOLVED: that with the inclusion of the above alterations the Minutes of the 6th December 2006 be approved and duly signed as a correct record of the Meeting.

81 Eves Corner

A member of the public had written to the council regarding the condition of the car parking area at Eves Corner.

The clerk reported verbally that she had received that day written confirmation that a Traffic Road Order was in existence for this area and that limited parking was imposed. Regarding the responsibility for the road surface this will have to be taken up with the Essex County Highways and National Trust. The Clerk had already written to Essex County Highways.

RESOLVED: that this item be placed on the next Facilities Agenda 7th February, 2007.

82 Footpaths

82.1 Mapping for Danbury Footpaths Leaflet.

A Footpaths Working Party was held on Thursday 4th January, 2007. Notes were circulated from the meeting. The map was now coming to the final stage. A final check would be made of the road index, the map and a decision would be required regarding which photographs to include. Acknowledgement would be made to Essex County Council and Danbury Society on the reverse of the map. It was thought to be a good idea to include the map reference under each of the photographs. Members decided that circulation should be to every household within Danbury. It was also felt that the local café should be included.

It was explained that the footpaths map did not include permissive paths on the advice of the Essex County Council representative.

The Clerk had obtained two quotations for printing as follows:-
Maldon Printing £891.00 for 3000 copies plus VAT

Printing Place £993.00 for 3000 copies plus VAT.

Delivery was also discussed it was thought that it should be placed in the next copy of the Danbury Times.

Members unanimously agreed the following course of action

RESOLVED: that a) a further Footpaths Working Party would be held to finalise the document

b) the Footpaths Working Party would finalise the pictures

c) acknowledgement be made to the Danbury Society and Essex County Council

d) the Clerk be authorised to place an order of up to £1250.00 to spend on the printing of Danbury Footpaths Leaflet and to negotiate the best price for £4,000 copies

e) Delivery with the next copy of the Danbury Times

82.2 Footpath 18 The Heights to Beaumont Park

No further response had been received from Essex County Highways, this item was to be kept on the Agenda.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

83 Report from Planning Committee

The lap-top and projector was now in operation and working well.

A Planning Application had been received for an ATM at Barclays Bank. Members were concerned regarding the traffic problems that this could cause.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

84 Highways

84.1 Speed Limit Woodhill Road

Cllr Ian Wright had reported that the meeting had been held with Cllr Bass from Essex County Council. It was stated that it was feasible to reduce the unrestricted area from 60 – 50 mph. The 30 mph section will be investigated by Essex County Highways.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

85 Quarries

85.1 St Clere's Hall

St Cleres Hall Quarry had won a gold award in the Mineral Working Environment Award Scheme 2005 and 2006. A representative of the Council had been invited to attend the Award Ceremony at County Hall on Tuesday 23rd January, 2007 at 12.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

RESOLVED: that Cllr A Keeler agreed to attend the presentation.

85.2 Royal Oak Quarry

Nothing further to report

85.3 Sandon Quarry

Nothing further to report.

86 Hatfield Peverel Traffic Meeting

Further to Minute 106.1 Resources Committee held on 19th December, 2006. Environment Committee were asked to find the £50.00 requested for Postage from their budget for this committee. This was available from the Street Lighting Budget.

RESOLVED: that the £50.00 be taken from the Street Lighting Budget for the Hatfield Peverel Traffic Meeting.

87 Bus Shelters

87.1 The Avenue

The Clerk had contacted Essex County Highways and the proposal was still being investigated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

87.2 Runsell Green

A letter had been received from a resident complaining regarding the condition of the bus shelter. The Perspex panel which had been removed had been re-instated and the ivy cleared again. Chelmer Housing Partnership had been contacted to investigate whether ivy could be cleared from the garden of an adjacent property where the ivy was emanating from.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

88 Time Capsule

This item had been placed on the Agenda at the request of the Chairman of the Council.

Members agreed in principle to putting together items for a time capsule. It was thought that this could coincide with twenty five years of the Twinning Association. Some thought would have to be given to the location.

RESOLVED: that the clerk obtain costings for a time capsule and that the project be completed in 2007 year to coincide with the twenty five years of the Twinning Association.

89 Costings for CPSO

The Clerk had obtained a speaker regarding funding for Police Support Officers for the next Environment Committee to be held on 7th March, 2007.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

90 Mid Essex NHS Primary Care Trust PCT Briefing

The briefing was circulated to all members of the Council

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

91 Essex Disabled People's Association

The Essex Disabled People's Association had contacted the Parish Council to request somewhere to park a caravan perhaps on a Saturday for 2 – 3 hours to offer a blood pressure taking service by a qualified nurse.

There was no charge to the Parish Council and no charge to the users.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write back stating that the Parish Council was pleased that they were offering this service but suggesting that they write to Leigh House Surgery.

92 Matters for Report

- The Daffodils had been planted to replace those damaged by the A414 roadworks.
- Essex County Highways had been notified regarding the mess in front of the post box outside the Roman Catholic Church. The clerk had been informed that they would investigate the matter.
- The land opposite the shops at Copt Hill was now to be landscaped and bollards placed on the area to prevent the sale of vehicles
- Members reported that potholes were developing at the junction of Simmonds Way and Hopping Jacks Lane. Also Millfields and Mill Lane

93 Date of Meetings in 2007

7th March 4th April, 6th June, 5th September, 17th October, 5th December

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

J. Thomson
Chairman

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Signed

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Date