

- Clearance work at the Farm Shop – not starting operations to June.
- Definitive footpaths – concerns were raised regarding the laying down of road planings on Footpath 17 which could form a metal surface. A Rights of Way Footpath should be passable in wellington boots. Road planings would interfere with definitive status. No metal on the surface. Footpaths on private land, ECC and CBC cannot unilaterally maintain footpaths. Interfere with private land and cannot change land. PROW footpath is a user beware footpath cannot alter status. Must ask landowner to do something. Question raised regarding health and safety and insurance if the footpath is altered who is going to be liable?

Several of these items were already on the Agenda.

The Chairman of the Committee thanked both members of the public.

75 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 3rd December, 2008

Minute 65 the words “let off” should be changed to released.

Minute 68 It was noted as a comment that Essex County Highways deal with overgrown hedges on footpaths. It was decided to leave minute as it is and the clerk would write to the Essex County Council regarding the complaint received. It was also suggested that the Clerks be reminded that names as much as possible should not be used in Minutes.

RESOLVED: that a) the minutes of the meeting of Environment Committee held on 3rd December, 2008, subject to the above amendment be approved and signed as a correct record.

b) that the comments by the Environment Committee be noted.

The Chairman of the Committee took the item regarding the Speed Reduction at Runsell Green next.

76 To receive letter from Residents of Runsell Green and Runsell Lane Speed Limit for Runsell Green

Members considered the request to change the current speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph from the exit on the A414 at Runsell Green to 125 metres past the Anchor and to Garland Farm in Runsell Lane. Members unanimously agreed to support the proposal of the residents.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the Essex County Highways and the Casualty Reduction Officer in support of the proposal to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph from the exit on the A414 at Runsell Green to 125 metres past the Anchor and to Garland Farm on Runsell Lane.

Member of the public left the meeting who had come to speak on this item.

The Chairman returned to the Agenda in order.

77 Footpaths

77.1 Parish Paths Partnership

i) Footpath 17

An email was received from the PROW Officer from Essex County Council.

Members considered the details of the works on Footpath 17. The Chairman of the

Environment, the Parish Paths Representative, the PROW Officer, the outside representative of the Environment Committee and the groundsman for the Churchyard were present at a meeting to discuss the project for the churchyard. The laying of the pea shingle to improve the path surface through the churchyard was on the 2008 – 2009 list of works. The Chairman of the Environment Committee was concerned that the pea shingle would not be acceptable to the people using the cemetery. The land is owned by the diocese and the church. Concerns were raised that it should be the land owner who makes the area good.

The Parish Paths representative stated that this area was thought to be an area of town footpaths as it was in a built up location by the PROW Officer. Members were unaware of the difference between definitive path footpaths town and rural. The Parish Paths representative thought that 7 bags of pea shingle would be required to complete the works at a cost of £38.75 per bag which would total £271.25 (the current price would need to be checked) this could be covered by the Parish Paths Grant as £300 was left in the budget.

Members were unhappy to proceed with this project until the Church and the Diocese represented by Strutt and Parker were written to and asked for permission to complete the works.

The Clerk explained any volunteers would have to be logged and risk assessments would have to be completed to the work so that they could be covered by the Council's Insurance.

Queries were raised regarding land owner responsibility, Essex County Highways responsibility . A lengthy discussion took place.

Cllr Wood proposed that the Clerk write to the Diocese and Strutt and Parker and ask for permission to complete the works. Cllr Freeman seconded this proposal. 6 members were for this course of action and 1 member abstained.

ii) Road Planings

In the PROW email it stated that road planings would be used on Footpaths 16, 17 and 20. Members were very concerned about this proposal.

Cllr J Langley proposed that as a principle road planings in repair of definitive footpaths in Danbury should not be used this was seconded by Cllr M Wood. 6 members were for this course of action and 1 member abstained.

The Parish Paths representative requested an alternative suggestion to the road planings if they were not to be used. It was felt that the definitive footpaths should be left as they were. A request was made that the Parish Paths representative ascertain the status of the rural and urban footpaths. It was remarked that in the Traffic Speed Consultation more than 10,000 houses became a town.

iii) Proposed Activities for 2009/2010

The Parish Paths Representative agreed to survey the paths and bring back proposals for 2009/2010 financial year.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk contact the Diocese and Strutt and Parker regarding the proposal and that the reply is brought back to the next meeting.

- b) the clerk write back to the PROW Officer and state that as a principle road planings were not used on definitive footpaths in Danbury.
- c) the Parish Paths representative ascertain the status of the rural and urban footpaths
- d) Parish Paths representative to survey paths for a proposal for 2009/2010

77.2 Footpath 18 The Heights to Beaumont Park

The Clerk would check the status of the works to this footpath.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

77.3 Footpaths Map

This had been passed to the Assistant Clerk Planning and IT to complete. Due to the Draft Local Development Framework there had be no time to progress this work.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

78 Highways Matters

78.1 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. The Clerk had complained to Essex County Council Highways who had agreed they may look at the parking area at Eves Corner separately if there were any monies left in the budget. Members had noticed that orange circles had been placed on the road and that may be this was a sign that some action was going to be taken.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

ii) Gay Bowers Lane/Mill Lane

Lack of yellow lines at end of pavement.

The Clerk had written to CBC regarding the yellow lines but had not received a reply as yet.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk would write again to CBC requesting yellow lines were re-instated.

iii Hyde Lane/Maldon Road

The levels and wet weather slime by pillar box.

There were still problems reported, and Essex County Highways had confirmed that the matter was allocated on a contractors list.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk remind Essex County Highways about the situation regarding the pillar box.

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

Work had been completed on rattling ironwork, however members reported that there were still problems reported:-

- a) outside Management College still sinking
- b) near ski shop still bad
- c) several noisy ironworks down the Maldon Road
- d) areas in Mill Lane sunken – photographs taken

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contacts ECC Highways again to bring the problem areas to their attention, stating that the ironworks are rattling 'and sunken'.

v) Woodhill Road

This road was deteriorating between Well Lane and Bicknacre Road.

RESOLVED: the clerk will inform Essex County Highways of the position.

vi) Sign and Posts outside public conveniences – allocated to an engineer

RESOLVED: that this item be noted.

vii) Danbury Palace sign – allocated to an engineer.

RESOLVED: that this item be noted.

viii) Road Markings on A414 outside Bell Public House

This item has been completed

78.2 Well Lane

Item regarding Well Lane and cars parking on one side of Well Lane opposite Little Owls Nursery making it a one track road which was a recent phenomena. It was now making it very difficult for cars to pass. The worst times were morning and afternoon school times. Members requested more information to be brought to next meeting.

RESOLVED: that this item be added to the list and more information ascertained.

**79 Parishes Transportation Group
Meeting held on 13th January, 2009**

Cllr John Thomson had attended this meeting. The main topic from this meeting was the possibility of a new Bradwell Power Station which would mean the widening of the road from Maldon to Bradwell and a Witham to Maldon By-Pass. There would be an increase in the traffic volume.

The Group were very grateful to Cllr Stuart Berlyn Chairman of Danbury Parish Council who had had to stand down as he had a conflict of interest as he was representing the East of England Ambulance Service on the A.12 alliance. Members were asked for a further representative to stand on this Group. No one came forward. It was suggested to take the matter to Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that a) Cllr S Berlyn be formally thanked for his work with the Parishes Transportation Group,
b) a request for a further representative for the Parishes Transportation Group be requested at Parish Council

80 Quarries

80.1 St Cleres Hall

A briefing was circulated from Matthews and Sons on behalf of St Cleres Hall Pit Danbury stating that there would be an impending proposal for a planning application. Members were concerned reading the documentation that inert filling

was to be used and members would like clarification sought. Also what was going to happen to the vehicle washing plant if the area was to be changed to woodland.

Members were also concerned about the mud which had reappeared on the road on the 14th January, 2009. The Clerk had also had her car roof hit by a stone on the day of the meeting.

RESOLVED: that a) a request was made to planning to seek clarification on the inert filling and also what was going to happen to the vehicle washing plant?

b) a further letter be written to Essex County Highways regarding mud and stones on the road

80.2 Royal Oak Quarry - Nothing further to report.

80.3 Sandon Quarry - Nothing further to report.

81 Bus Shelters

81.1. Bus shelter opposite The Avenue (Maldon side)

No progress as yet.

81.2 Bus Shelter near the Avenue (Chelmsford Side)

No progress as yet, although not urgent need to keep up pressure to be done.

81.3 Bus Shelter Runsell Green

The Clerk report that the Parish Council had been successful with its grant and had received £900.00 for the repairs to the bus shelter.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

82 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Policing

Cllr D Whiting reported that the next meeting of the NAP was to be held on Wednesday 21st January, 2009. The Clerk reported that the Youth Shelter had been installed that day but that she was concerned regarding the lighting.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk request Facilities to investigate the possibility of an additional light being placed on the pole which already had a light in the Mayes Lane Car Park.

83 Climate Change

A member reported that his wife had received confirmation from the Department of Health that the proposed phase out of the old style incandescent light bulbs was a voluntary initiative by UK retailers and that incandescent bulbs would remain on the market for the foreseeable future.

The Clerk reported that she had been asked to be a representative on Climate Change Working Party with the EALC, and a representative from NALC. At present the first meeting had not taken place. The idea of the group was to help Parish Councils to take this topic forward.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

84 Danbury Times

The Vice Chairman of the Council requested that the Chairman of the Environment write his next piece for the Danbury Times.

Also, Cllr Langley was approached to write an article as a Councillor

RESOLVED: that a) the Chairman of Environment write his article ready for the spring edition

b) that Cllr Langley write an article as a Councillor

(All copy should be received by 10th February, 2009)

85 Draft Speed Management Strategy Consultation

Members considered the draft speed management strategy together with John Bowen’s comments. After considerable deliberation it was decided not to send any comments back regarding the consultation.

RESOLVED: that no comments be returned regarding the Draft Speed Management Strategy Consultation.

86 Matters for Report only

The Clerk reported that the Essex County Council had issued a consultation document called the Minerals Development Document: Further Issues and Options.

The public consultation would run from 15th January until 12th March, 2009.

The document sets out objectives and options. It covered protection of the environment, restoration and after-use of the land.

The main implication for Danbury came in the section Four New Suggested Sites for possible extraction, one of which was Tyndales Farm, Danbury. The site ran from Cherry Garden Lane eastwards towards Oak Corner (south of A414). There would be an item on Parish Council to consider whether there should be a public meeting regarding this item.

87 Dates of Meetings in 2009

Wednesday 4th March, 10th June, 9th September, 14th October, 2nd December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Cllr A Keeler, Chairman

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Signed

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Date