

135 Public Question Time

135.1 Minerals and Waste Consultation

Cllr P Martin, Essex County Council Member and five members of the public attended.

Councillor P Martin was invited to speak

- Formerly cabinet member with responsibility for this plan which ceased in February 2008
- Aware of issues, representing Danbury village
- Agreed with all that had been said so far with the exception of lorry movements – 15 years of extraction, last 3 years inert extraction, digging for 12 years @ 250,000 tons per year, 20 tons per lorry equated to 500 lorry movements daily through Danbury (250 in and 250 out) would have huge impact.
- Totally inappropriate site for gravel extraction.
- There were four proposed sites and all will be objected to, therefore the quality of the objection will be vital.
- Only a proposal, it is early in the process, there will be further consultations throughout the process which will not be completed until 2012.
- Objections to be made very clearly by 12th March and site could then be removed from the document .
- Others Parish Councils have taken professional advice, suggested talking to Boreham and Little Baddow who may be able to give advice.

Members of the public present at the meeting were unhappy with the proposals, and were invited to give their views at the meeting, but to put comments in writing to the Essex County Council by 12th March, 2009 (the end of the consultation period).

Members of the Public asked Cllr Martin various questions:-

- Was there any possibility of using the extraction site as landfill ? – Councillor Martin confirmed it was not permissible
- Would there be increased lorry movements in the last 3 years? Councillor Martin - Yes there would only be inert materials used for re-instatement.
- Is part of the process a public enquiry? – Councillor Martin -yes in July 2011.
- Had he any thoughts on a public meeting in Danbury - Cllr Martin responded yes the meeting need to be earlier than 2 days before the deadline.
- Would lorry movements be through Danbury village? – Cllr Martin responded not necessarily, proximity is an issue, lorries could be routed through other villages. If a main road became blocked then protected lanes would be used.

Cllr Martin requested if there were any specific questions could these be made in writing and he would respond.

Cllr Clacy made a statement under Public Question Time which he stated may affect Council's decision on Minerals and Waste Consultation. He stated that the Parish Council should act swiftly and with vigour to let the minerals company know the strength of public feeling, and that the village would be blighted for twenty years if the proposal occurred. Parish Council was urged to act proactively and to form a sub committee and to seek legal advice, and to implore the minerals planning authority to seek an alternative site in the south west of the county where there were no extraction sites.

Members of the public made the following comments:-

- There had been several cases of house subsidence in Hyde Lane, including their own property, understanding that gravel could be built on if contained, but if moved problems would be caused.
- The value of properties would drop considerably and it would be difficult to sell if the gravel extractions were to proceed.
- A public meeting three days before the deadline did not give residents time to respond or to seek advice to formulate a response.
- Residents close to the proposed site were aware, but the whole of Danbury would be affected.

Parish Council responded:

- Every effort would be made to notify every household.
- It was not thought possible to request volunteers who deliver the Danbury Times to deliver leaflets.
- A large notice would be displayed on the main road 2-3 weeks prior to the public meeting.
- Parish Council would have no objection to the Press being involved.

135.2 Pedestrian Access between the Co-op and the Library

Cllr Martin was asked about 'the gap' between the Co-op and the Library and he confirmed that a lockable gate would be put in, paid for by the Co-op for "The Flyer" (Community Transport) to use.

135.3 Library

Cllr Martin also confirmed that there was no further movement re the future of the library – Essex County Council was still talking to users.

Cllrs H Clacy and J Thompson left the meeting at this stage.

134 Continued Minerals and Waste Consultation

It was agreed that the 9th March was too late for a public meeting.

Cllr F Hawkins proposed that as a first option that it was re-arranged for Monday 23rd February at Danbury Mission if it was available, 2nd option was the 16th February (half term) and 3rd option was the 2nd March. This proposal was seconded by Cllr M Telling. All members were in favour.

RESOLVED: that an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting would be held, as a first option on Monday 23rd February at Danbury Mission, if the venue was available. 16th February being the second option and 2nd March being the third option.

The Clerk informed members of workshops that were being arranged to discuss the process of the plan. Cllr S Berlyn proposed that the Chairman of Planning attend as the elected member to represent Danbury Parish Council, and a substitute would be

the Vice Chairman of Planning. The Chairman of Planning agreed subject to date. This proposal was seconded by Cllr M Telling and was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman of Planning represents Parish Council at the workshop to discuss the process of the Plan, subject to dates and his availability, and substitute be the Vice Chairman of Planning.

The Public and Cllr Martin were thanked for their attendance and left the Meeting.

Cllrs H Clacy and J Thompson returned to the meeting at this stage.

Cllr S Berlyn introduced Mr Pemberton who had come along to the meeting to listen as he was considering joining the Parish Council.

136 Minutes of the Meeting

Cllr D Powell requested an amendment to Minute 125 re Stansted – there were 3 votes not 2. The Clerk will check with the Assistant Clerk Planning - amendment would be completed if the Minutes required correcting.

(Subsequent to the Meeting the Minute 125 was checked and recorded was 2 votes not 3 therefore the Minute remains unaltered)

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th November, 2008, subject to amendment to number of votes in Minute 125 if required, be approved and signed as a correct record.

137 Tennis Club Lease

A further verbal approach had been made to the Tennis Club who planned to put this item on an Agenda in the near future.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

138 Vacancy for a Councillor

RESOLVED: that the matter was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

139 Parish Plan Review

RESOLVED: that the matter was deferred until after the consultation period on the Draft Danbury Planning Framework.

140 Charters

The Draft Charter with Chelmsford Borough Council had been circulated for comment.

A model charter had been produced by Government and responses to A Charter between Chelmsford Borough Council and the Parish and Town Councils within the Borough were requested by Chelmsford Borough Council.

The Clerk was part of the steering group and the results of work completed by the steering group was circulated to members. Part One was for all Councils and Part Two was for Quality Councils only. The Parish Council had been pressing for a charter to be set up for a number of years.

Members expressed their views which would be forwarded to the Clerk and Cllr S Berlyn proposed that the following paragraph be added:

“Chelmsford Borough Council elected representatives shall at Committee and Council Meetings support properly determined Policies and decisions made by local councils, relative to that local council’s boundary, as the council representing the more local community”.

This was agreed to be added.

RESOLVED: that it was essential that any further comments regarding this document be forwarded to the Parish Office by Friday 30th January as the Clerk, as part of the Steering Group had been requested to attend a further meeting in March which would consider the comments made by the Parish Councils.

b) the comment by Cllr Berlyn be added.

141 Mid-Essex Forum

Cllr H Clacy reported. The following matters were discussed:–

- Road Improvements were called for
- Rural housing needs
- Community Initiatives Fund
- Area Highway Panel
- Future Programme of Works
- Declarations to be declared by members of Forum

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

142 Parishes Support Group

Cllr D Whiteing reported on a meeting held at Chelmsford Borough Council to explain the situation regarding the withdrawal of the parishes support grant. The meeting was well attended and everyone accepted that the grant had to be withdrawn.

Chelmsford Borough Council was to ensure that Council Tax payers were made aware of the reasons behind their decision to withdraw the support grant to parishes.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

143 Publicity

143.1 Danbury Times

Cllr M Wood’s report had been circulated. As the Annual Parish Meeting had been brought forward to the 22nd April it had shortened preparation time – items from Chairmen and contributors were therefore requested as soon as possible.

There would be at least three distributors short which had meant that routes had been reallocated and some Councillors would be asked to take on additional streets. The worst case scenario was that Councillors would have only seven days to deliver and the publicity group would do its best to process the Danbury Times as quickly as possible. It may interest Councillors to know that over a third of the Danbury Times was delivered by volunteers and non elected members. Cllr Powell volunteered to deliver in Hyde Lane with some help from Cllr Clacy.

Cllr M Wood requested that thought be given as to who the speakers would be for the Annual Parish Meeting, which is being held in the Sports and Social Centre this year. It was suggested that all Borough Councillors were invited to speak. Members felt this was a good idea. An alternative suggestion was a speaker from EALC to speak on Quality Councils and taking on extra roles.

Cllr S Berlyn proposed that the Chief Executive from Chelmsford Borough Council and a representative from EALC be invited to speak. All members were in agreement to this proposal. A roving microphone would be required and Cllr D Bolwell agreed to check that PA system at the Sports Centre was suitable.

RESOLVED: that a) the Chief Executive of Chelmsford Borough Council regarding Charters and taking on extra roles and also a representative from EALC be invited. b) that Cllr Bolwell check the PA system at the Sports and Social Centre

144 Emergency Plan for Village

Cllr S Freeman would have information to present at next meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

145 Reports from Committees

145.1 Environment

Cllr A Keeler reported on footpaths.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

145.2 Facilities

Cllr F Hawkins reported on the youth shelter and purchase of a new ride-on mower. Although concerns had been raised about the open aspect of the youth shelter it had been the option that the youth representatives the Neighbourhood Action Panel and the Police had chosen.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

145.3 Planning

Cllr A Allen reported on Draft Danbury Planning Framework which was published for comment on the web and available in the library and the parish office to read.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

145.4 Resources

The Clerk was congratulated on her contribution to the re-accreditation of quality status for the Parish Council, which was one of a few councils that had met the very stringent requirements.

The Clerk was asked to write an article for the Danbury Times and the local Press, for which time was requested by the Clerk who is currently working on a number of urgent matters.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes an article for the Danbury Times and the local press.

146 Reports from Village Organisations

There were no matters to report

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

147 City of Danbury Connecticut

This item had been deferred from the last Parish Council Meeting.

Cllr D Whiteing gave a brief summary of the history and circulated some literature, explaining there was already a friendship between the City of Danbury and the Parish of Danbury. The Chairman had received the key for the City of Danbury some three years ago. It was felt that the friendship could not be expanded as both places were very different.

RESOLVED: It was proposed that the Clerk put together a letter of friendship and goodwill, explaining that this was a small Parish, and will send copies of the Danbury Times , Draft Planning Framework and the Footpaths Map.

148 Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity

Chapter 3 Review of Publicity Code circulated for information. Comments to be forwarded to the Clerk by 12th March 2009.

RESOLVED: that comments be forwarded to the Clerk by the 12th March, 2009.

149 Christmas Tree

A donation of £100 had been received from the Danbury Society towards the costs of installing the tree, fencing and lights.

RESOLVED: that a letter of thanks be sent to the Danbury Society.

150 Register of Interests

Members were reminded to inform the Clerk if there were any changes to their register of interests.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

152 Dispensation regarding Danbury Community Association

Members were reminded that the following dispensation was in place to discuss the Sports and Social Centre which had been confirmed by Chelmsford Borough Council Standards Board. The following councillors were included Cllrs Allen, Berlyn, Clacy, Hawkins, Keeler, Langley, Powell, Telling, Thomson, Wells, Whiteing, Wood.

The dispensation was in place for the four years that Councillors were elected.

RESOLVED: that any new councillors not included should contact the Clerk to be added.

153 Matters for Report (for information only)

153.1. Chairman's Evening

Booked for Friday 27th February, 2009 at the Parish Church Meeting Room 7.30p.m. for 8p.m.

153.2. Medical Centre

It was understood that the Archaeological Survey was underway on the Danbury Medical Centre site, and that it was planned to begin clearing the land by end of February before birds commenced nesting.

There were no other matters to report.

154 Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with S.1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to resolve that in view of the nature of the business to be discussed it was of the opinion of the Committee advisable to withdraw the Press and Public.

Mr Pemberton was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting for a 5 minute break.

The meeting was re-opened.

155 DCA

Chairman of Parish Council gave an audio visual presentation of some proposed future plans for the centre. Members expressed their view and concerns regarding the matter. The Clerk was asked to comment on the roles and responsibilities of Council members.

The Chairman of the Council left the meeting.

Cllr Whiteing was unanimously appointed as acting Chairman for this part of the meeting.

Cllr Whiteing took the Chair.

RESOLVED: that a) Members were reminded that the Parish Council was a Corporate Body and should act as such when in discussions with third parties.

b) members were reminded that they can share items of a delicate nature under private and confidential part of the meeting

c) the Clerk investigates Standing Orders to see if they require strengthening this would be done in conjunction with the National Association of Local Councils review of 12(2) Code of Conduct.

The Chairman of the Council was invited to return to the meeting and take his place.

The Chairman was informed of the resolutions.

156 Bowling Club Lease

The Bowling Club had returned comments on the lease and any comments from the Parish Council had been forwarded to the Council's solicitors. It was hoped that this matter could be brought to a conclusion as the Clerk must place an order with Chelmsford Borough Council by the end of March for the five years of work which would run concurrently with the lease. A Leases Working Party would be held to go through the documentation received back from the solicitor.

Cllr Langley was unanimously appointed to the Leases Working Group following the vacancy which had occurred when Cllr Brooks had passed away.

The Clerk updated Parish Council – the Leases Working Group was meeting on the 9th February at 7.30pm with Cllrs Berlyn, Hawkins, Wood. Cllr Langley was unanimously appointed as the fourth member of the group. All Councillors have had a copy of the lease and comments from the solicitors, and the Leases Working Group would discuss and then make recommendations to full Parish Council on 28th March.

RESOLVED: that the Leases Working Group would make recommendations to full Parish Council on 28th March re the Lease.

157 Drainage and Car Park Project

157.1 The Specification

The specification had been received and the Chairman of Facilities had gone through this with the Clerk. The specification was basically the same as the previous one with exception of the surface which had been changed. A variation of contract was to be avoided at this stage as it would incur costs, as the original specification had already been re-written. It was unanimously decided in favour of another Working Party meeting to consider the revised specification.

157.2 “Making it Happen Making the Links Project”

The Clerk had been approached by “Making it Happen Making the Links Project” which was linked to the Council’s Parish Plan for a project which the Council would be prepared to Precept 20% for. It was suggested that phase two of the Drainage and Car Park Project could be put forward. The Council was required to agree that 20% of this phase would be taken from Council Funds. An “Expression of Interest Form” would be completed and forwarded to the Rural Community Council to ascertain if the project met the criteria.

The Clerk confirmed that a Minute would be required for Parish Council to a financial commitment of 20% of phase two of the project which would be between £8000 to £9000. A two page expression of interest had been written.

Cllr F Hawkins proposed that 20% for Drainage i.e. £8-9,000 would be taken from Council Funds. The proposal was seconded by Cllr A Allen and was unanimous.

RESOLVED: that a) the Working Party would meet to consider the revised specification and
b) a financial commitment be made that the council would pay from funds 20% of the drainage phase of the project which would be between £8,000 and £9,000.

157.3 Complaint re Surface of Car Park

An e mail had been received complaining about the condition of the car parks. The Clerk was unaware whether it was from a local resident but had responded. The Clerk had confirmed that the car park and drainage project was being progressed which should address the problems that were raised.

It was suggested that the timetable of the project (from the beginning to the present time) be summarised in the next edition of the Danbury Times to demonstrate that the Parish Council was progressing this project.

DANBURY TIMES

RESOLVED: that the information be noted regarding the complaint and that a timetable of the project be summarised in the next edition of the Danbury Times.

158 British Legion Hut Survey

This matter was being taken to Resources.

RESOLVED : that the information be noted.

159 Dates of Meetings in 2009

25th March, Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April, Annual Parish Council 6th May, 29th July, 30th September and 25th November.

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.40pm.

Signed: Cllr S Berlyn, Chairman

Date: