



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on 6th June 2007 at the Parish Office

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

In attendance: Clerk to the Parish Council, Assistant Clerk to the Council and John Bowen

Public Question time No members of the Public were present

1 To appoint Chairman of Committee

Cllr J Thomson resigned from the position of Chairman of Environment. The Chairman of the Council expressed thanks for the hard work completed throughout the year. Cllr M Wood proposed that Cllr D Whiteing be appointed Chairman this was seconded by J. Thomson and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that Cllr D Whiteing be appointed Chairman of the Environment Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

2 To appoint Vice Chairman of Committee

Cllr J Thomson proposed that Cllr A Keeler be appointed Vice Chairman this was seconded by Cllr J Langley and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that Cllr A Keeler be appointed as Vice Chairman of Environment Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3 To appoint John Bowen as representative

John Bowen was unanimously appointed as Danbury Society representative on the Committee.

4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr A Wells.

5 Declarations of Interest. None were declared.

6 Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 4th April, 2007

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th April 2007 were approved and duly signed as a correct record.

7 Footpaths

7.1 Parish Path Partnership

Essex County Council had confirmed that a grant of £200.00 had been set aside for works on the Parish Paths for the financial year 2007 – 2008.

It was reported by Cllr D Bolwell the Councils Parish Paths Representative that four way marks had been installed on danbury Common and five to six way mark signs.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

7.2 Footpath 18 The Heights to Beaumont Park.

The Clerk had contacted the Essex County Council and had been assured that this work would be completed in the financial year 2007 – 2008.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

7.3 Footpath 17 Rear of St Johns Church

Works had been completed to this footpath by the Essex County Council. The path will be inspected in October to decide if further remedial works were required to the surface of the footpath.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

8 Report from Planning Committee

Cllr J Thomson reported that there had been quite a few objectors present at the Planning Meeting to Hopping Jacks Hall application. It was suggested that a Section 106 agreement be requested as an additional comment to the Hopping Jacks Lane development. The Parish Council had sent a list of objections to Chelmsford Borough Council including too many flats and concerns regarding the parking. Concerns had been raised regarding the retrospective planning application for lights at Ludgores Farm and comments forwarded to Chelmsford Borough Council.

The Tree Wardens had attended the meeting and informed the Committee of the work they complete within the village. It had also been suggested by the Planning Committee that all Parish Councillors report on their area to Pauline Bowen, Tree Warden. This was being taken to Parish Council.

It was thought that an article in the Danbury Times would be useful up to 150 words.

RESOLVED: that a) all the above items be noted.

b) Pauline Bowen write an article for the Danbury Times.

c) All Parish Councillors be requested to contact Pauline Bowen to inform her of details of trees within their area, this item was to be forwarded to Parish Council.

d) A further comment be sent to Chelmsford Borough Council requesting a Section 106 agreement if the 15 Hopping Jacks Lane development was to go ahead.

9 Highways

9.1 Community Speed Watch

It was reported that the speed detection equipment signs and reflective jackets were provided by Essex Police. The Village of Woodham Walter would shortly be going live within the scheme and it was anticipated that local communities would utilise the one speed detection device. Volunteers would not be covered by Essex Police for their person liability insurance.

The Chairman of the Council requested that the Clerk ascertain whether Danbury qualified for Community Speed Watch as we already had a Speed Camera. It was also thought that locations for Speed Watch were determined by the Police.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk ascertain whether Danbury qualified for Community Speed Watch due to having a Speed Camera within the village.

9.2 Little Baddow Road

Correspondence had been received from Little Baddow Parish Council regarding the reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph and requesting that the area outside St Johns School became a 20 mph limit.

It was reported that from Spring Elms Lane to Paper Mill Lock the road would be shut for three months from 1st July, 2007.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes back to the resident stating that the Essex County Council were introducing a Speed Limit of 30 mph from Eves Corner to the bottom of North Hill and that the order was waiting to be signed.

9.3 Crossing outside Danbury Park School

The Vice Chairman of the Council had received a telephone call regarding the crossing. No paperwork had been received within the office.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

9.4 Griffin Hill

A resident had written to the Chairman of the Council raising concerns regarding the speed of traffic at Griffin Hill within the village.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write back and state that the Parish Council was investigating Community Speed Watch.

9.5 List of Roads for Repair

a) Junction of Southview Road and Woodhill Road. Essex County Council stated this would not occur this financial year.

b) Woodhill Road which had not received attention under A414 Roadworks. Essex County Council stated that this would not occur this financial year.

c) Little Baddow Road including Eves Corner Parking area. Essex County Council stated that this would not occur until 2008 – 2009 budget.

d) The Ridge to Little Baddow Road. Essex County Council; stated would be in 2007 – 2008 budget. It was suggested that the scrapings from this project could be used on the car parks at Dawson Memorial Field. This suggestion to be taken to Facilities Committee.

e) Millfield and Mill Lane- Chairman confirmed had been completed.

f) Post Box at Hyde Lane Runsell Green would be reported to Highways.

RESOLVED: that a) the suggestion regarding the scrapings be taken to the Facilities Committee

b) Members noted the detail of the above road programme

c) the clerk was asked to add Gay Bowers Lane/Mill Lane lack of yellow lines at the end of the pavement as this was a priority junction to the Highways Agenda item.

10 Quarries

10.1 St Clare's Hall

See below.

10.2 Royal Oak Quarry.

It was reported that there had been some activity from the quarry with lorries leaving every 20 minutes from the Royal Oak to St Cleres.

10.3 Sandon Quarry.

Nothing further to report.

11 Hatfield Peverel Traffic Meeting

Cllr Mrs Wells reported on the meetings of 20th March and 22nd May, 2007. It was reported that ECC drawings had been obtained for the Langford to A.12 route and that Cllr Hume would be invited to attend the a future meeting. The group were very concerned about the planning application for an industrial estate at Langford which was with Maldon District Council and the subsequent increase in traffic which would occur. The meeting had thought an integrated scheme between Witham and Hatfield Peverel should be included. Danbury was not going to get a By-Pass. The monies set aside for the Committee would be requested in due course.

The Traffic Committee had asked if the Essex County Council were spending millions of pounds straightening the road could an integrated system be installed via Hatfield Peverel to Witham route.

Cllr Mrs Wells was thanked for attending together with Cllr Powell.

RESOLVED: Members noted the comments made.

12 Bus Shelters

12.1 Cleaning Bus Shelters

This item had been forwarded from Resources Committee Minute 7.5. 30th May, 2007. Cllrs S Berlyn proposed that the Council should accept the offer of cleaning the bus shelters twice a month for the sum of £100.00. this was seconded by Cllr J Langley and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that Ace Bins be employed to clean the bus shelters twice a month for the rest of the financial year 2007 – 2008 for the sum of £100.00 per month.

12.2 The Bus Shelter The Avenue

Essex County Highways were still investigating the matter.

12.3 Power to Bus Shelter at the Avenue

Power had not been connected to the bus shelter at the Avenue and had been requisitioned by Essex County Highways.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

12.4 Smoke Free Legislation

Smoke Free legislation required that the Bus Shelters had the appropriate signage. The Clerk was investigating the matter. Signs would be installed and would be monitored to see the signage remained vandal proof.

RESOLVED: that the appropriate no smoking signs be installed at the bus shelters.

13 Parking Issues

Documentation was circulated regarding the parking situation outside BT building in Butts.

RESOLVED: that a) members keep their eyes open for illegally parked vehicles.
b) that the item be referred to Chelmsford Borough Council

14 Neighbourhood Action Panel

The first meeting had been held. Inspector Killgallen had wanted to know what the general problems of Sandon, Danbury and Little Baddow were. Mainly the common problem was youth nuisance. As stressed in Inspector Kilgallen's article in the Journal, witnesses were required to make statements to help reprimand offenders. The next meeting was to be held on 13th June, 2007 at 5 p.m. at Sandon School.

Discussion took place regarding Youth Council and equipment on Dawson Memorial Field for the older generation. This was all being discussed at Parish Council together with the item of an additional Community Support Officer.

There had been a noticeable increase in police presence at the appropriate times. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Inspector Kilgallen and congratulate her for this.

RESOLVED: that a) an item called Policing go on future Agendas.
b) Cllr Whiteing would bring up to find a way to ask the youth what they would like in Danbury.
c) The clerk to write to Inspector Chris Kilgallen and congratulate her on improving the police presence.

15 Patient and Public Involvement Office for Mid Essex Primary Care Trust

The Environment Committee wished to accept the offer that a representative would come and talk at the meeting to be held in September.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact the Patient and Public Involvement Office for Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust to come and talk at the meeting in September.

16 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in England

The Consultation on planning for gypsy and traveller accommodation in England had been circulated to members. Members felt that the Parish Council could only observe at this stage. Members were interested in the situation and will watch it carefully.

Cllr Berlyn proposed that no comments be made on the document, this was seconded by Cllr Thomson. A vote was taken and 5 members agreed with the proposal and 2 abstained.

RESOLVED: that no comments be returned on the document.

17 To receive correspondence from resident re Travel Plan

A further letter was received from a resident regarding the Travel Plan this had been circulated.

RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted.

18 Matters to Report

18.1 Beach Tree at Runsell Green had been felled. The clerk explained that this had been felled due to the tree survey which had reported regarding the safety of the tree. This item would be discussed further at Facilities Committee.

18.2 Cars parked on the pavement outside the flats at Main Road Danbury blocking the footpath. The Clerk would forward details to the Chelmsford Borough Council.

18.3 At the junction of Belvedere Road/Maldon Road a no waiting order was going to Committee at Chelmsford Borough Council.

18.5 Speed Limit request to change limit refer resident to Essex Police and Essex County Council to ascertain view.

19 Date of Next Meetings

5th September, 2007, 17th October, 2007 and 5th December, 2007

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.02 pm.

D Whiteing
Chairman

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Signed

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Date