

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on 5th March 2008 at the Parish Office

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

In attendance: Clerk to the Council and Mr J Bowen

Public Question time

No Members of the Public were present.

101 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Berlyn and Mrs J Wells.

102 Declarations of Interest

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they know they have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and to leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be cleared similarly at the appropriate time. No declarations were made.

103 Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of Environment Committee held on 5th March, 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record.

104 Footpaths

104.1 Parish Paths Partnership

i) The Parish Council had requested £350.00 for next financial years grant.

This was for way-marks for Footpath 13 and to denote the Parish Boundary and would be completed with help from Richard Wallace National Trust, Tim Gardiner Essex County Council and Cllr David Bolwell. Contact would be made with the Clerk at Little Baddow Parish Council.

ii) Works had been completed on footpath 31 and the path was now open again.

iii) The National Trust had cleared an area outside St Johns School and had changed the route outside to school as the area was thought to be dangerous and to help with security at the school.

The National Trust were going to cut back vegetation so that members of the public did not walk in the road as there was very little space now between the footpath and the road.

RESOLVED: that a) £350 be put forward as the Parish Paths Grant for Danbury for the financial year 2008 – 2009.

b) items ii) and iii) be noted.

104.2 Hedgelaying Course

Cllr Keeler had found the course very interesting. The work was not very heavy and he felt it was well worth attending. He continued to explain that different types of hedging were used in different parts of the county. Also hedges depended on the type of animals kept as to the type of hedge used.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

104.3 Footpath 18 – The Heights to Beaumont Park

A response had been received from ECC stated that funding was actively being sought. The overhanging vegetation, the moss and other surface debris would be removed to open up the full width of the path which would allow easier use of the handrails.

In April the Rights of Way Officer would contact the Parish Council to confirm whether funding was available.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council wait to see if the monies are in the budget for 2008 – 2009 before pursuing the matter further.

104.4 Spring Walk in Constable Country 19th April, 2008

This was fully booked.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

105 Highways Matters

105.1 Community Speed Watch

Volunteers were again to be advertised for in the Danbury Times. Members asked where the request had come from to investigate this item. The clerk explained it was from the Annual Parish Meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

105.2 List of Roads for Repair

As a result of further letters from the Council, additional information had been received from ECC Highways.

i) Junction of Southview Road and Woodhill Road: ECC would include this in the list of works to be considered for funding in 2008/09;

ii) Woodhill Road: Works to the safety barrier and signage would be carried out early in the new financial year along with work to a small length of ditch piping. The road would need to be closed for these works;

iii) Little Baddow Road including Eves Corner: Work to The Ridge, Little Baddow, was due to be completed from the 2007/08 budget. No further information.

iv) Millfields and Mill Lane

This could now be dropped from the Agenda as work had been completed.

v) Gay Bowers Lane/Mill Lane: ECC was pressing the contractor to complete the amendment to the yellow lines and would, if necessary, arrange for the work to be carried out by its own maintenance contractor.

Regarding the change of priority from Mill Lane into Gay Bowers Road, having viewed the photographs it was unlikely that the Essex County Council would agree as this change could lead to collisions as vehicles wishing to travel along Gay Bowers Road may not realise that vehicles emerging from what appears to be a side road would have priority.

RESOLVED: that the priority change request is taken off the Agenda.

vi) Elm Green Lane:

Cllr Bolwell had taken photographs of Elm Green Lane and Members were concerned at the condition of the road. Therefore it was requested that this be given a higher priority.

RESOLVED: that the Essex County Council is requested to give this road higher priority.

vii) Riffhams Lane: This had been surface dressed in 2007 but the area with the hole was left because of a water spring problem which is being investigated. Remedial work would be funded and undertaken in the next financial year.

viii) Kerb in Mill Lane: It was reported that damage was being caused to the kerb in Mill Lane during the building works to several properties owned by the Chelmer Housing Partnership. The Clerk had contacted Chelmer Housing Partnership and they had assured the Parish Council that they would complete the repair works.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

viii) Hyde Lane/Maldon Road – levels and wet-weather slime by pillar box:
This item continues to be chased.

x) Large pothole on western access to Church Green (Main Road): ECC had suggested that this area was the responsibility of the Parish Church. It was understood that the Parochial Church Council had the matter in hand. This item would be taken off the Agenda.

xi) Rattling Ironwork along A414

Two covers at the Well Lane Junction would be reinstated but permission would be sought for a three way signal approval before the contractor could undertake the works. Two more covers near the Bakers Arms PH and the parade of shops had been identified which it was hoped that Anglian Water would deal with. At present only urgent jobs were being actioned. Members added a further cover at Maldon Road junction with the west end of Cherry Garden Lane. It was also felt that all the covers along the A414 had sunk.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk gives the further information to Essex County Highways.

105.3 Accident Statistics for Danbury Parish Council Area

Members found the information including a map interesting. It covered the last five years. Members wished clarification on codes so that causes of the accidents could be identified.

Over the five years on average twenty accidents were happening within the village boundary per year.

Details forwarded by a member of the public were also looked at for Little Baddow Road.

Details of a speed complaint investigation in Main Road Danbury were provided by Cllr Whiteing the survey took place on 4th December, 2007 at 14.51 for 20 minutes 100 cars were monitored 14 were travelling at 31 – 35 mph and only 2 above 36 mph.

RESOLVED: that a) the clerk writes back and requests what the codes represent so that further analysis of the document could take place

b) Members noted the speed complaint investigation

105.4 Data recorder Request for Danbury

The Clerk had written to Essex Police Casualty Reduction Unit and they had referred the request to the Essex County Highways. Members were asked where they wished the box to be installed. Members thought it would be best outside St Johns Primary School. The clerk advised that there might be a charge to the Parish.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk contact Essex County Highways and request that a box is installed outside St Johns Primary School.

b) the clerk request the charge for this

106 Quarries

106.1 St Clere's Hall Quarry

Mr Bowen had completed a survey and ascertained that one particular type of lorry appeared to be the culprit for scattering grit on the ground and being badly loaded. Further investigation was to take place as to the owner of the vehicles.

RESOLVED: that Mr Bowen to ascertain the owner of the vehicles concerned.

106.2 Royal Oak Quarry and Sandon Quarry

There was nothing further to report.

107 Parishes Transportation Group

107.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th January, 2008

Minutes of the above meeting were circulated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

107.2 Report from Parishes Transportation Group on Essex County Council Meeting to appoint consultant to investigate A12 issues.

Report of the above meeting were circulated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

107.3 Document from Secretary of the Parishes transportation Group Information regarding The Consultant Heading the Inquiry.

Information regarding the Consultant was circulated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

107.4 Correspondence from Essex County Council

Essex County Council had informed the Parish Council that they were intending setting up a group chaired by a representative of the local tier. The meeting is proposed to take place on Tuesday 25th March, 2008. Members were requested to nominate a representative for Danbury. It was thought that a member who had been attending the Parishes Transportation Group should attend the meeting. Members nominated Cllr Mrs J Wells to attend.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs J Wells attend the meeting.

108 Bus Shelters

108.1. Bus shelter opposite The Avenue (Maldon side)

ECC Highways had written to the residents.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

108.2 Power to bus shelter near The Avenue (Chelmsford side)

Essex County Highways had stated that a ticket had been issued to their contractor to power up the shelter.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

109 Neighbourhood Action Panel and policing

Cllr Whiteing attended the NAP meeting on 20th February, 2008. List of crimes were circulated – seven people had been arrested from the Danbury area. Crimes were still occurring at the Co-op in Danbury.

The Youth Shelter was discussed at the NAP on the same night as the Facilities Committee Meeting. A meeting was to be held with the Chairman of the Council, Vice Chairman of the Council, C Whiteing, Inspector Killgallen, Inspector Lynda Samways and the Clerk to the Parish Council on Monday 17th March, 2008.

Perry Land Essex Police had requested to attend a Parish Council Meeting it was decided to bring this to the next meeting to decide an appropriate date.

RESOLVED: that a) the information be noted

b) Members to note the meeting to be held regarding the Youth Shelter

c) the request from Perry Land Essex Police to be brought to next meeting.

110 DEFRA Booklet: Ways to tackle Climate Change

Discussion took place on the setting up of the Working Party for Climate Change the following was decided:

RESOLVED: that a) the first meeting should take place on Thursday 24th April, 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the evening

b) the clerk would put together an agenda for the meeting.

c) members of the group would take their own notes

111 Signage – Butts Lane

Further to Minute 94 of the Environment Committee (9th January, 2008) it was reported that the sign had now been erected.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

112 Proposed Traffic Schemes

ECC Highways Department had written to all Parish Councils requesting suggestions for small improvement schemes (as opposed to maintenance or repair work) to be incorporated into a three-year rolling programme for each parish. No schemes had been brought to the attention of the Clerk by Members.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

113 DIY Graffiti Removal Kits

The Clerk had requested a kit which the Groundsman held in Robins Nest.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

114 Annual Litter Pick

This had been arranged with Caroline Lambert and will be held on Saturday 26th April, 2008 commencing between 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. Litter Pickers gloves etc had been requested on loan from Chelmsford Borough Council. The clerk had agreed to open the Parish Office for refreshments.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

115 Chelmer Valley Association

A special meeting of the Chelmer Valley Association was held on 30th January, 2008. The group was writing to the Chelmer Canal Trust to request that they take over the Association as both groups had the same aim of preserving the Chelmer Valley. The group felt that comments made on Planning Applications had been taken note of.

Members felt that the Chelmer Valley Association and the Chelmer Canal Trust both wanted to maintain the valley as a pleasant country area with an environmental image.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

116 Danbury Times

Cllr Wood explained that there was a further meeting being held on Friday 8th March, 2008 to finalise the document. From that date it would take a further 14 days to be received ready for delivery which would be the week after Easter there would then be a further 20 days before the Annual Parish Meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

117 Best Kept Village Competition

Members wished to enter the Competition again.

RESOLVED: that Danbury Parish Council enter the Competition for 2008.

118 Going Green Event

Cllr Keeler and the Clerk had attended this event.

The event had covered the launch of the Best Green Village. A presentation from Galleywood Parish Council entitled "Greening Galleywood" and "How to reduce your Carbon Footprint".

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

119 Best Green Village

Members decided not to enter the competition.

RESOLVED: that Parish Council do not enter the competition.

120 Matters for Report

John Bowen expressed thanks for attending the Chairman’s Evening.

Cllr M Wood had received a youth salesman and had been informed by the Police to contact Chelmsford Police “out of Hours”.

PC Bill Evans had been checking cars at Runsell Green.

Cllr D Whiteing was concerned about the condition of the telephone box at Pedlars Path and whether the Parish Council should request that it is taken out. This item to put on next agenda.

121 Dates of Meetings in 2008

5th March, 16th April, 11th June, 3rd September, 15th October, 3rd December

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm.

Cllr A Keeler, Chairman

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Signed

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Date