

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

**Minutes of the Meeting held remotely on 14 September 2020 at 7.30pm**

Present: A Chapman (Chairman, ex officio), B Hallett (Vice-Chairman), L Anstee, G Chapman, A Keeler, J Thombs

In Attendance: Mrs L Mitchelmore (Assistant Clerk), Ms M Harper (Clerk) and 11 members of the public.

*(Some members of the public were removed from the meeting at various points due to disruptive behaviour unrelated to the items being discussed.)*

**20/21.24 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Berlyn

**20/21.25 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

**20/21.26 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.

Generally, most members of the public were in attendance to listen to item 20/21 30.3 (Cycling at Danbury Common) being discussed. Some had written letters to the Parish Council that had been previously forwarded to members of the committee.

Cllr A Chapman proposed that agenda item 20/21.30.3 be brought forward and all agreed.

**20/21. 30.3 Cycling at Danbury Common**

Members considered a report regarding a concern raised about cycling at Danbury Common and feedback relating to this issue from the meeting held with the National Trust and residents regarding parking and cycling at Copt Hill and Danbury Common.

Cllr A Chapman gave a brief overview of the issues and the meeting that had been held, with The National Trust, Cllrs S Berlyn and G Chapman and Copt Hill Residents, regarding parking at Copt Hill and the numbers of mountain bikers using Danbury Common.

It was made clear that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction over parking on public highways, or mountain bikers using Danbury Common as this was National Trust Land. The Parish Council had requested a meeting with the South Essex Parking Partnership and residents to determine what the best solution would be to parking issues along Copt Hill.

The members of the public were concerned that a minority of mountain bikers were causing issues and that it was reflecting badly on responsible bikers. They felt that parking restrictions would be helpful at Copt Hill. Many bikers parked in the National Trust Car Parks, including one person in attendance who commuted in to use the woods from outside the area.

One member of the public was intending to set up a liaison group with the National Trust and another volunteered to join the group. They thought that there were new bikers in the area due to Covid 19 and that it may be beneficial to engage with them. Cllr A Chapman requested that the Parish Council be kept informed of any progress with the liaison group.

Members of the public were thanked for attending and invited to stay for the rest of the meeting if they so wished. Most members of the public left the meeting.

#### **20/21.27 Minutes of the Environment Committee**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were approved and would be signed as a true record.

#### **20/21.28 Actions from the Minutes**

The actions from the minutes were noted.

#### **20/21.29 Trees and Open Spaces**

##### **20/21.29.1**

It was noted that tree works were brought forward from 2021, to the Oak Tree T8 on Pedlars path due to nuisance being caused to residents by overhanging branches, at a cost of £300.

##### **20/21.29.2**

Members received a report and quotes for the Annual Tree Survey and after some discussion determined who the contract would be awarded to for the survey to be conducted in 2020. Graham Underhill Tree Consultancy was awarded the contract subject to references.

RESOLVED: that the Environment Committee was happy to appoint Underhill Tree Consultancy subject to the provision of references that were satisfactory to the Clerk and the Chairman of the Committee. If the references were not satisfactory, the next least expensive quote would be awarded the contract.

Proposed: Cllr A Chapman. Seconded Cllr B Hallett, agreed by majority vote.

##### **20/21.29.3 Planting Scheme – Eves Corner and Runsell Green**

Members considered a request from Cllr A Chapman to use the funds of £250 reserved for planting schemes at Eves Corner and Runsell Green to purchase non-peat compost, bulbs and plants for the flower bed outside the Old Pavilion.

RESOLVED: that the funds of £250 reserved for planting schemes at Eves Corner and Runsell Green be used to purchase Compost, bulbs and plants for the flower bed outside the Old Pavilion.

Proposed: Cllr A Chapman, seconded: Cllr Hallett, all agreed.

## **20/21.30 Footpaths**

### 20/21 30.1

The notes from the footpath officers were noted and issues raised would be reported to Essex County Council.

### 20/21 30.2 Co-option of Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme Volunteers

There had been 5 responses to the advert for volunteers to participate in the P3 sub-committee/footpath working parties. One of those would not be available until the new year, however a meeting was held with 4 prospective footpath volunteers on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm where Cllr G Chapman and Mr A Masson – the Parish Council Footpath Officers – explained the scheme. Members had received a written introduction from each volunteer and considered their co-option to the P3 sub-committee.

RESOLVED: that Mr G Barrett, Ms M Hunscher, Mrs C Watts and Mr A Watts be co-opted to the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) sub-committee.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs A Chapman, seconded: Cllr G Chapman, all agreed.

As Cllr G Chapman and Mr, A Masson are existing members, this would make the committee quorate with 6 members.

### 20/21. 30.3 Cycling at Danbury Common

Cllr A Chapman proposed that agenda item 20/21.30.3 be brought up the agenda and all agreed.

## **20/21.31 Bus Transportation**

The report from the Passenger Transport Representative was noted.

## **20/21.32 Highways Matters**

The updated list of reported highways items was noted and an update given for reported item H20/21 6. The bollard at Mayes Lane was being scheduled for repair.

## **20/21.33 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)**

### 20/21 33.1

It was noted that the next meeting of the LHP would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### 20/21 33.2

It was noted that the designs for the Advisory 20mph limit and wig wag signs outside St John's School had been received and distributed to Councillors and the Head Teacher of St John's School and comments invited. No comments had been received and the Highways Liaison Officer advised accordingly.

## **20/21 34 Potential items for the 21/22 Environment Committee Budget**

Cllr A Chapman had given some budget ideas to the Assistant Clerk prior to the meeting and members were asked that if they had any budget ideas, to inform the Clerk by the end of September so the prices could be obtained ahead of the meeting scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> November.

## **20/21.35 Matters for Report (for information only)**

It was reported that a survey for Solar Panels at Danbury Park School had been completed and that 'no cycling' signs had been installed at Danbury Park.

The Assistant Clerk reported that:

i) a letter had been received from a resident regarding traffic speeds on the A414 at Runsell Green and a detailed response had been sent with regards to the process for applying for measures to reduce speeds. If the resident would like the Parish Council to make any such applications then they were asked to contact the Assistant Clerk. No response had been received.

ii) correspondence had been received from Cllr Sutton regarding parking issues at the Heights. The Assistant Clerk would monitor this.

iii) litter picking volunteers had been contacted and 20 had replied to say that they would continue to participate in the scheme. They would be contacted to confirm litter picking locations.

**20/21.36 Date of next meeting**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November to be held remotely by Zoom at 7.30pm.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Chairman

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Signed

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Date