



**Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th November 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 (Vice-Chairman), S Berlyn (ex officio), C Baker, G Chapman, D Chesterman, A Keeler

In Attendance: Mrs L Mitchelmore (Assistant Clerk), Ms M Harper (Parish Clerk), Cllr L Anstee

**19/20.60 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Thombs.

**19/20.61 Declarations of Interest**

All Members were reminded that they must disclose any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests they know they may 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 become 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.

None.

**19/20.62 Public Question Time (15 minutes allocated)**

None.

**19/20.63 Minutes**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September were approved and signed as a true record.

**19/20.64 Actions from the minutes**

The actions from the minutes were noted. Action 18/19 46.4 relating to the bus shelters would be removed.

**19/20.65 Trees**

19/20 65.1 Tree Charter

There had been no meeting of the Tree Charter Group. A meeting would be arranged for January 2020.

19/20 65.2 Tree Survey

Members noted the tree survey report and that costs would be available at the Committee Meeting scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> January when recommended works to trees would be considered.

**19/20.66 Ponds**

Members noted the report regarding the works carried out at Eve's Corner and Runsell Green Ponds by the Conservation Volunteers.

### **19/20 67 Strategic Land Review**

As Cllr J Thombs, who had requested the Strategic Land Review, was not in attendance at the meeting, the Clerk recommended that this item be deferred until the Environment Committee Meeting Scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, this was proposed by Cllr S Berlyn and all agreed.

RESOLVED: that the strategic land review be deferred until the Environment Committee Meeting scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **19/20.68 Footpaths**

#### **19/20 68.1 Footpath Officer Reports**

Cllr G Chapman reported that a leak had been identified at footpath 15 and repaired. The path was still wet, however that may have been exacerbated by the recent wet weather. It was also reported that the Footpath 11 was no longer blocked at Riffhams Lane.

#### **19/20 68.2 Reported Footpath Matters**

Members noted the list of reported items.

### **19/20 68.3 Footpath Maps**

19/20 68.3.1 Members noted that there were around 200 footpath maps in stock.

19/20 68.3.2 Members received and considered the report regarding the proposed amendments to the Footpath Map and associated costs. It was noted that there was a typo in item 15 – ‘16’ should read ‘61’ and the Assistant Clerk would amend this. The photograph labelled Hyde Chase J6 should be relabelled Hyde Lane/Mill Lane J4. Cllr Hallett proposed that the photograph label be amended and that if with the additional cost of this amendment the costs remained below the budget of £750, to proceed with the map update and printing. Cllr G Chapman seconded the proposal and then proposed an amendment that a proof must be provided prior to the map being printed and Councillor Chesterman seconded and all agreed.

RESOLVED: that subject to the typo being amended, the ‘Hyde Chase J6’ being amended to read ‘Hyde Lane/Mill Lane J4’, the total cost remaining under the budget of £750 and a proof being provided. that the Map be amended and printed.

Proposed: Cllr G Chapman, Seconded: Cllr Chesterman and all agreed.

*(Subsequently, it was confirmed by the Footpath Officer that the photograph ‘Hyde Chase J6’ was indeed of Hyde Chase and not Hyde Lane/Mill Lane as thought in the meeting.)*

### **19/20 69 Circular Walks**

Cllr Chesterman had proposed that an official circular walk of three distances be created to include key historical locations in the village and points of interest, and encourage residents to discover, or rediscover, their amazing village and help visitors to enjoy the village. As it transpired that the Danbury Society had already produced a Circular Walk, Cllr Chesterman withdrew the proposal.

Whilst being available online, the Danbury Society Circular Walk booklet was currently out of print and so Cllr Chesterman proposed discussing getting the booklets reprinted with the Danbury Society to coincide with the reprinting of the new footpath map. The booklet could be included in the New Neighbour Packs and may assist the Health and Wellbeing Committee to promote walking in conjunction with the Medical Centre. Cllr A Chapman would raise it at the Danbury Society AGM.

RESOLVED: that a discussion be held with the Danbury Society to consider getting the Circular Walk booklet reprinted to coincide with the reprinting of the Footpath Map.

Proposed: Cllr Chesterman. Seconded: Cllr Berlyn and all agreed.

Cllr A Chapman would refer to the Clerk to talk about Micro-grants and report back. Cllr Berlyn suggested that the Footpath Maps be put in the Medical Centre.

### **19/20 70 Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme Sub Committee**

There had been no meeting of the P3 Sub Committee. A meeting would be arranged for January 2020.

### **19/20 71 Bus Transportation**

Members noted the report from the Passenger Transport Representative.

### **19/20 72 Reported Highway Matters**

Items H18/19 17, 32 and 33 had been completed.

The Bollard outside Tesco had not yet been repaired and was now almost horizontal. A faulty streetlight in Hawks Close had been reported by a resident but had yet to be repaired. The faulty streetlight at Eve's Corner was still awaiting repair.

A suggestion was made that there be a 'smiley face' speed sign installed along the A414. A safety review had been requested through the Local Highways Panel recently and the results were being awaited. Cllr Baker had investigated the costs of speed indication devices (SID) and they were up to £6000 for 2.

### **19/20 73 Condition of the Footways in the Belvedere Road Area**

Members considered a proposal from Cllr Chesterman that a letter be written to County Cllr Spence on the matter of the poor condition of the footways around the Belvedere Area.

The Parish Council had previously written to the Portfolio Holder for Essex Highways regarding the condition of the highways in the Belvedere Road Area. The footways had been submitted to County Cllr John Spence for inclusion in his submission to the Essex Highways for repair. County Cllr Spence had reported in his Parish Update that as the whole area required footway reconstruction, it was beyond the scope of that project but was ranked at 115 on the Chelmsford list for works.

Cllr Chesterman had previously distributed suggested wording by email and Cllr Baker had requested that this wording be amended.

Cllr Berlyn proposed that a letter of complaint be written, by the clerk, to the Portfolio holder for Infrastructure, inviting them to visit the Belvedere Road area, copying in Councillor Spence.

RESOLVED: that a letter of complaint be written, by the clerk, to the Portfolio holder for Infrastructure, inviting them to visit the Belvedere Road area, copying in Councillor Spence.

Proposed: Cllr Berlyn, Seconded: Cllr Chesterman and all agreed.

### **19/20 74 Traffic Speeds Along the Woodhill Road**

Members considered a report regarding traffic speeds along the Woodhill Road. Cllr Chapman had been approached by residents concerned about safety when turning out onto the Woodhill Road from driveways and side roads. Cllr Chesterman had also been approached by residents and had emailed a report to members prior to the meeting, proposing that the speed limits in Danbury be reviewed. As this proposal and report had not been included in the agenda, Cllr Chesterman suggested that this item could be deferred until the meeting scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> January where the Woodhill Road and his report could be considered together. After a discussion regarding speed limits in the village and previous request for reduced speeding limits, Cllr Berlyn proposed that the item be deferred to the New Year to include the report from Cllr Chesterman and invite a representative from Essex Highways to either address the committee or meet with members during the day.

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred to the New Year, to include the report from Cllr Chesterman and to invite a representative from Essex Highways to either address the committee at the meeting or meet with members during the day.

Proposed: Cllr Berlyn, Seconded Cllr Hallett and all agreed.

### **19/20 75 Farleigh Hospice**

Members considered a request to place an advertisement on the Dawson Memorial Field Hedge (in the vicinity of the bus stop), throughout December/early January to advertise the Farleigh Tree Hospice Tree Recycling. After some discussion it was agreed that the advertisement could be placed just forward of the hedge (but not attached to it) two weeks prior to Christmas and up to the last date for booking a tree collection.

RESLOVED: that the advertisement could be placed just forward of the hedge (but not attached to it) two weeks prior to Christmas and up to the last date for booking a tree collection.

### **19/20 76 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)**

19/20 76.1 Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and that the next meeting had been scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

19/20 76.2 Members noted the following LHP Schemes Awaiting Funding – updated 1<sup>st</sup> October 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. Estimated Cost £81,500.
Penny Royal Road/Mayes Lane to Woodhill Road	Implementation of footway/walkable verge to link two parts of village	Estimated costs, design under review. Total Scheme Estimated Cost £90,000
A414 Maldon Road nr jn with Hyde Lane Danbury	Bend/junction warning signs with SLOW road markings. Bend with two junctions needs highlighting to drivers.	In validation

19/20 76.3 Members noted the following LHP Funded Schemes – updated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

Location	Description	Comments
Bicknacre Road	Signage improvements and vegetation clearance	Estimated completion Oct 2019. Estimated cost £15,000.
Penny Royal Road/Mayes Lane to Woodhill Road	Design Stage	Scheme needs to be rolled into 2019/20 – estimated completion Quarter 4. (January 2020 onwards.)

19/20 76.4 Members noted that the Highways Liaison Officer had confirmed that the more recently submitted Local Highway Panel requests were in validation despite not appearing on the Awaiting Funding List.

### 19/20 77 Highways England A12 Widening Consultation

19/20 77.1 Members considered a response to the highways England Consultation on the widening of the A12 from junction 23-25. Cllr A Chapman suggested that Cllrs respond to the consultation as individuals. Cllr Berlyn proposed that a letter be written to highlight the Parish Council Policy that the widening of the A12 would be an ideal opportunity to create a bypass/upgrade the road from the Heybridge Approaches to a dedicated junction on the A12. This could become the new A414 and the existing A414 through Danbury be downgraded to a B road. This was seconded by Cllr Baker. Cllr Chesterman proposed an amendment that the letter also include a reference to the 1995 Essex County Council Bypass Study and this was seconded by Cllr Berlyn.

RESOLVED: that letter be written to highlight the Parish Council Policy that the widening of the A12 would be an ideal opportunity to create a bypass/upgrade the road from the Heybridge Approaches to a dedicated junction on the A12. This could become the new A414 and the existing A414 through Danbury be downgraded to a B road and that this would include a reference to the 1995 Essex County Council Bypass Study.

Proposed Cllr Chesterman, Seconded Cllr Berlyn and all agreed.

19/20 77.2 Members noted the Highways England Preferred Route Announcement for the widening of the A12 on junctions 19 to 23. There would be a public consultation for junctions 19 to 25 in 2020, following the preferred route announcement for junctions 23-25 in summer 2020.

**19/20 78 Living Landscapes**

Members considered requesting formal confirmation from the Essex Wildlife Trust regarding the status of the Danbury Ridge Living Landscape Project. Cllr Hallett reported that it would not be necessary as the Wildlife Trust were working on a National Strategic 5-year plan and that she would receive an update once it had been completed.

**19/20 79 Environment Committee Budget 2020/21**

Members received, considered and amended the budget proposals for the budget year 20/21 for consideration by the Resources Committee and recommendation to the Parish Council. New ideas were also considered

RESOLVED: that the budget proposal totalling £18,437 for the year 20/21 be considered by the Resources Committee for recommendation to the Parish Council. The following new ideas would be brought to future agendas for consideration:

- 1 Green Flag Award
- 2 Community Orchard to be considered by the Tree Charter Working Group
- 3 Restoration of the Finger Post at Copt Hill (by request of Cllr Chesterman).

Proposed: Cllr Chesterman, Seconded Cllr G Chapman, agreed by majority vote (1 abstention).

**19/20 80 Matters for Report (for information only)**

Cllr Chapman reported that there had been some fly tipping at Sporehams Lane and that it had been reported to Chelmsford City Council.

**19/20.81 Forthcoming Meetings**

Meetings were scheduled for 20th January 2020 and 23rd March 2020 at 7.30pm at the Parish Council Office.

There being no other business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Chairman

.....  
Signed

.....  
Date