

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL
A Quality Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2010
at 8.00pm at the Sports & Social Centre, Danbury

Present: Parish Cllrs: S Berlyn (Chairman), M Wood (Vice Chairman), Mrs Y Burton, D Bolwell, Mrs A Chapman, H Clacy, S Freeman, A Keeler, J Langley, A Pemberton, D Powell, M Telling, J Thomson and D Whiteing; County Cllr P Martin; representatives of Essex Police, and approximately 65 members of the public including representatives of many local clubs and organisations.

In attendance: Mrs M Saunders (Parish Clerk), Mrs E Blyth (Assistant Clerk), Mrs M Dyer (Assistant Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Borough Councillors C Kingsley, R Shepherd and I Wright (attending a Borough Council meeting); Mrs J Bradbury, RSPB; Mrs J Hanson, New Neighbours; Mrs J Hunt, Way Ahead Group.

1 Introduction

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Stuart Berlyn, welcomed all present to the meeting. He introduced the guest speaker, Mr Martin Pearce of the company EDF Energy which owned the nuclear power station site at Bradwell on Sea.

2 Guest Speaker – Martin Pearce, EDF Energy

Mr Pearce began by reminding the meeting of the Government's National Policy Statement on its energy strategy up to 2025. This had emphasised the role of low carbon energy sources – renewable and nuclear energy. 25 possible sites for new nuclear power stations had been identified. EDF Energy owned several of these and was considering new developments at three, one of which was Bradwell. Its preferred choices, however, were Sizewell and Hinkley, and it was therefore not progressing development at Bradwell at present, though Bradwell remained a potential site for future development by EDF Energy or another company.

Before any new development could begin, developers were required to carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment to take account of transport needs especially during construction, housing for staff and other local factors. An application must then be submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), and both the company and the IPC would carry out wide public consultations during the approval process. Mr Pearce stressed that planning consent would not be granted if there would be unacceptable impacts on the local community.

Mr Pearce invited questions from the audience and matters raised included waste management, roads and transport, decommissioning and site security. Regarding the nearby ancient Chapel of St Cedd and the Othona Community, Mr Pearce stressed that the Environmental Impact Assessment, involving English Heritage, would consider impacts on the whole of the area.

At the conclusion of questions the Chairman thanked Mr Pearce for attending and he left the meeting.

3 Parish Plan Review – Cllr Arthur Pemberton

The second speaker was Cllr Arthur Pemberton, who introduced the review of the Danbury Parish Plan and the '20-20 Vision' questionnaire which had been delivered

to all households in the village with the recent edition of *Danbury Times*. Cllr Pemberton explained that the Council needed to check that its policies on behalf of the village, based on the Parish Plan of 2003, were still what residents and businesses required. A Steering Group consisting of Danbury residents was assisting him with the review.

Cllr Pemberton urged all residents to complete the questionnaire so that the views given were as comprehensive as possible. As well as the paper copies and reply-paid envelopes already circulated, the questionnaire could also be completed online on the village website. Responses to the questionnaires would be analysed over the Summer period, and a report would appear in the Autumn edition of *Danbury Times*.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Pemberton and all the Steering Group members for the work they were undertaking in the Review.

4 Minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2009 had been circulated. Cllr Langley proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Wood and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd April 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record.

5 Chairman's Report

In his annual report on the work of the Council, the Chairman first welcomed two new Parish Councillors, Yvonne Burton and April Chapman, and a new member of the staff team, Maria Dyer. He paid tribute to Cllr Derick Hawkins, a long-serving councillor and Chairman of the Facilities Committee, who had passed away in February 2010, and to Cllr Arthur Allen who had resigned during the past year. There was currently one vacancy on the Council.

Cllr Wood, who had recently resigned as Editor of *Danbury Times* was thanked for his 13 years in the role. Chris Tressider, a former councillor who had for several years been responsible for preparing the newsletter copy for the press had also resigned as a result of work pressures. He was not able to be present at the meeting but the Chairman recorded the Council's thanks for his contribution.

Cllr Berlyn made three presentations. Former councillor Arthur Allen received an engraved glass tankard from colleagues in recognition of his work on the Parish Plan, the Danbury Planning Framework, and as Chairman of the Planning Committee. A presentation of a framed certificate was made to Carla Davis of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). Carla had led the team of volunteers who cleared weeds from the pond at Eves Corner in freezing conditions in February. Assistant Clerk Elisabeth Blyth received a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her nearly 10 years' service with the Council.

The Chairman highlighted the main main activities of the Council in the past year. These included:

- Completion of phase two of the Drainage and Car Parks project and progress in planning phase three;
- The award of runner-up in the Best Kept Village competition in Essex and third place in the website competition;

- The holding of a public meeting regarding the inclusion of Tyndale's Farm in Essex County Council's draft proposals for minerals extraction sites;
- The cleaning up of the pond at Eves Corner with help from the BTCV;
- Remedial work to the pond at Runsell Green and, in consultation with residents, the installation of posts to prevent parking on the green;
- Essential and substantial maintenance work to the Sports & Social Centre, which was now 25 years old. Electrical work was still to be completed;
- Refurbishment of the Scott Slaughter Memorial Seat – work carried out by a group of Danbury Scouts as part of their Chief Scout's Gold Award, for which they had been presented with a framed certificate by the Council;
- The levelling of the footpath by the water tower to improve access to Dawson Memorial Field at that point for wheelchairs and push-chairs;
- On-going work on the Danbury Planning Framework with the aim of having it accepted by Chelmsford Borough Council as a Supplementary Planning Document;
- Support for residents at Olletts regarding the future of the flats, which belonged to the Chelmer Housing Partnership;
- Resurfacing work by Essex County Council in Little Baddow Road and at Eves Corner, for which the Council had been lobbying.

The Chairman drew attention to the Annual Litter-Pick day which would occur shortly, and thanked councillors and staff for their support over the past year.

6 Report by the Chairman of the Resources Committee

Cllr David Whiteing, Chairman of the Resources Committee reported on the Council's accounts for the year 2008/09, the most recent available. He drew attention to the summary of the accounts published in the Spring 2010 edition of *Danbury Times*.

Cllr Whiteing described the pressures facing the Council in the current financial climate and stressed the Council's efforts to keep down costs and restrict the increase in the Precept to around 5%. This restriction would impact on large-scale projects such as the final phase of the drainage and car parks improvement scheme and some other works might need to be spread over more than one year.

No objections were made to the accounts for 2008/09, which were formally received.

7 Public question time

The Chairman thanked Cllr Whiteing for his report. Members of the public were then invited to ask questions or make comments on any village matters of concern. A number of items were raised and answers made, as follows:

- *The possibility of parking charges being introduced in the village car parks:*
The Parish Council was looking at this but no decision had yet been made.
- *The timing of the traffic lights outside the Co-op did not give enough priority to pedestrians.*
This had already been taken up with Essex County Council and a change had been made. The Council would raise this again.
- *Noisy manhole covers on the A414, especially near Danbury Palace:*
ECC Highways were aware of the problem but the Council would follow this up.

- *Water was tending to collect on Little Baddow Road near the URC church:*
This would be looked into and raised with Essex County Council.

8 Conclusion

At the conclusion of questions and discussion, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their support of the Council over the past year. He drew the meeting to a close at 9.35pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: