

# DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

*A Quality Council*



## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the Parish Office

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

In attendance: Clerk and Cllr Allen

#### **1 Election of Chairman**

Cllr A Pemberton nominated Cllr A Keeler this was seconded by Cllr J Langley. Cllr A Keeler was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman of Environment for the Municipal Year 2009 – 2010.

#### **2 Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr A Keeler nominated Cllr J Langley this was seconded by Cllr D Whiteing. Cllr J Langley was unanimously elected as Chairman of Environment for the Municipal Year 2009 – 2010.

#### **3 Representative from Outside Bodies**

John Bowen was confirmed as the representative from the Danbury Society.

#### **4 Speaker from Essex County Council**

The Clerk had tried to obtain a speaker from the Essex County Council regarding the Parish Paths Partnership without success. Members were disappointed that no speaker had been available. Members still felt that they wished to know the legal position on Definitive Footpaths.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes again to the Essex County Council and requests that a representative attend the next meeting in September.

#### **5 Speaker Sarah Martin PCSO regarding Speeding**

Unfortunately Sarah Martin PCSO was ill and unable to attend the meeting. Members felt that the double wire across the road to a data recorder does not stop speeding or act as a deterrent. The results are open to misinterpretation and do not determine the level of the problem. The only thing it had ascertained was that cars leaving the village were travelling at a higher speed. Members decided to request that Sergeant Perry Land be asked to attend the next meeting.

RESOLVED: that Sergeant Perry Land be asked to attend the next meeting.

#### **6 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs David Bolwell, Steven Freeman, Mrs Jackie Wells and Mike Wood. John Bowen had also sent his apologies.

#### **7 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.

## **8 Public Question Time Limited to 15 Minutes**

Three Members of the Public were present.

Items the Members of the Public were interested in were as follows:

- a) Question regarding who was Parish Council representative on Citizens Panel. Parish Council has no representative on this panel.
- b) Tindals Farm explained that this is always on Agenda in case information received.
- c) Road Schemes this was later in the Agenda and the first time councillors had seen this document.
- d) Danbury Common – information supplied which had been forwarded by the National Trust.

## **9 Minutes of the Environment Committee of 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2009**

Cllr Thomson wished that the item regarding the Pillar box at Hyde Lane/Maldon Road be kept on the Agenda.

RESOLVED: that a) the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record.  
b) that the item regarding the pillar box at Hyde Lane/Maldon Road be kept on the Agenda.

## **10 Footpaths**

### **10.1 Parish Paths Partnership**

This item be deferred as the Parish Paths Representative was ill.

### **10.2 Footpaths Map to be placed on Web-Site**

This had not been progressed due to workload.

### **10.3 Footpath 18**

The repairs had been completed to this footpath

### **10.4 Footpaths 17 and 19**

Cllr Allen had encountered a mountain biker at high speed. It was felt that the Police would not be able to do anything to help the situation. Members thought that it would be a good idea to request 'NO CYCLING' signs to be installed at either end of Footpath 17 and 19. The sign should have the words in writing. Other signs such as cyclist dismount would be disobeyed. No easy solution to this problem. A kissing gate or a stile would not be disabled friendly. When cycle helmets were worn it seemed that people did not recognise the cyclist. A request should go forward to Essex County for "NO CYCLING" signs.

Cllr Langley proposed that clearer no cycling signs should be used this was seconded by Cllr Pemberton and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Essex County Council and request cleared "NO CYCLING" signs for either end of footpaths 17 and 19.

## **11 Highways Matters**

### **11.1 List of Roads for Repair**

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

Some funding had been received by the Essex County Council for this project but it was not planned to take place until August, 2009.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **ii) Gay Bowers Lane/Mill Lane**

Lack of yellow lines at end of pavement.

The Clerk had circulated correspondence from Chelmsford Borough Council who could not action this work. Members agreed to take this item off the Agenda.

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

#### **iii) Sign and Posts outside public conveniences**

A job order had been raised for this work.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **iv) Danbury Palace sign**

A job order had been raised for this work.

RESOLVED: that this item be noted.

11.2 A copy of a letter was circulated from the Danbury Society which had requested that several roads in Danbury needed repair.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **11.3 Pedestrian Crossing A414 opposite Co-op Danbury**

This item came from the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk had written to the Essex County Council and it was found that there were two obsolete detection loops which may have been extending the green time to vehicles during periods of heavy traffic. These loops had now been switched off in the controller so that they would no longer affect the pedestrian crossing. The Clerk had checked and the pedestrian crossing was working quicker for pedestrians during the day.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **11.4 Gully – Mayes Lane**

The Clerk had requested that the gullies near to the Balancing Pond were emptied as they were full up with water.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **11.5 Temporary Road Closures**

i) Hyde Lane 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 for 5 days (carriageway works)

ii) Chapel Lane and Graces Lane 1<sup>st</sup> June (carriageway retexturing)

iii) Hyde Lane (South) 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 to 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 (carriageway works)

iv) Cherry Garden Lane Carriageway works 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2009

## **11.6 Pavement – St Cleres**

It was noted that the pavement at the end of St Cleres had been resurfaced.

## **12 Quarries**

### **12.1 St Cleres Hall**

Correspondence had been sent to Essex County Council Planners regarding the condition of the road with gravel and stones. Members felt that the road had been better and that road sweepers had been seen sweeping the road.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **12.2 Royal Oak Quarry**

Members had noticed that the surface had been ploughed on both sides of the road. Slurry had been spread around the edge. This was believed to stop motorcyclists. No news had been received from the Essex County Council regarding the reinstatement of meetings with the owner of the gravel pit.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **12.3 Sandon Quarry**

Nothing further to report.

### **12.4 Proposed at Tyndales Farm**

Nothing further to report.

## **13 Parishes Transportation Group**

### **13.1 Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009 were circulated together with a financial statement. Cllr Thomson had nothing further to report.

Chairman of the Council reported that it was planned for an enhanced police presence on the A.12 in dedicated places so that a 24 hour response could be given. Improvements were to be made at the Boreham Interchange. No news on three lanes for the A.12 as match funding required. Variable traffic signs were to be implemented.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **13.2 Cllr Jowers Reply**

This was circulated to the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **14 Bus Shelters**

### **14.1 Bus shelter opposite The Avenue (Maldon side)**

No progress as yet. Cllr Whiteing put forward an alternative location for a bus shelter. The proposal was put forward to relocate the bus stop and move it to the other side of Belvedere Road where there was a wide expanse to install a bus shelter. Members agreed to put this forward to the Essex County Council as an alternative proposal.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk sends the alternative proposal to the Essex County Council for their comments.

#### **14.2 Bus Shelter near the Avenue (Chelmsford Side)**

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

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **15 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Policing**

Cllr Whiteing had attended the NAP meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Mostly thefts were discussed.

The Clerk reported that there had been an incident on Dawson Memorial Field on the day of the meeting and that had been reported to the Police.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted

#### **16 Climate Change**

The Clerk had circulated notes from a Green Working Party Forum hosted by the Essex Association of Local Councils. Members thought that the ideas contained were a good way forward.

The Clerk had requested permission to place information on the Council's Web-Site regarding Climate Change. Members unanimously agreed that this would be permitted.

RESOLVED: that a) the Green Working Party Forum Notes be noted.  
b) that permission be granted to place items regarding Climate Change on the Council's web-site.

#### **17 Danbury Times**

Nothing to discuss at present.

To add Scheme Selection Process from Essex County Council  
To advertise for small highway schemes in the Danbury Times. Minute 20 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 meeting refers.

#### **18 Annual Just Bin It Campaign**

Caroline Lambert and the Clerk had attended the Annual Litter Pick on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 together with 20 residents. An article had been placed in the Journal. A request had been made to purchase further litter pickers. There were already two residents on the waiting list.

The Clerk had obtained two prices as follows:

Chelmsford Safety Supplies	£8.95 plus VAT x 10 = £89.50 plus VAT
Helping Hands	£11.95 plus VAT x 10 = £119.00 plus VAT

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council purchase 10 litter pickers at a cost of £89.50 plus VAT from Chelmsford Safety Supplies.

## **19 Bus Passenger Transport**

### **19.1 Minutes of the Parish Passenger Transport on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2009**

The Clerk circulated the above Minutes. Members found the document very useful.

It discussed several different bus services. Members wondered why the 31A runs only one way Sandon to Little Baddow but is out of service on the return journey.

RESOLVED: that if Members had any questions to put before the Group to let the Clerk know. The item already brought forward would be sent to the Parish Passenger Transport Group.

### **19.2 Essex Works Information**

The Clerk circulated the above information. Members found the document very useful.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **20 Scheme Selection Process from Essex County Council**

The Parish Council was permitted to put forward a request for three schemes from the Localism Budget. The Parish Council had already put forward the scheme at Runsell Green (Minute 94.2 Environment Committee 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 refers) To check with Essex County Highways to ascertain how the points system works.

#### Items for Consideration

- Reduction of Speed Limit from 40 – 30 mph from Turkey Farm to Well Lane already minuted.
- Construction of footway from Cricketers to Woodhill Road
- Construction of footpath Main Road to Slough Road

#### Process

- Runsell Green to be added
- A bi-annual update to be put in Danbury Times and to request for schemes for the Parish Council for consideration by the Parish Council to put forward

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk checks with the Essex County Council to ascertain how the points system works.

b) A bi annual update to be put forward in Danbury Times and to request for schemes for consideration by the Parish Council to put forward

## **21 Green Village Competition**

Members were to consider this item for next year whether to enter. It was realised that the Parish Council would have to work with the village to enter the competition. Ideas would be brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: that the ideas be brought to the next meeting.

## **22 Danbury Common**

The National Trust had written to inform the Council that they have started an experimental period of co-operation with the mountain bikers in the Copt Hill Area of Danbury Common. Guidelines were circulated.

- Members welcomed the initiative with the mountain bikers and the community at large.
- Environment Committee was pleased that the National Trust had done this.
- It was still hoped that this initiative was kept low key.
- To request to take out the Mayes Lane Car Park as a parking place due to the fact that the parking was already oversubscribed.

RESOLVED: that the above items be forwarded to the National Trust as Feedback from the Parish Council

**23 Danbury Lakes Forum**

**23.1 Danbury Park Lakes Forum Minutes 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2008**

The Clerk had circulated the Minutes of the Meeting. A new play area was discussed but no plans or proposals had been put forward. Cllr Allen wished to be added to the representatives for this meeting. This item would be taken to Parish Council. The next meeting of the Forum was planned for this 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 this year but had been cancelled until after the Essex County Council elections.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Allen name be added as additional representative at the next Parish Council Meeting in July.

**24 Matters for Report only**

Item regarding Danbury Outdoors was being taken to Parish Council in July.

**25 Dates in 2009**

9<sup>th</sup> September, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Cllr A Keeler, Chairman

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Signed

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Date