



**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room, The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury**

**Present:** Cllrs: Mrs A Chapman (Chairman, ex officio), Mrs B Hallett, S Berlyn (ex officio), C Baker, G Chapman, D Chesterman, Mrs M Hessian, A Keeler, J Steele, J Thombs.

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Mitchelmore (Assistant Clerk)

**83. Apologies for Absence**  
There were no apologies.

**84. Declarations of Interest**  
All Members were reminded that they must disclose any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests they knew they might have in items of business on the meeting's agenda and that they must do so at this point on the agenda or as soon as they became aware of the interest. They were reminded that they would need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest was a pecuniary one. They were also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the meeting, if they had not previously notified her about it. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

Cllr D Chesterman declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 101.

**85. Public Question Time**  
There were no members of the public present.

**86. Minutes**  
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**87. Actions from the Minutes**  
The action list was noted. Subsequent to the agenda being published:

- 18/19 25c: the bridge at footpath 15 had been repaired.
- 18/19 76.1: works were being scheduled to clean the sharp bend signs on Main Road.
- 18/19 46.3: The third contractor had arranged to meet with the Assistant Clerk on 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- 18/19 25b: Cllr J Steele had identified additional amendments required for the footpaths map and would send these to the Assistant Clerk.
- 18/19 27a: 3 potholes had been filled on Belvedere Road.

## **88. Footpaths**

### **88.1. Footpath Officer Reports**

The footpath officers had reported that:

- Footpath 41 had been cleared of rubbish and old equipment, and a drop down to the fence had been filled in.
- The bridge at footpath 15 had been repaired, however another bridge on the same footpath was in need of repair.
- A resident had reported to Cllr G Chapman on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, that a tree on footpath 17 was damaged and could fall onto the footpath. This was reported to the Essex County Council (ECC) PROW Inspector and the tree was removed that day. The residents were appreciative of the quick action taken and the ECC PROW Inspector had been thanked.

### **88.2. Reported Footpath Matters**

The list of reported items was noted and Cllr G Chapman reported that item ref: 18/19 2 (waterlogging at footpath 15) had yet to be resolved and that that stretch of footpath 15 had been waterlogged and impassable at the weekend. Cllrs discussed potential solutions and whether grant funding would be available, however the footpath was the responsibility of Essex Highways.

### **88.3. Footpaths Maps**

It was noted that there were approximately 650 footpath maps in stock.

### **88.4. Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3).**

**88.4 (iii)** Cllr A Chapman informed the committee that the initial training to install the way marker and finger posts had been cancelled.

The Chairman proposed that items 88.4 (i) and (ii) be considered together and members agreed.

**88.4 (i) and (ii).** Members had received information relating to the P3 scheme and notes from the meeting held with the ECC PROW and Localism Officer and considered a proposal from Cllr G Chapman that the Parish Council participate in the P3 scheme. The Clerk recommended that the P3 group should be a sub-committee of the Environment Committee with delegated spending power (TOR to be determined). After a lengthy discussion, members agreed.

#### **Resolved:**

That the Parish Council would participate in the P3 Scheme.  
Proposed by Cllr G Chapman, seconded by Cllr D Chesterman and all agreed.

## **89. Bus Transportation**

### **89.1. Passenger Transport Representative**

It was noted that the Passenger Transport Representative had reported that:

- the next ECC Transport meeting would be held in June
- that in response to the request for agenda items, they would again raise the issue of the out of date bus stop timetables and incorrect information on the flags at bus stop signs.

### **89.2. Passenger Transport Meetings**

**89.2.1.** The minutes of the Chelmsford and Basildon Transport Meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 had been received and were noted.

**89.2.2.** It was noted that First Bus Representatives had attended both of the above meetings and confirmed that there was no need to contact them regarding attendance.

**RESOLVED:** that a letter would not be sent to First Bus.

### **89.3. Bus Shelter Cleaning**

It was noted that the current contract for bus shelter cleaning would expire in December 2019 and that it would be handed over to the Facilities Committee in May 2019 due to the re-structuring of committees.

## **90. Highways Matters (reported items):**

**90.1** The list of reported items was noted and members reported that:

- 18/19 12: the bus flag had been cleaned
- 18/19 25: the road surface had been cleaned
- 18/19 24: the green cabinet outside the new development in Butts Lane had been removed.

**90.2** The response from Essex County Council with regards to the dirty bend signs on Main Road was received but a subsequent notification had been received to state that the works were being scheduled.

## **91. Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)**

**91.1.** It was noted that the next meeting of the LHP was due to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

### 91.2. LHP Potential Schemes

It was noted that the following were on the LHP Potential Schemes List for 2018/19, updated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

Location	Description	Comments
Sporhams Lane	Width restriction on road to prevent goods vehicles damaging verges.	In Validation – waiting for outcome of request for quiet lane status under LCHE152012.
Well Lane to the Heights – Service Road	One-way road	From Feasibility Study shared at June 2018 Panel Option 2 - Make one-way with carriageway and layby improvements
Penny Royal Road/Mayes Lane to Woodhill Road	Implementation of footway/walkable verge to link two parts of village	Estimated costs, design under review.
Bicknacre Road	Improvements to traffic warning signs	Awaiting Results of feasibility Study.
Danbury Vale	Feasibility study into flood alleviation works	Awaiting results of feasibility study.

### 91.3. LHP Approved Schemes

It was noted that the following were on the LHP Approved Schemes List for 2018/19, updated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

Location	Description	Comments
Bicknacre Road	Feasibility study into improvements to traffic warning signs	Finish date Jan 2019
Penny Royal Road/Mayes Lane to Woodhill Road	Design of Footway/Walkable verge	Finish date Jan 2019
Danbury Vale	Feasibility study into flood alleviation works	Finish date Jan 2019

91.4. The following LHP scheme updates that had been requested were noted:

- The costs of the Heights Road Scheme were under review
- The design of the walkable verge would be shared with the Parish Council once it had been completed.
- Information relating to the scheme proposed for Bicknacre Road would be shared with the Parish Council once it had been completed.

**92. Request from St John's School**

Subsequent, to their resolution at the meeting of 28th January (minute 76.4) to support the request from St John's School for a 20mph speed limit with signage including WigWag lights outside St John's School, it had been suggested by County Councillor Spence that either the School or Parish Council submit the request to the LHP. The Headteacher had requested that the Parish Council submit the request.

RESOLVED: to submit a request to the LHP for an advisory 20mph speed limit with relevant signage and road markings to be installed as needed outside St John's School. Proposed by Cllr D Chesterman, seconded by Cllr J Thombs and all agreed.

**93. Traffic Count Along Little Baddow Road**

Members received a letter from a resident and considered a proposal from Cllr J Thombs to request a traffic count in the location of St John's School – location to be provided as discussed. Cllr Chapman noted that it should be requested that the count not take place during the school holidays. This was in response to concerns raised about the speed of traffic along the Little Baddow Road at the Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (minute 76.4). Members suggested asking Speedwatch to do some sessions in that area and also outside Danbury Park School (referring to agenda item 101).

RESOLVED: that a traffic count be requested at the location specified and sent to the Assistant Clerk and that it be requested that this not be conducted during school holidays. Proposed by Cllr J Thombs, seconded by Cllr Hessing and all agreed.

**94. Request from a resident for Slow Down/Concealed Entrance sign/Road Markings**

Members received a report and considered a request from a resident, made to County Councillor Spence, for a Slow Down/Concealed Entrance sign/road markings to warn drivers approaching Danbury on the A414, from the direction of Maldon, that there is a junction close to the bend. It was suggested that the speed limit up to Cherry Garden lane should be 30mph rather than 40mph. After a discussion members agreed to submit a request to the LHP for a new 'junction on bend ahead' warning sign and a white 'SLOW' marking in the road.

RESOLVED: that a request would be submitted to the LHP for a new 'junction on bend ahead' warning sign and a white 'SLOW' marking in the road.

**95. Fly Posting**

Members received and noted the clarification of the definition of flyposting and when it would be appropriate to remove it and keep or dispose of it.

**96. Wild Flower Proposal for Griffin Meadow**

Members considered the response from the Land Agent received on 7th March 2019, that the Wild Flower Proposal was not compatible with how the Landowner would like the land to be managed at that time.

Cllr B Hallett requested that the Living landscapes be brought back to the next agenda.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

**97. Tree Charter**

At the Committee Meeting held on 28th January, it had been resolved to sign the Tree Charter. It was found subsequently that it was not possible for organisations to sign the Tree Charter and members received correspondence from the Woodland Trust indicating that that the parish Council could best support the Tree Charter by becoming a Charter Branch. Members also received correspondence from NALC explaining the ramifications of becoming a Tree Charter Branch.

Members considered forming a working group to work towards embedding the tree charter principles into Parish Council Policy and Procedure, raising awareness and becoming a Tree Charter Branch. During the discussion, Cllr G Chapman informed the committee that he would lead some woodland walks.

RESOLVED: that a working group be formed to work towards embedding the tree charter principles into Parish Council Policy and Procedure, raising awareness and becoming a Tree Charter Branch. Cllrs Mrs Hallett, D Chesterman, G Chapman and Mrs Chapman would join the group.

**98. Parish Cleansing Days**

A letter from Chelmsford City Council had been received regarding Parish Cleansing Days and members considered which areas required attention and preferred dates.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council would request the following dates in order of preference 1<sup>st</sup> August, 15<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September for Footpath Sweeping, Road Sweeping and Litter Picking along the A414 from the Parish Boundary adjacent to the Royal Oak Quarry and the Esso Garage/Tesco Express.

**99. Keep Britain Tidy**

Members received and considered correspondence from Keep Britain Tidy regarding the 'Great British Spring Clean.' Cllr Berlyn reported that a local organisation were organising a litter pick with support from Chelmsford City Council.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council would not organise a litter pick at this time.

**100. New Neighbour Packs**

Members discussed ways in which New Neighbour Packs could be delivered to residents who had recently moved into the village. The Assistant Clerk reported that the New Neighbour packs were advertised in the monthly news updates in the Focus and Contact magazines and that new residents or their neighbours often call into the Parish Office to collect them. Members considered that notices advertising the packs could be placed in locations around the village such as the notice boards and local businesses/facilities.

**101. The Zebra Crossing Outside the Bell**

Members received correspondence from a resident raising concerns about near misses at the zebra crossing outside the Bell/Danbury park School. Cllr D Chesterman suggested that a zebra crossing be installed along Well Lane outside Danbury park School but was informed that this had been previously considered by Essex Highways and would not be possible due to sight lines.

The Highways Liaison Officer had recommended to the Assistant Clerk that a request could be submitted to the LHP for a safety review of the crossing, subject to support from the County Councillor. After a long discussion, members requested further information about what a safety review would include and whether a pelican crossing could be requested, before further action would be considered.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk would seek further information about what a safety review at the crossing would include and whether a pelican crossing could be requested.

**102. Matters for Report**

It was reported that the surface water drains along the Little Baddow road from Eves Corner were blocked.

There had been a traffic count conducted on the A414, would it be possible for the Parish Council to see the results?

**103. Forthcoming Meetings 2019**

Meetings were scheduled for 30th May 2019 and 22nd July 2019 at 7.30pm at the Parish Council Office.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42 pm.

Chairman

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Signed

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Date