



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2007 at the Parish Office

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

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

Public Question time Three Members of the Public were present

Concerns were raised that at the top end of Butts Lane which meets Little Baddow Road the road had been resurfaced but the double yellow lines had not been reinstated.

20 Apologies for Absence

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

21 Declarations of Interest. None were declared.

22 Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 6th June, 2007

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th June, 2007 were approved and duly signed as a correct record.

23 Footpaths

23.1 Parish Paths Partnership

Annual General Meeting of the Parish Paths Partnership would be held on 19th September, 3 – 7 p.m. at Shire Hall in Chelmsford .

RESOLVED: that Cllr D Bolwell would be attending.

23.2 Footpath 18 The Heights to Beaumont Park

Clerk had chased this item again.

RESOLVED: that no further information had been obtained.

23.3. Footpath 19

Concerns had been raised why a tree had been taken down. Cllr Bolwell had spoken with the Footpaths Officer and the Essex County Council had taken the tree down to aid a resident with overhanging branches.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

Since the meeting further correspondence has been received and the item will be placed on the next Agenda.

24 Report from Planning Committee

Members agreed that this item should no longer be included on the Environment Agenda.

RESOLVED: that this item be taken off the Environment Agenda.

25 Highways Matters

25.1 Community Speed Watch

The Senior Traffic Management Officer from the Mobile division had confirmed that Danbury met the criteria for participating. It would be subject to a minimum of 6 volunteers. It would be expected that Danbury would share the hand held radar that would shortly be available in Woodham Walter. The Chairman of the Committee explained that a PCSO had used a Speed Gun within the village at a lunch time period.

Members discussed how a Community Speed Watch Team could only monitor the speeding. Once an individual had been caught twice by the team a letter would be written. If the offender was caught four times then the Police would come along and try to catch the offender and monitor breaches.

It was suggested that an article be placed in the Danbury Times. Also perhaps to ask for volunteers at the Annual Parish Meeting.

RESOLVED: that a) Cllrs Bolwell and Wood together with John Bowen visit Woodham Walter when their team are set up and in action.

b) An article be placed in the Danbury Times

c) that this item be continued to be considered.

25.2 Essex County Council's "Make the Commitment"

This was an initiative by Essex County Council's Road Safety Team and supported by Highways and Engineers and Essex Police. The Campaign asked you to make a personal commitment to drive at an appropriate speed for the environment and always within the legal speed limit. Several members had made personal commitment to this initiative.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

25.3 List of Roads for Repair

i) Junction of Southview Road and Woodhill Road stated that this would not occur in this financial year

ii) Woodhill Road which did not receive attention under A414 Roadworks stated this would not occur in this financial year

iii) Little Baddow Road including Eves Corner (2008 – 2009 Budget)

The Ridge Little Baddow was to be completed (2007 – 2008 Budget)

iv) Millfields and Mill Lane this area had been completed

v) Gay Bowers Lane/Mill Lane lack of yellow lines at the end of the pavement. Hashed white lines to be painted across Gay Bowers Lane.

All the above items have been chased with the Essex County Highways.

vi) Elm Green Lane was added to the list

vii) Hyde Lane/Maldon Road levels wrong in wet weather mass of slime by pillar box to continue to chase

RESOLVED: that this item is left on the Agenda with progress stated.

25.4 Parking Butts Lane

Chelmsford Borough Council Parking Enforcement team had been notified to monitor and patrol this area.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

25.5 The Speed Management Strategy and Policy for Essex

A new draft document would be published before the end of the year and the Parish Council would be consulted.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

26 Quarries

261. St Clere's Hall

Additional Conditions had been included as requested by Danbury Parish Council's Planning Committee. Cllr Bolwell had approached the site manager regarding the debris on the road and it would continue to be monitored.

RESOLVED: that the debris on the road be monitored.

Since the meeting further information has been received which will be placed on the next Agenda.

26.2 Royal Oak Quarry Nothing further to report

26.3 Sandon Quarry Nothing further to report

It was requested that an item be included in the Quarries section regarding the disused quarry at Hyde Lane/ Danbury Vale.

RESOLVED: that this item be placed on the next Agenda.

27 Parishes Transportation Group

274.1 Correspondence had been forwarded to the Director of Development, Highways and Transportation at the Essex County Council including the amount of Danbury through traffic .

27.2 Correspondence had been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Appeal regarding the land adjacent to Langford Waterworks, Hatfield Road, Langford.

27.3 £50 had been forwarded to Parishes Transportation Group as agreed Minute

27.4 Minutes of Parishes Transportation Group 24th July, 2007 was circulated

RESOLVED: that all items under Minute 24 be noted.

28 Bus Shelters

28.1 Bus Shelter at Eves Corner by the Pond

Requires roof planks to be repaired. Quotation being obtained.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk has the Bus Shelter repaired under Emergency Powers.

28.2 The Bus Shelter at The Avenue

This item had been chased again with Essex County Highways but there was no further news.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

28.3 Power to Bus Shelter outside nr Service Station

This item had been chased again with Essex County Highways. The Clerk asked Members to inform her if and when the bus shelter was lit.

RESOLVED: that Members inform the Clerk when the bus shelter was lit.

29 Neighbourhood Action Panel

Cllr Whiteing reported on the meeting on 15th August held at Little Baddow Memorial Hall as the Sandon School was closed for the Holiday. It had been reported that Danbury was over policed. An additional new PC Ruth Cordey had been appointed. Sue Ferguson had resigned from the Action Panel. A substitute would be required for the Neighbourhood Action Panel on 31st October, 2007 at this meeting some representatives of the teenagers were intending to be present unfortunately Cllr Whiteing could not attend.

RESOLVED: that Cllr John Langley attend the meeting on 31st October, 2007.

30 Essex Tourism Association Limited

The Annual General Meeting of the Essex Tourism Association will be held on 30th October, 2007 at Barleylands, Barleylands Road, Billericay

RESOLVED: that Cllr Wood attend the Annual General Meeting

31 Essex Rural Partnership – Post Office Closures

It was reported that Post Office Limited would be launching a 9 – 10 week consultation. This would not be publicised but will allow Postwatch (the Postal Services Watchdog) to scrutinise proposals and individual postmasters to be informed of the plans. Once the plans were agreed the Members of Parliament would received a copy for comments. Immediately following the Pre-Consultation there would be a six week consultation period. No plans for Danbury have been reported as yet.

RESOLVED: that Members monitor this.

32 Best Kept Village Competition 2007 and 2008

Regarding the 2007 Competition the worst points were the telephone box which had scored 8 and the public conveniences which had scored 4. British Telecom did come and clear as much of the paint as possible from the box prior to the competition so that it was working. The Clerk had written to Chelmsford Borough Council regarding the Public Conveniences and had been advised that quotations were being sought for internal/external decorating and that work was estimated to be completed within the next two months. A member had requested that the Clerk investigate whether the Public Conveniences could have an opening and closing time. This had been brought to the attention of the Council and had been too costly to instigate previously. Members also noted that the area outside the United Reformed Church was the National Trust responsibility and this should be put into further entries.

Next year there would be the Best Kept Village Competition plus also the Best Green Village Competition 2008. The new competition covered Saving Energy, Travelling Wisely, Shopping, Ethically, Saving resources, Caring for your Environment, Recycling and Renewable Energy. It would still be organised by RCCE. Members thought that they would like to see the conditions of entry before committing to enter.

A letter of congratulations had been forwarded from the Essex Association of Local Councils stating that the Parish and the local community must be very proud.

Best Kept Village Sign had been erected by the Notice Board at Elm Green with permission from Essex County Highways and the Conservation Officer of Chelmsford Borough Council. Costings were obtained from Bakers of Danbury wanted to charge £450.00 plus Vat to move the sign and Acorn Services who were charging £100.00 plus

VAT. As the sign had to be removed quickly the Clerk employed Acorn Services to complete the works.

On receipt of the sign the Clerk had discovered that the top part of the sign was rotted and required repair. A quotation for the repairs was being sought and this was to be paid for by the CPRE. Also the sign was insured by CPRE during the time it was located in Danbury.

RESOLVED: that a) £100 plus VAT for moving the sign be approved

b) A quotation be sought for the repairs for the sign

c) Future entries explain that the land outside the United Reform Church was National Trust land

d) the clerk to check about the opening times of the Public Conveniences

e) further consideration be given to entering the Green Village Competition

33 Essex County Council (Various Roads, Little Baddow and Danbury) (Restricted Road and 40 mph Speed Limit) Order 2007

It was reported that the Order came into operation on the 18th August, 2007 Little Baddow Road Danbury from its junction with Runsell Lane in a southerly direction for a distance of 194 metres) Various roads in Little Baddow were also included.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

34 Traffic Regulation Order for Waiting Loading and Parking Consolidation (Variation No. 20) Order 2007

It was reported that the following Traffic Regulation order had come into force.

Belvedere Road Danbury

East side from its junction with Maldon Road in a northerly direction for a distance of 14 metres – No Waiting at any time.

West side from its junction with Maldon Road in a northerly direction for a distance of 15 metres.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

35 Talk and tour of Danbury Park on September 2nd.

Cllrs David Bolwell and Alan Keeler had attended. Kate Felus had given a very interesting talk and presentation followed by a tour of Danbury Park. Booklets were made available which will be charged at £3.50 in the future. Members felt that the event was poorly attended. It was suggested that Kate Felus come and talk to the Annual Parish Meeting in the Spring of next year.

RESOLVED: that a) a request be made to ask Kate Felus to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting

b) that the Clerk tries to obtain more copies of the booklet

36 Chelmsford Environment Partnership

Conference at Writtle College to be held on 12th September, 2007

RESOLVED: that Cllr Keeler and Caroline Lambert attend the Conference. The charge to attend would be £25.00 per delegate.

37 Environmental Awards 2007

Members discussed the Environmental Awards but had no suggestions for this year's ceremony.

RESOLVED: no nominations be put forward this year.

38 Mid Essex Primary Care Trust

Unfortunately Sally Wallis was had been unable to come to Parish Council to speak. The following are contact details: Sally Wallis PPI Officer Mid Essex PCT based at St Peters Hopsital Maldon 01621 727396.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

39 Street Lighting Belvedere Area

This item had been brought to the attention of Parish Council by the Neighbourhood Action Panel.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Langley would ascertain more information from the panel at the next meeting.

40 Temporary Road Closure to s14 (1)

This was an item for note Bridleway 25 Danbury will be closed from its junction with Bicknare Road for a distance of 150 metres in a north-westerly direction from Monday 8th October, 2007 for a period of 6 months or to completion whichever is sooner. Cllr Bolwell had been and investigated the area and this was the approach to the Back Warden Nature Reserve owned by the National Trust. The area badly was in need of some remedial works and it was good they were going to be completed.

RESOLVED : that the information be noted.

41 Matters for Report

A further opening entrance to St Johns School was still being pursued from Hopping Jacks Lane by the School. Residents were concerned regarding the matter.

42 Date of Next Meetings

17th October, 2007 and 5th December, 2007

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.47 pm.

D Whiteing
Chairman

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Signed

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Date