

**Danbury Parish Council**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting held remotely on 22 March 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs: A Chapman (Chairman, ex officio), S Berlyn, B Hallett (Vice-Chairman), L Anstee, G Chapman, N Orange

In Attendance: Mrs L Mitchelmore (Assistant Clerk), Ms M Harper (Clerk), Mr S Bird and one member of the public.

**20/21.64 Apologies for Absence**

A Keeler.

**20/21.65 Declarations of Interest**

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may 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 leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time. Members have dispensation to discuss and vote in respect of matters relating to the Precept and the DCA.

None

**20/21.66 Public Question Time**

Members of the public are invited to address the Council, give their views and question the Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration (at the discretion of the Chairman). Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself. At the close of this item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 5 minutes. Members of the public should address their representation through the Chairman of the meeting.

A member of the public gave an update on a Terracycling project, being undertaken by the Danbury Contact and Danbury Society, to collect crisp packets and deliver them to a local Terracycle collection point. Collection bins placed in the Co-op, Library, Cricketers and possibly the Community Centre would be emptied by volunteers. Grant funding had been applied for through Love Essex.

*Mr Bird had attended to discuss the Community Energy Project with the Committee under agenda item 20/21.69.1. Cllr A Chapman proposed that the item be moved up the agenda and all agreed.*

**20/21/69.1 Community Energy Group**

To discuss a Community Energy Group that has been formed in Danbury, with Mr S Bird and consider whether the Parish Council would participate.

Mr Bird explained that a group of 4 or 5 residents had formed a community energy group with support from Community Energy South and Essex County Council who had sponsored a community event for Danbury. The group could undertake a range of activities from providing information to residents to forming a Community Energy Company or Co-op. The group would engage with residents to understand what activities to undertake and had been recommended to contact the

Parish Council. After a discussion, Mr Bird was asked to inform the Clerk when the next meeting would be held so that an invitation could be extended to Councillors to attend.

#### **20/21.67 Minutes of the Environment Committee**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 18 January 2021 were approved and would be signed as a true record.

#### **20/21.68 Actions from the Minutes**

The action from the minutes were noted. Cllr Berlyn requested that Cllr Daden, the Parish Councils' Representative on the Local Highways Panel be asked to provide a written report with updates about her progress on the Local Highways Panel.

#### **20/21.69 Climate Change**

##### **20/21/69.1 Community Energy Group**

*Cllr A Chapman had proposed that this item be moved up the agenda to before item 20/21.67 and all agreed.*

##### **20/21.69.2 Climate Change**

Members considered the presentation slides from the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) Conference about ways in which Parish Councils can act on Climate Change and identified potential schemes for implementation by the Parish Council to be discussed at the meeting scheduled for 10 May 2021. Cllrs Anstee, A Chapman and Thombs had submitted ideas to the clerk that would be brought to the next meeting.

Potential schemes raised were:

- The provision of electric vehicle charging points.
- Work with schools to reduce meat and dairy consumption and a reduction in food waste.
- The provision of a community fridge to reduce food waste.
- Encourage residents to reduce air travel – be flight free for a year.
- Promote recycling in local businesses.
- Switching off electrical items rather than leaving them on standby.

A toolkit from SLCC would be used to collate ideas.

It was agreed that a working party would be formed and that members of the Parish Council be invited to join. Members were asked to inform the Clerk if they wished to join the group. The Clerk would invite the Chelmsford City Council Climate Change Ambassador to meet with the working party.

#### **20/21.70 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)**

##### **20/21.70.1 LHP Request LCHE152104 The Heights Service Road**

The Assistant Clerk gave a verbal report on the meeting with residents, hosted by County Cllr Spence on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021. After a long discussion, Mrs Avery and Cllrs Sutton and Orange, had volunteered to consult with residents to determine whether a majority would support double yellow lines.

##### **20/21.70.2 LHP Schemes Review**

Members reviewed the LHP Schemes requested by the Parish Council and considered:

i. whether to make a request for a less costly scheme for The Heights Service Road. The request to the LHP was to reduce pavement parking and create a lay-by to provide parking space. Double yellow lines would prevent pavement parking. Concerns were raised that yellow lines would push parking further into the residential areas and that there may need to be some action to protect the greensward parking. Members agreed to wait to see the results of the double yellow lines consultation.

ii. whether to request that the Resources Committee recommend to Full Parish Council that it contribute £12,500 (total scheme cost £25,000) towards the A414 Route Based Strategy Study if the LHP does not agree to fund the scheme in full at its meeting on 18 March 2021.

At their meeting held on 18 March 2021, the LHP had agreed to fund the A414 route-based strategy in full and so there was no need to discuss this point.

iii. whether to request that the Resources Committee recommend to Full Parish Council that it contribute £30,000 (total scheme cost £129,000) towards the scheme for a Walkable Verge between Penny Royal Road and Mayes Lane.

After a short discussion, members agreed not to make this request to the Resources committee.

There was some disappointment that the proposed scheme for a width restriction at Sporhams Lane had been determined to be not feasible by the LHP. Members requested that the Highways Liaison Officer be asked whether it would be possible to install 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs and for an update regarding Quiet Lane Status.

#### 20/21.70.3 A414 Traffic Survey

Members received a report and considered submitting a request to the Local Highways Panel for a traffic survey on the A414 as deferred from the Environment Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (minute 20/21 16).

After a discussion, Cllr A Chapman proposed that the decision be deferred until the A414 Route-based Strategy had been completed and traffic levels had recovered to pre-coronavirus levels, and members agreed. The Assistant Clerk would explain the decision to the Danbury Society as they had made the request to the Parish Council for the survey.

#### 20/21.71 Footpaths

Members received the updated Footpaths Issues report and a verbal report from the Footpath Officer, including an update on the Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

It was highlighted that some of the dates on the list were reported two years ago. Some items may need chasing but it may be possible for the P3 group to be involved with some of the repairs and finger post and way marker sign replacements.

#### 20/21.72 Bus Transportation

The report from the Passenger Transport Representative was noted.

**20/21.73 Trees and Open Spaces**

Members considered a request as to whether there would be any volunteering opportunities for a local Scouts Group and identified potential volunteering opportunities:

Bench maintenance and weather proofing – this would be referred to the Facilities Committee.

Planting bulbs around the village in the Autumn

Make bug hotels from rotten wooden posts – this would be referred to the Facilities Committee.

Litter Picking at the Dawson Memorial Field.

**20/21.74 Matters for Report (for information only)**

Cllr Anstee had attended a Love Essex Webinar about waste prevention and reduction and offered to forward the slides to members.

Cllr Anstee reported that Essex residents were being invited to register their interest in Solar Together by Essex County Council.

Cllr Berlyn reported that there had been several complaints regarding tree works at Poors Piece and requested that enquiries be made with the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Cllr G Chapman reported that it was possible that some residents may have misunderstand the no-cycling signs on footpaths as meaning that cycling was permitted.

It was reported that the road on the approach to Danbury from Maldon was very muddy and please would the Assistant Clerk contact the agent for the Quarry to request that it be swept up.

Cllr Orange enquired as to whether there were any opportunities to improve safety for pedestrians crossing Well Lane to and from the Country Park. There was an LHP request to improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Danbury Park School in validation.

**20/21.75 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 10 May at 7.30pm by Zoom.

There being no more business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.19pm.

Chairman

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Signed

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Date