

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on 15th October 2008 at the Parish Office

Present: Councillors A Keeler (Chairman), D Bolwell, S. Freeman,
 J Langley, J Thomson, D Whiteing,

In attendance: Clerk to the Council

40 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S. Berlyn, Mrs J. Wells and M Wood. Also John Bowen from the Danbury Society.

41 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 declared similarly at the appropriate time.

None were declared.

42 Public Question Time Limited to 15 Minutes

No members of the Public were present.

43 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 3rd September, 2008

The following item was omitted from the Minutes. It was agreed that the item should be added; "Item 27.3 Footpaths Map A request from a member of the public for the footpaths map to be placed on the web has been received. RESOLVED: that the Clerk investigates the Footpaths Map being placed on the web."

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of Environment Committee held on 3rd September, 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record including the inclusion of the above item.

44 Footpaths

44.1 Parish Paths Partnership

Grant

£350 had been awarded to Danbury to spend on works on Parish Paths. The Groundsman had completed works to Footpath 15 cutting back waist high stinging nettles. An invoice was being forwarded to the Parish Paths Partnership for £50.00 plus VAT to be awarded to the Parish Council from the Parish Paths Grant for the works completed.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council sends an invoice for £50 plus VAT to the Parish Paths Partnership for the works completed on Footpath 15.

Walks

Cllr Bolwell was attending the tree recognition walk from Essex County Council to Writtle on the 17th October, 2008. There was also a course coming up on 18th

November, 2008 Byway Conservation Day which concerned the coppicing of hedgerows.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

44.2 Footpath 18 The Heights to Beaumont Park

It was reported from Essex County Highways that it was hoped that this work would now be completed by the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

44.3 Footpaths Map

It was reported that there were no charges for the licence to place the footpaths map on the web and that the Parish Council could use the Essex County Council licence number but an agreement had to be signed between the Parish Council and Essex County Council. The licence numbers must be added to the map and a phrase added "If you wish to print a copy it is for your own personal use." The map must be in pdf format so that the file map cannot be altered. The clerk report that this item had now been passed to the Assistant Clerk Planning and IT to complete.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk Planning and IT pursue this matter.

45 Highways Matters

45.1 List of Roads for Repair

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

This was now on the reserve list for 2008/2009. It would be submitted for next year.

ii) Gay Bowers Lane/Mill Lane

There was a lack of yellow lines at the end of the pavement. The Essex County Highways had explained that there had been left a gap for two cars. The Clerk had previously written regarding this item. Members wished the clerk to write again stating that if there was to be no yellow lines instated then there should be a slope to the end of the pavement.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Essex County Council Highways asking for a slope to the end of the pavement as this was a hazard for people with push chairs and the disabled left how it was.

iii) Hyde Lane/Maldon road

This was the result of national guidance for crossings of this type which should have no kerb up-stand between the road and the tactile surfacing. Consequently on the low side of the junction surface water does not lie in a film and stains the tactile pavements green. The long term solution would be to install a gully just ahead of where the water collects assuming that a suitable outlet point could be found. This was to be investigated further together with the iron work. It would be investigated when the work was actioned to the raised manholes in Hyde Lane which would require a road closure.

RESOLVED: that the matter will be investigated further by Essex County Highways.

iv) Complaints had been passed to Essex County Council re rattling ironwork on A414

The double manhole outside the Spinney was further upgraded to now be locked down with even larger bolts (the previous ones sheared on one side). The general condition of the ironwork was still of great concern. The cover at Cherry Garden Lane was a BT cover. The area was on a monthly inspection route and any urgent works or dangerous defects would be actioned. The Essex County Highways were now awaiting the delivery of some more manhole covers to complete the works.

The clerk had reported the three manhole covers at Riffhams Lane near Riffhams house to Essex and Suffolk Water. Also the Manhole outside Danbury Park. It was requested that the Danbury Park Conference Centre signs be taken down from the main A414.

There was also a hole in the centre of the road outside Nightingale Cottage Well Lane which had been reported.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk monitors the situation regarding the above items
b) writes regarding the slope at the end of the pavement at Gay Bowers/Mill Lane
c) requests that the Danbury Conference Centre Signs be taken down

45.2 Data Recorder Request for Danbury

It was reported that the Parish Council on 24th September, 2008 had decided not to pursue a Speed Indicator Device further. The Clerk circulated correspondence from a Member of the Public together with a reply that the Clerk had sent. Members noted the letter and an acknowledgement letter would be sent.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk send an acknowledgement letter stating that the contents had been noted.

46 Quarries

46.1 St Cleres Hall

Members felt that the debris was building up again.

RESOLVED: that the clerk write a letter again to the Essex County Council.

46.2 Royal Oak Quarry Nothing further to report.

46.3 Sandon Quarry Nothing further to report.

47 Parishes Transportation Group/ A 12 Inquiry

A response was circulated from Lord Hanningfield regarding the B1019 Hatfield Peverel to Maldon route. No members of the transportation group were present.

RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted.

48 Bus Shelters

48.1. Bus shelter opposite The Avenue (Maldon side)

No progress as yet.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

48.2 Bus Shelter near the Avenue (Chelmsford Side)

An order had been placed with Carteledge to connect the supply to the bus shelter.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

48.3 Bus Shelter Runsell Green

A price had been received to reinstate the boarding with ply and ply lining so that the bus shelter could not be kicked out again and to completely wood stain the shelter. The price provided had been by Neils Maintenance in the sum of £895.00 Members discussed the matter and Cllr Langley proposed that Parish Council request a grant from the Essex County Council new bus stops in Essex – shelter maintenance fund if not available then to go ahead with the works, this was seconded by Cllr Freeman and was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that the a) Clerk contact the Essex County Council- new bus stops in Essex – shelter maintenance fund to ascertain if there are any grant monies available

b) to complete the works in the sum of £895.00 by Neils Maintenance even if the grant is not available.

48.4 Bus Shelter Cleaning

The Clerk had tried to obtain details of local contractor to quote for the next financial year but with no success. Members agreed to continue with Ace Bins.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council continue with Ace Bins

49 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Policing

A new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the Chelmsford Area had made contact with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Danbury. Members had noted the reorganisation to give Danbury 24 hour coverage from South Woodham as outlined by Sergeant Land at the recent Parish Council Meeting. The Planning Application for the Youth Shelter had been submitted.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

50 Climate Change

Notes from the Working Party held on 11th September, 2008 were circulated.

Members from the Working Party had requested that Climate Change be placed back on the Environment Agenda for any future items for discussion. Cllr Langley proposed that The Climate Change Working Party will cease to meet as a separate working party. A permanent Agenda Item will now be Climate Change on the Environment Committee Agenda. Reconstitution of the Working Party will take place as and when necessary. This was seconded by Cllr Bolwell and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Thomson had read the Climate Change Toolkit supplied by the Clerk. He felt that it was more interesting to Borough and County Councils and that there was not a lot Parish Councils could do.

The following were items that the toolkit covered.

- Low energy saving light bulbs thus using less electricity. Councillor Thomson brought to the meeting a light bulb which he effectively used, light bulbs were continually improving and the quality of light was improving.
- Car Clubs
- Car Sharing

- High Occupancy Vehicle Lane
- Differential Parking Rates – cheaper
- Travel Plans
- Park and Ride
- Smarter Driving Tips
- Fixed Penalty Notices for Waiting
- Planning obligations – air quality smaller number of parking spaces to encourage people to use cars less
- Eco labels
- Sustainable Food
- Improving Energy Use
- Housing Regulations – poor housing conditions
- Real Nappy Campaign
- Allotments.

It was felt that the document was very interesting. The Chairman of Environment took the document to read next.

Cllr Bolwell reported that the Sustrans Cycle Route had tried to be used by Cllr Whiteing. At the point of Graces Lane/Graces Walk there was no sign to turn left. This had been reported to Sustrans via a local volunteer ranger. It is hoped that together with the Essex County Council new signs would be erected between A. 12 and Maldon.

RESOLVED: that the Climate Change Working Party will cease to meet as a separate Working Party. A permanent Agenda Item will now be Climate change on the Environment Committee. Reconstitution of the Working Party will take place as and when necessary.

51 Danbury Times

Cllr Wood was not present. The next meeting of the Danbury Times group was to be at the Parish Office on Tuesday 28th October, 2008 at 2. 30 p.m. for final proof read.

52 Environment Committee Budget 2009 – 2010

Members of the Environment Committee agreed the attached request to forward to Resources for Budget setting procedure.

RESOLVED: that the attached request be forwarded to Resources Committee for the budget setting process in the sum of £2600.

53 Public Conveniences in Danbury

The public conveniences were now open again after a short closure due to vandalism. A multi-agency meeting will be held on Monday 20th October, 2008. A decision regarding the Groundsman opening and closing the public conveniences will be forwarded to Facilities Committee on 20th November, 2008 for a decision.

54 Matter for Report only

Cllr Whiteing made a request for consideration for the road runs past the Anchor Public House to be named. This item would be placed on the Planning Agenda.

55 Dates of Meetings in 2008

3rd December

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Cllr A Keeler
Chairman

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Signed

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Date