

## DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

*A Quality Council*



## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### **Minutes of the meeting of the held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2009 at the Parish Office**

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

In attendance: The Clerk and John Bowen

#### **70 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Freeman.

#### **71 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 were 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.

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

No Members of the Public were present.

#### **73 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2009,**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of Environment Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2009, be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **74 Footpaths**

##### **74.1 Parish Paths Partnership**

Danbury had a grant of £250.00 which was available for works through the Parish Paths Partnership. A further approach had been made by the Groundsman at the Churchyard for further pea shingle. Members agreed that these works should be completed. The Clerk was instructed to purchase a further two bags of pea shingle. The Clerk would ascertain if these monies could be reclaimed from the Parish Paths Partnership.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk purchased two more bags of pea shingle

b) the Clerk ascertain if the money could be reclaimed from the Parish Paths Partnership

##### **74.2 Footpath Map to be placed on Web-Site**

There had been no progress with this. Cllr Whiteing informed the meeting that Little Baddow Parish Council were about to place their footpaths map on the web. The Clerk would ascertain from Little Baddow Parish Council details regarding the licensing.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact Little Baddow Parish Council and ascertain details regarding the licensing.

### **74.3 New Footpaths Officer Essex County Council**

The Clerk and Cllr Bolwell had met with the new footpaths officer – Matthew Hodgkinson on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2009. This was an introductory meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **74.4 Dawson Memorial Field next to Diocesan land near Church**

The Chairman of the Committee requested that an investigation was completed at this location as one of the members of the committee had reported that this had been very difficult to negotiate with a wheelchair.

The Clerk had spoken to the Council's Groundsman and he was concerned that the path should not be made too wide as this could lead to motor vehicles gaining access to Dawson Field. He felt that the area should be piped, flattened to a width of 1.5 metres wide with 4 substantial posts.

The Parish Council has a license for this area from Strutt and Parker.

Members agreed on the following course of action:

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Strutt and Parker and requested permission to complete improvement works at both ends of the footpath the Church End and the Sports and Social Club end.

## **75 Highways Matters**

### **75.1 List of Roads for Repair**

### **75.2 Little Baddow Road including Eves Corner**

The works at Eves Corner had been completed. Facilities Committee had agreed to remove the wooden bollards which were now lying at an angle along the designated parking area. It was explained that the substantial posts installed by the Parish Council to denote the path were to remain. Thanks had been sent to Essex County Highways for the completion of these works.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **75.3 Pillar Box Hyde Lane/Maldon Road**

The levels and wet weather slime by pillar box. This matter was still outstanding.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **75.4 Bollards outside Public Conveniences**

The bollards outside the Public Conveniences had now been re-instated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **75.5 Well Lane**

Further correspondence had been received regarding parking problems in Well Lane outside Danbury Park Primary School. The matter had been forwarded to Chelmsford Borough Council regarding parking restrictions and the Police.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **75.6 Runsell Green**

Further complaints had been received regarding parking on Runsell Green. The notice was now in place. It was unanimously agreed to install some bollards. The charge for the additional help for the Groundsman would be £70.00. If further wooden posts were required these would be in the region of £100.00.

Cllr Thomson proposed that these works should be completed this was seconded by Cllr Langley and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that a) the additional help be used at a cost of £70.00 from budget head other environmental expenses  
b) if additional posts were required in the sum of £100.00 this money also be taken from the budget head other environmental expenses

## **75.7 Runsell Green Reduction in Speed Limit**

Essex County Highways had not yet made a decision on the Small Scheme Lists for the Parish Councils.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **76 Quarries**

### **76.1 St Cleres Hall**

Correspondence had been sent. No further correspondence received.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **76.2 Royal Oak Quarry**

Essex County Council was still arranging the meeting. No further information received.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **76.3 Sandon Quarry**

Nothing further to report.

### **76.4 Proposed site at Tyndales Farm**

The next consultation would be in January 2010.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **77 Parishes Transportation Group**

### **77.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2009**

The Chairman of Danbury Parish Council had requested that the Group produce a strategic plan. Cllr Berlyn requested permission to withdraw Danbury Parish Council from the Group if no strategy had been set. It was possible that the group could be helpful if Bradwell was designated as a new power station. This was unanimously agreed.

The next meeting was due to take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

RESOLVED: that a) Cllr Berlyn would withdraw Danbury Parish Council from the Parishes Transportation Group if no strategy had been set.  
b) that the Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 be noted.

### **77.2 Letter to Mr Nazir**

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **77.3 Briefing Note re Sizewell and Bradwell**

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **78 Bus Shelters**

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

No further information received. The clerk had had a meeting with Essex County Highways on the day of the meeting and they would be investigating the matter shortly.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

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

The Clerk had pointed out that this shelter still required lighting. This would be investigated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **79 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Policing**

Cllr Whiteing reported that no further meetings had taken place since the last Environment Committee. No notification of crimes had been received either. The Clerk stated that two crimes had occurred on Dawson Memorial Field – an attempt to steal the diesel from the new tank in broad daylight and the strimmer had been stolen from near to the entrance door in Robins Nest.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **80 Green Group**

The Clerk had attended a meeting of the Green Group at the Essex Association of Local Councils. A representative of Billericay Town Council explained that they were working on a Greening Community Campaign. They were working on twenty small items with Community Groups with poster competitions and in Summer 2010 an Environmental Fund Day.

The Clerk circulated minutes from the meeting. The idea of the Green Group was to organise a calendar of events which the first tier of Government could get involved in and then to form a toolkit. Michelle Keen from Essex County Council was helping with this. Ideas such as litter picks many Councils were already participating in.

Members were disappointed that the Parish Council had not been able to move forward with any ideas but hoped the Green Group would help.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **81 Climate Change**

Members had nothing further to report.

## **82 .1 Danbury Times**

The Winter 2009 edition had now been distributed. The Clerk reported that Mrs Machin had been extremely pleased with the flowers after her recent bereavement.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **82.2 Any Items for Danbury Times**

None were highlighted.

## **83 Bus Passenger Transport**

Unfortunately, Cllr Freeman had been unable to attend. The Chairman of the Council reported that the extension to the Park and Ride was now open.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **84 Danbury Common/Cyclists**

### **84.1 Update**

The Clerk circulated copies of letters which the warden had sent to residents of Copt Hill and Essex County Highways. These letters had also been forwarded to the Community Police. Members were concerned regarding the cycling after dark. The Clerk confirmed that this was still happening.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **84.2 Request for Chairman**

The Warden had contacted the Parish Council to request whether the Parish Council would chair two meetings a year between the National Trust, the cyclists, Essex County Highways and the Police.

Cllr Keeler proposed Cllr Berlyn Chairman of the Council to chair the meetings this was seconded by Cllr Langley and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Berlyn, Chairman of the Council be put forward to chair the meetings.

### **84.3 Meeting with National Trust and Essex County Highways**

Cllr Keeler Chairman of Environment would be attending this meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Keeler would attend the meeting between the National Trust and Essex County Highways.

## **85 Ollets Belvedere Road**

Correspondence had been forwarded by a resident at Ollets who was concerned regarding the future of the complex. The Clerk had written to ascertain any information from Chelmer Housing Partnership and had also contacted Borough Councillor Cllr Ian Wright. No information was available at the current time. The Clerk would try to ascertain the position.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk would investigate the matter further.

**86 Matters for Report only**

The Clerk explained works which would be completed by Essex County Highways to try to lower the level of Runsell Green Pond. This work would take place during the week commencing the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

The Clerk had also spoken to Essex County Highways regarding the water in Penny Royal Road. This required an investigative work and would be looked at next year.

It was reported that the area of land owned by the National Trust outside the United Reformed Church was now puddling since the new path had been laid. Cllr Whiteing was concerned that the entrance would be hard to negotiate on the night of the Christmas Tree Lighting. The Clerk would contact the warden at the National Trust to see if they could complete works to rectify the position.

**87 Dates in 2009**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17 p.m.

Cllr A Keeler, Chairman

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Signed

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Date