

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on 16th April 2008 at the Parish Office

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

In attendance: Clerk to the Council and Mr J Bowen

Public Question time

Three Members of the Public were present. A question was asked regarding the Youth Centre regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award participants being moved to Meadgate. The Council were not aware of this but would investigate the matter.

122 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A. Wells.

123 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.

Cllrs Berlyn, Whiteing and Wood all declared a personal interest in Minute 125 as they knew the owners of the house concerned.

124 Minutes

Cllr Whiteing queries when Sergeant Land was coming to speak to the Council. The Clerk confirmed that this would try to be arranged for the Parish Council Meeting in July.

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

125 Entrance to St Johns Church of England Primary School between 25 and 27 Hopping Jacks Lane.

The Parish Council had considered this item under the Travel Plan for St Johns School. The Parish Council Minute 155 28th March, 2007 refers where Members were opposed to making a new entrance in Hopping Jacks Lane. Correspondence had been received from a Member of the Public requesting that Members review the decision. Correspondence had also been received from further Members of the Public requesting that this piece of land which is in the ownership of Essex County Council and that the gardening rights remains such.

Members of the Committee stated that there had been a marker in the hedge but that the footpath had never been a Public Right of Way. Members had investigated and could not find a Public Right of Way even in the 1930's. Members could remember that since 1976 there had never been a footpath through to the school.

Through discussions with the owner of the adjacent house to the gap in Hopping Jacks Lane, there had once been a ditch to the rear and to the side of the house where the gap is. The houses in Hopping Jacks Lane to the rear of their properties had very waterlogged land which was the run off from the school playing field. This had then been piped and also ran along the side of the house in question, which then resulted in the gap. The other pipe-work had run into the school pond. The land in question had a license for gardening which has been in place for 27 years. It had never been used as an access to the school.

Members were concerned how this would affect the local residents if the piece of land was opened up. Residents were objecting that:

- a) their children who had attended St Johns Church Of England School had had to walk round to the school
- b) numbers of children attending the school were considerably less than in the past therefore it was not necessary to open the gap
- c) there would be more cars parked in the area
- d) it would make the school and houses more vulnerable to crime
- e) it was not known what the future of Hopping Jacks Hall would be which could possibly cause more traffic on a dangerous bend

Cllr Wood put forward a proposal as follows: That the Environment Committee request Parish Council to confirm its previous Minute 155 28th March, 2007 that Members were opposed to making a new entrance in Hopping Jacks Lane between numbers 25/27. This was seconded by John Thomson. A vote was taken five members were for the proposal and three abstained.

RESOLVED: that a) the Environment Committee request Parish Council to confirm its previous Minute 155 of 28th March, 2007 that Members were opposed to making a new entrance in Hopping Jacks Lane between 25/27 Hopping Jacks Lane.

The three members of the public left the meeting.

b) as a result of this decision the Environment Committee Members felt that Item two in the member of public's letter who had requested to open the debate again was not applicable.

126 Footpaths

126.1 Parish Paths Partnership

Cllr Bolwell reported on a survey of footpath 62. It was hoped to organise a working party to carry out the work which it was hoped would take about three hours. The work could be completed from a trailer with a wheelbarrow. Cllr Bolwell asked for volunteers to help with the project.

Concerns were raised regarding the footpaths in the grounds of Danbury Palace it was hoped that they would remain for the view.

Members expressed thanks to Cllr Bolwell for his hard work regarding the Footpaths.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk be informed of any dates and times that the work was going to be completed so that she could inform the Parish Council's Insurance Company.

b) Cllr Bolwell be formally thanked for his hard work regarding footpaths

126.2 ProW for Chelmsford Area

It was reported that Shirley Lucas was covering this work two days a week on Wednesdays and Fridays her email was as follows: Shirley.Lucas@essex.gov.uk

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

126.3 Footpath 18 The Heights to Beaumont Park

The Clerk had informed the meeting that the Parish Council was awaiting the outcome regarding the funding from the Essex County Council.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

127 Highway Matters

127. 1 Community Speedwatch

No further volunteers had come forward. No response had come from the Danbury Times. Therefore the Council was unable to progress this further.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

127.2 List of Roads for Repair

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 2008/09 budget. No further information.

iv) 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.

v) Elm Green Lane: Essex County Council was aware of the condition of this road but it was unlikely to be included in the list of schemes for consideration in 2008/2009. Photographs had been forwarded to Essex County Council together with a request to give this more priority.

vi) 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.

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

viii) Large pothole on western access to Church Green (Main Road): This work had been completed by the Parochial Church Council.

ix) 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 had 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.

The Clerk had written a further letter to Essex County Highways with no response.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk waits until nearer the next meeting then contacts Essex County Council again to ascertain the progress on the above works when the Essex County Council has received its budgets for 2008/2009.

127.3 Accident Statistics for Danbury Parish Council Area

The Clerk had requested information regarding the code statistics which had been received. Members perused the documents but decided to take no further action.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted and no further action be taken on this item.

127.4 Data recorder Request for Danbury

The Data Recorder had been requested for outside St Johns Church of England School it had been placed to be completed under the Locally Determined Budget. The parish was waiting for a further response as to when the data recorder would be put in place.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

128 Quarries

128.1 St Clere's Hall Quarry

Mr Bowen had completed a further survey and ascertained that one particular type of lorry appeared to be the culprit for scattering grit on the ground and being badly loaded.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk forward the information to the Essex County Council Licensing department.

128.2 Royal Oak Quarry and Sandon Quarry

There was nothing further to report.

129 Parishes Transportation Group

129.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January, 2008

The Minutes had not been received in time for the meeting..

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

129.2 A 12 Inquiry Parishes Transportation Group

Cllr Mrs Wells stated that it had been very difficult to get this group off the ground. The Clerk at Sandon had offered to organise responses which were due in the next day. A meeting was now planned for Tuesday 22nd April, which the Chairman of the Council was intending to attend with Cllr Mrs J Wells. The Clerk would forward a response as follows:

1. A local Danbury By-Pass is not achievable due to the environment in which we live. The Parish Council supports a Maldon – Langford – Hatfield Peverel link to an A 12 link, with a view to the current A414 being downgraded to B Status as recommended by the Ministry of Transport Inquiry at Danbury Palace in 1995.

This would then reduce the HGV's through the village. There should be weight limits to stop the HGV's.

The following were further comments:

2. The A12 should be a minimum of three lanes from the M25 – Ipswich.
3. Lorries should be banned from using the outside lane.
4. More adequate rest facilities with toilets (not just service areas and not just lay-bys) along its length.
5. There should be a bid to reduce the volume of traffic.

RESOLVED: that Clerk sends a response from Danbury as above.

130 Bus Shelters

130.1. Bus shelter opposite The Avenue (Maldon side)

No further update available.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

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

No further update available.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

131 Neighbourhood Action Panel and policing

No further meetings had been held. The young people had put in a grant for the Monster Youth Shelter. The outcome was awaited.

Cllr Whiteing wished to report that the Community Support Police had been provided with three Kango Vans but that at present Danbury did not have its own designated Community Support Office due to Maternity Leave and Sickness Leave. Members wished the Clerk to write to the Assistant Chief Constable to report on the position.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the Assistant Chief Constable to report on the position regarding Community Support Officers for Danbury.

132 DEFRA Booklet: Ways to tackle Climate Change

The first meeting is to take place on Thursday 24th April, 2008 at 8 p.m. in the Parish Office.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

133 Proposed Traffic Schemes

133.1 A request had been received from a member of the public regarding a cycle path from Danbury to the Park and Ride

RESOLVED: that this letter be taken to the Climate Change Working Party to investigate.

133.2 The Clerk had drawn the attention to a letter in the Journal regarding a By Pass for Danbury.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

133.3 A further email had been received requesting no heavy vehicles through the village. A response would be made stating that this had been requested in the response to the A.12 Inquiry.

RESOLVED: that a response be sent to the resident concerned explaining that this had been included in the response to the A.12 Inquiry for Danbury.

133.4 The Chairman of the Council reported that he was attending a meeting tomorrow regarding the opening of the gap between the car park at the Coop and the Library. The suggestion from the Committee was to install a gate which could be locked when the library was in use.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman of the Council suggest that a gate be installed which could be locked when the library was open.

134 Annual Litter Pick

This had been arranged with Caroline Lambert and would 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.

Cllr Thomson was concerned regarding the number of elastic bands dropped everywhere by the postpersons and wished the Clerk to write to the Post Office regarding this matter.

RESOLVED: that a) the information be noted.
b) the Clerk write to the Post Office to raise concerns regarding elastic bands being dropped by the postpersons

135 Chelmer Valley Association

The Chairman of the Environment Committee had been to a meeting the previous week where the funds from the Chelmer Valley Association had been given to the Chelmer Canal Trust. This was due to the Chelmer Valley Association being disbanded. The original aim of the Trust was to maintain the valley as picturesque and largely to conserve the land.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

136 Bus Passes

A letter had been forwarded to Chelmsford Borough Council regarding the commencement time of bus passes. They can now only be used after 9.30 a.m. Chelmsford Borough Council were now lobbying Government to get this changed and if not the Council was considering funding this themselves. Maldon District Council residents were already able to use buses from 9.00 a.m.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

137 National Air Traffic Survey

Cllr Bolwell had written an excellent report on the Air Traffic Survey. There was no significant increase in traffic over Danbury. The holding area was moved away from Danbury and at a higher altitude. Therefore no response would be sent to the NATs

Survey. It was suggested in the report that private aircraft and helicopters should be considered on a future Agenda.

A vote of thanks be given to Cllr Bolwell for his report.

RESOLVED: that a)no response be sent to the survey and that a formal record of thanks be given to Cllr Bolwell.

b) private aircraft and helicopters be placed on a future Agenda.

138 Danbury Times

Cllr Wood explained that there would be a notice in early May to distribute for a Meeting about the Danbury Medical Centre.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

139 Best Kept Village Competition

The entry had been forwarded for the competition.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

140 Telephone Box at Pedlars Path

This had now been repaired and Cllr Whiteing had seen someone using the telephone box.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

141 The Draft Joint Waste Management Strategy for Essex

Members wished this item to be considered by the Climate Change Working Party and the Group to be given authority to send a response to the Essex County Council.

RESOLVED: that the Climate Change Working Party consider this item and send a response to Essex County Council.

142 Matters for Report

John Bowen expressed thanks for the letter of thanks for delivering the Danbury Times.

143 Dates of Meetings in 2008

11th June, 3rd September, 15th October, 3rd December

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.04pm.

Cllr A Keeler, Chairman

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Signed

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Date