

RESOLVED: that the matter would be discussed under Private and Confidential when their presentations would be discussed and votes would be taken. Parish Council's decision would be conveyed to them both the following morning, and the unsuccessful candidate would be encouraged to retain an interest and keep in touch.

172 Parish Plan Review

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

173 Charters

The meeting of the Steering Group that the Clerk was attending in March was cancelled.

Before consulting on a second draft of the Parish Charter, elected members from the Borough Council had asked for further information about which CBC services Parish/Town Councils would theoretically be interested in taking responsibility for.

The Parish Council would be asked to consider a list of functions that could potentially be devolved to the Parish level if it was mutually decided that this offered the best solution for local people.

RESOLVED: that decisions would be deferred until the next meeting to give colleagues time to consider the matter.

174 Mid-Essex Forum

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

- Enquiry on the A12 – Regional Development Agency and Highways involved
- A120 Improvements – no preferred route, £500k needed, to be reviewed 2014/2018, ECC to continue to lobby
- B1019– no major only minor safety improvements planned

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

175 Publicity

175.1 Danbury Times

Cllr M Wood requested two volunteers for the following week to help deliver the Danbury Times.

The Clerk reported that the Groundsman would not be on site end of next week to receive the delivery and accommodate sorting the distributions.

RESOLVED: that two volunteers would notify Cllr Wood by 26th March if they could assist the following week.

175.2 Speaker System for Annual Parish Meeting

There had been technical issues re microphones for the public address system for the Annual Parish Meeting that had now been resolved.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

176 Emergency Plan for Village

Cllr S Freeman had had no volunteers come forward and there were no further updates to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

177 Reports from Committees

177.1 Environment

Cllr A Keeler reported on footpaths.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

177.2 Facilities

Cllr F Hawkins reported.

Matters regarding the DCA were being discussed later on the Agenda.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

177.3 Planning

Cllr A Allen had no significant planning matters to report. The Draft Danbury Planning Framework was being considered on 7th April at Chelmsford Borough Council Cabinet Meeting and Cllr M Telling had agreed to attend.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

177.4 Resources

Cllr D Whiteing reported.

Re-accreditation of Quality Parish Council was being discussed later on in the Agenda.

Resources had approved a new accounts package that would now be ordered – the package offered many benefits and would save considerable time.

There had been an 11.8% increase in the DPC Council Tax although the Council had only increased the tax by 4.8%. An explanation had been written in the Borough Life, also the CBC booklet but there had already been an enquiry from a resident. It was suggested that there should be a draft response to send out when comments are received.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

There were no questions for Chairmen of Committees.

178 Reports from Village Organisations

178.1 Twinning

Cllr D Whiteing reported on Twinning and the difficulties in organising a trip this year.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

178.2 City of Danbury Connecticut

There was nothing to report.

RESOLVED: that this item be kept on the agenda.

179 NALC – Development of Sector

The Clerk updated members on the NALC Report which was a quarterly publication .

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

180 Minutes from Larger Local Councils Forum

The Clerk had attended the meeting held on 25th February 2009 – there had been many questions about the gravel extractions. Grants had been obtained through this valuable external link that offered many benefits.

It was suggested that speed indicator devices be raised at the forum to be considered in the quota for the next financial year, and linked to the Parish Plan.

The Clerk would keep members informed.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

181 Training – Power of Well Being

A two hour training course for councillors would be held at the Parish Office. Costs were, any weekday evening for £310 for 11 councillors plus trainers mileage, and £370 on a Friday and £390.00 on a Saturday plus additional expenses. £218 was left in the training grant for winning the Training Statement Award. The Council would be provided with a National Certificate.

The Clerk was completing her training on 28th March 2009 with the Society of Local Clerks and will then have to submit a report as an additional module to the AQA Certificate. More information about the requirement for 80% of the Councillors to be trained would be sought.

RESOLVED: that a course for councillors be booked on a weekday evening, once the Clerk had completed her training and was clear about the requirement for councillors to be trained.

182 Draft Planning Framework

Further correspondence had been received from a member of the public requesting that Parish Council reviews its policy regarding a by-pass.

Cllr F Hawkins proposed that Parish Council does not wish to review at present. The proposal was seconded by Cllr M Wood.

Cllr D Powell proposed an addendum in the return correspondence referring to a Parishes Transportation Group which was ongoing. The proposed addendum was seconded by Cllr A Allen commenting that the PTG could come back for PC to consider.

There was one abstention and other members were in favour.
The proposal was carried.

RESOLVED: that Parish Council does not wish to review at present.

183 Quality Status

Congratulatory letter had been received from the EALC confirming that Danbury Parish Council had been re-accredited for Quality Status. The Certificate was to be presented at a Chelmsford Borough Council meeting.

The Chairman congratulated councillors and staff for their contribution towards this award.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

184 Standing Orders

The Clerk was ascertaining information from EALC and the item was therefore deferred until the next meeting.

RESOLVED: that the agenda item would be deferred until the next meeting.

185 Matters to Report

The Clerk reported that the Groundsman had had a family bereavement.

RESOLVED: that the Groundsman be granted two/three days compassionate leave and his family be sent a bouquet of flowers and Parish Council's formal condolences.

There were no other matters to report.

186 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: that 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.

Before leaving the meeting Mr Pemberton and Mr Mills were thanked for their attendance.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm for a five minute break.

The meeting was re-opened.

Item 27 on the Agenda was taken next.

187 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Members discussed the presentations given by Mr Mills and Mr Pemberton and then voted on who should be invited to become a parish councillor.

The ballot came out in favour of Mr Pemberton.

RESOLVED: that Mr Pemberton should be invited to become a parish councillor.

Item 24 on the Agenda was taken next.

188 Bowling Club Lease

A meeting was held on 9th February with the Bowling Club to discuss the Lease, and there had been queries raised regarding the fire precautions in the premises.

Cllr F Hawkins proposed that that the Lease be signed as it stated that the landlord maintains the fire precautions and the Tenant keeps the property equipped with fire precautions. The proposal was seconded by Cllr M Wood. There was one abstention.

RESOLVED: that the Lease be signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council and Chairman of Facilities and witnessed by the Clerk, confirming to the Bowling Club that the Parish Council maintain the fire fighting equipment and the Bowling Club keep the property equipped with fire fighting equipment. .

Agenda Item 25 was taken next.

189 Drainage and Car Park Project

Phase II was commencing week of 30th March and contractors would be on site for two weeks.

Subsequent to the meeting Phase II was delayed due to one of the main contractors being off sick – it was hoped to commence week of 6th April.

Phase III - there had been queries regarding the surface of the car parks, marking out parking bays and lighting. A response had been received from CBC Planning Authority confirming that lighting and surfacing did not require planning permission, but should apply for a Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order.

Cllr F Hawkins proposed that Phase III of the specification be progressed without marking out parking bays. The proposal was seconded by Cllr D Powell. 11 members were in favour and 2 members were against. The proposal was carried.

There was also discussion regarding fencing along the edge of Pitch 2.

Cllr S Berlyn proposed that in order to move Phase III forward the fencing be taken out but the gate across still be included. The proposal was seconded by Cllr F Hawkins. There was one abstention. The proposal was carried.

RESOLVED: that Phase III of the specification be progressed a) without marking out parking bays, b) taking out fencing along the side of Pitch 2 but to still include gate across the entrance point from Mayes Lane Car Park.

Agenda Items 23 and 26 were taken together.

190 DCA

190.1 Emergency Lighting

Facilities Committee Minutes 180.1 and 180.2 had agreed to expenditure of £5,621.42 in relation to emergency lighting installations and maintenance and fixed wiring inspections in 2009/10, and there had been a shortfall of £438.

Cllr F Hawkins proposed that the shortfall be met from the 2009/10 DCA maintenance budget to progress the work and ensure building compliancy. The proposal was seconded by Cllr M Telling and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that £6,059.42 be spent on emergency lighting installations and maintenance and fixed wiring inspections in 2009/10 to ensure building compliancy.

190.2 Meeting with Competition Line

A meeting had taken place with representatives from the Parish Council , the DCA and Competition Line to discuss the way forward with the Sports and Social centre.

There was much discussion and it was thought that there were enormous decisions to be made therefore it was unanimously agreed that an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting be arranged to discuss ‘ Development of Parish Council Properties ‘, with specific questions from councillors being forwarded to the Clerk, and answers being obtained if possible prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: that an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting be arranged to discuss “Development of Parish Council Properties”.

191 Dates of Meetings in 2009

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 10.15pm.

Signed: Cllr S Berlyn, Chairman

Date: