



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 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, Cllr A Allen and Mr J Bowen

Public Question time One Member of the Public were present

The following items were brought to the Council's attention:-

- Placing house numbers on Street Signs
- Requesting Essex County Council to place warning signs on Butts Lane "Not Suitable for large vehicles"
- Speedwatch
- Travel Plan and entrance request from Hopping Jacks Lane
- Footpath 19 and the condition after tree works had been completed
- The condition of the road outside St Cleres Quarry

43 Apologies for Absence

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

44 Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Allen declared a prejudicial interest in item 46.3 due to living along the footpath.

45 Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 5th September, 2007

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September, 2007 were approved and duly signed as a correct record.

46 Footpaths

46.1 Parish Paths Partnership

Cllr Bolwell had attended the Annual General Meeting on 19th September, 2007 at the Shire Hall. Parish Paths Field Officers, Paula Cheeseman and Tim Gardiner explained the works that had been completed. Approximately now two thirds of the Parishes had signed up to the Partnership. There was £10,000 available in the budget for works.

46.2 Footpath 18 The Heights to Beaumont Park

Clerk had chased this item again. It was felt that this item should have really be done by now.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact Essex County Highways to ascertain a definite date if possible.

46.3. Footpath 19

Further concerns had been raised regarding the works which had been completed to the trees, bushes and shrubberies along Footpath 19. It was requested that the Parish Council write to Essex County Highways to ascertain the following information:

- To explain the situation regarding consultation with residents.
- To request the Essex County Council to make good and replace the tree which was felled.
- Request the Essex County Council to return and tidy up the area. Litter had additionally caused a mess in the area.
- Was the Essex County Council taking responsibility for the track?

It was unanimously agreed that the clerk write to the Essex County Council to request the above information.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the Essex County Council to obtain the above information.

46.4 Essex County Council (Bridleway 25, Danbury) (Temporary Prohibition of Use)

Orders relating to the restriction had come into effect on 8th October, 2007.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

46.5 New legislation regarding the Installation of Stiles and Gates

Information was circulated which had been received from the ProW Officer at the Essex County Council regarding new legislation regarding Stiles and Gates which must be implemented.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

46.6 Construction Information Checklist

Essex County Council had been made aware that some of the P3 works fell under the Construction Design and Management Regulations as P3 Volunteers were involved in construction of bridges, way-mark posts, gates etc and frequently had to dig holes this document must be used on these occasions.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted and implemented on the correct occasions.

47 Highways Matters

47.1 Community Speed Watch

A report had been circulated from Cllr Bolwell and John Bowen who had visited East Hanningfield and observed their Community Speed Watch in progress.

Concerns had been raised by a resident regarding the recording of offenders.

It was explained that the police send a standard type letter informing the registered owner that the vehicle had been logged and request that they should check their speed in future. If another similar event was passed to the police (even by any other

speed check group), a further warning letter/visit was arranged. If this occurred yet again they were told a prosecution would be considered.

The Speed-watch team acted as a deterrent and the speed of vehicles automatically reduced. Locations would be identified by the Police.

Members discussed that volunteers would be required if this was to work. A request had been made for volunteers in the Danbury Times. It was thought that at least 8 – 12 people would be required. The Clerk had received a letter several months ago from someone who was prepared to co-ordinate the programme. Training would be required by the Police. The volunteers would need to be covered on the Council's Insurance. The camera would have to be shared with Woodham Walter. £1000 had been put in the draft budget to set up the initiative. Members wished costs investigated further also to ascertain if there was a waiting list for training. Cllr Bolwell proposed that Danbury Parish Council be put forwarded formally for the waiting list for training. This was seconded by Cllr M Wood and unanimously agreed.

Correspondence had further been received regarding Traffic Calming in Little Baddow Road this would be discussed at the next meeting as it had been received after the Agenda had been sent.

RESOLVED: that a) contact be made with the person who had offered to co-ordinate the project
b) the clerk contact the Police and formally put forward Danbury Parish Council for the training waiting list
c) costs be investigated which may be incurred
d) volunteers be requested in the Danbury times

47.2 List of Roads for Repair

- i) Junction of Southview Road and Woodhill Road – considered for financial year 2008/2009 provisional programme which should be available February. March 2008.
 - ii) Woodhill Road which did not receive attention under A414 Roadworks. This was low priority and would be done when other work may be required to make better use of a road closure.
 - iii) Little Baddow Road including Eves Corner (2008 – 2009 Budget) Considered for next financial year, provisional programme available February March 2008.
 - iv) Elm Green Lane this road would be considered for financial year 2008 – 2009 although this was an unclassified road
 - v) Hyde Lane/Maldon Road levels wrong in wet weather mass of slime by pillar box. The area was to be checked when wet.
- All the above items have been chased with the Essex County Highways.

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

48 Quarries

481. St Clere's Hall

Report of stones and mud on the road. Reported to owners – the road was swept between the quarry and the A.12 on the same day.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write formally to the Essex County Council and request that the owner's of the quarry wheel wash before leaving the site, wash the back of vehicle so that loose stones such as pea shingle does not fall off the tail gates, request that the road is cleaned regularly, the road is at present becoming discoloured with sand.

48.2 Royal Oak Quarry Nothing further to report

48.3 Sandon Quarry Nothing further to report

48.4 Disused /Quarry Hyde Lane Danbury
Nothing further to report. All District Councils had been asked to investigate maps and find disused quarries.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted and the item be taken off the Agenda.

49 Parishes Transportation Group

The Chairman of the Council reported that the last meeting had been setting formalities. The administrative support for the Group had largely been funded by Hatfield Peverel Parish Council . Next year the request from Danbury would be £150.00.

RESOLVED: that £150.00 is placed in the 2008/2009 budget for the group.

50 Bus Shelters

50.1 Bus Shelter at Eves Corner by the Pond

The Clerk was still trying to obtain a quotation for the roof planks to be repaired at present it was proving difficult due to matching the wood.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk will continue pursuing this.

50.2 The Bus Shelter at The Avenue

This item had been chased again with Essex County Highways. This was still being investigated although other alternatives could not be supported. It was hoped that this would be pursued and completed by the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

50.3 Power to Bus Shelter at The Avenue Chelmsford Bound

Members reported that the work was progressing as a feeder pillar had been installed but the connection has still not been made.

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

51 Neighbourhood Action Panel

It was reported that Danbury's PCSO was on light duties. A meeting had been held with Neighbourhood Watch to try and put ideas to the action panel. At present very little had been put forward for action. Cllr Langley would be attending the next meeting in place of Cllr Whiteing. Stephen Holland was now going to attend the meetings as representative of the Sports and Social Club.

RESOLVED: that Cllr John Langley attend the meeting on 31st October, 2007 and ask about the Street Light at Belvedere.

52 Police Consultative Meeting

Cllrs Bolwell and Whiteing had attended. Hopefully there would be a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator at South Woodham. The PCSO role was explained. It was hoped that weekly figures of crimes would be supplied from the PCSO. Members felt that there should be a coordinated village approach to CCTV and this would be placed on an Agenda.

RESOLVED: that CCTV be placed on an Agenda for a coordinated village approach.

53 Environmental Awards 2007

Clive Willey had been put forward for his excellent works on the upkeep of the churchyard at St John Church.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

54 Street Lighting Belvedere

Neighbourhood Action Panel brought this to our attention. Cllr Langley will check on the situation at the meeting on 31st October, 2007.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Langley check on the information.

55 Budget for 2008 (2009) See Appendix I

RESOLVED: that the Submission from Environment Committee be £5100.

56 Best Kept Village Sign

The sign will be repaired by Bakers of Danbury and the invoice will be sent to the Rural Community Council

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

57 Arqiva – Emissions Report

The item had been referred from Planning Committee held on 24th September, 2007 Minute 128. It was considered that it was no longer a planning issue and that the Environment Committee be asked to decide whether to take the matter further on environmental grounds. No safety concerns had been raised about the site.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Bolwell liaise with the clerk regarding questions about some of the figures in the document and forward a response to Arqiva.

58 New Tetra Pack Recycling Scheme

A new beverage recycling scheme had been introduced by Chelmsford Borough Council. Cartons can now be recycled at a special collection bin site in Well Lane in Danbury.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

59 DEFRA Ways to tackle Climate Change

“Ways to tackle climate change” A booklet had been received from Defra. It is hoped that parish and town councils will promote behaviour change to combat climate change. The guide offers advice as to how parish councils can play a substantial role in the drive to combat and mitigate climate change. It also featured councils who had already got involved. The guide was available online at defra/climatechange/uk/publicsector/index.htm. One suggestion was that Parish Councils may wish to choose a 'parish energy champion' so that actions on climate change could be worked on to get the community involved.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Thomson read the book and inform the Committee of his findings for next time.

60 Essex County Council's Guide to Development Contributions and the Provision of Community Infrastructure – Consultation Document

The Developers guide sets out the County's approach to Developer Contributions/ Planning Obligations and provided methodologies and calculations to enable developers to take account of infra structure costs early in the redevelopment process. It was also proposed that the Guide acted as a policy supporting document that would feed into the Core Strategy and LDF Process. The document also covered methodologies and calculations for contributions in respect of the following early years and children, the schools service, transportation, community services (adult learning) and libraries, adult social care public art, minerals and waste management, renewable energy, Olympics, police service, Essex County fire and rescue service and green arch. The document crossed both the Planning and Environment Committee. It was a consultation document and replies must be received by 12th November, 2007 it was available online at www.esssexcc.gov.uk/DeveloperContributions

Members were unsure of how the document fitted into the Chelmsford Borough Council framework of documents.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk check with Essex County Council how the document fitted into the Chelmsford Borough framework of documents and if there could be an extension of time for the document prior to Monday's Planning Meeting.

61 Post Office Closures

Information had been received that Danbury was to remain open although Bicknacre Post Office was to shut.

A special meeting was to be held at St Cedds Hall, Cathedral Chapter House, Chelmsford at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 30th October, 2007.

RESOLVED: that no members attend the Special Meeting.

62 Matters for Report

Cllr Keeler had attended Chelmsford Environment Partnership sustainability in Action Conference together with Caroline Lambert. They had cycled to the event. He reported that we were no further ahead re sustainability of transport and the Carbon Footprint or Carbon Dioxide in general. Technical developments had been occurring

with automatic fuels asking Essex County Council and Chelmsford Borough Council to use liquid natural gas to fuel their vehicles and thus make a lower carbon footprint. At present no solutions to traffic problems. There was also a speaker regarding the Air Quality around the Army and Navy flyover. Cllr Keeler submitted a conference statement which would be circulated to all Members.

The owner of the land at Gay Bowers/ Capons Lane had spent the last two days having the area of land cleared. The Clerk had checked with Chelmsford Borough Council but there were no tree preservation areas on the land and nothing to prevent this works being completed.

62 Date of Next Meeting

5th December, 2007

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

D Whiteing, Chairman

.....
Signed

.....
Date