



Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room, The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury

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

19/20.82 Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Berlyn (ex officio)

19/20.83 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 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 have not previously notified her about it. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

None.

19/20.84 Public Questions (Time limited to 15 minutes)

None.

19/20.85 Minutes of the Environment Committee

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

19/20.86 Actions from the Minutes

Noted.

19/20.87 Trees

19/20 87.1 Tree Charter

There had been no meeting of the Tree Charter Working Group. A meeting was scheduled for the 5th February 2020 at 10am.

19/20 87.2 Tree Work Costs

As a quotation was outstanding and tree works were not required to be carried out before the end of October 2020, this item was deferred until the next Environment Committee meeting scheduled for the 23rd March 2020. As mulching was required in the Spring, members agreed that the Grounds Contractor be asked to undertake the mulching.

19/20.88 Strategic Land Review

Members discussed land owned/leased by the Parish Council and agreed to investigate the lease at Griffin Meadow, get quotes to clear the access over which a neighbouring property had rights of access at Dial Common, include the trees at the Common Land adjacent to Little Fields in future tree surveys and create a document highlighting the areas of land and how they are managed for residents.

19/20 89 Green Flag Award

Members received a report and discussed whether to undertake the Green Flag Award. Members felt that the benefits would not outweigh the costs and staff time required to achieve the Green Flag Award.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council would not apply for the Green Flag Award.

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

19/20.90 Footpaths

19/20 90.1 Footpath Officer Report

Members noted the footpath Officer's report. The barbed wire fence along footpath 15 which was leaning over would be reported Essex Highways.

19/20 90.2 Reported Footpath Matters

Members noted the list of reported items. The Footpath Office explained that the more minor items do take a considerable time to be repaired but that action was taken more quickly where issues were inherently dangerous. It was agreed therefore, that in future the committee would only review major items at meetings. More minor items could be forwarded to the P3 sub-committee, once it was quorate (see 19/20.91)

19/20 90.3 Footpath Maps

Members had checked the proof and all requested items had been amended. However, one additional item was identified, which was the arrow indicating the car park in the vicinity of the Cricketers which was pointing to the wrong location on the map. Cllr A Chapman proposed that the Assistant Clerk would investigate the cost of getting the change done and if it would come under the £750 budget, order 2000 maps to be printed. If the costs would be more than £750 then, not to proceed with the amendment and print the map as is.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk would investigate the cost of getting the change done and if it would come under the £750 budget, order 2000 maps to be printed. If the costs would be more than £750 then, not to proceed with the amendment and print the map as is.

Proposed: Cllr A Chapman, Seconded: Cllr Hallett and all agreed.

19/20.91 Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme Sub Committee

Due to the resignation of Cllr Chesterman, there was a vacancy on the P3 sub-committee and it was no longer quorate. Cllr G Chapman gave a brief explanation of how the P3 sub-committee would work and that initially, it would tackle the simpler tasks, such as replacing fingerposts. A minimum of two volunteers would be required to replace a finger/waymarker post. It was agreed that an advertisement would be put out for volunteers from the community to join the sub-committee.

19/20.92 Bus Transportation

19/20.92.1 Members noted the report from the Passenger Transport Representative.

19/20.92.2 Members noted that the next Passenger Transport Meeting for Chelmsford would be held on the 11th March 2020 at County Hall.

19/20.93 Highways Matters

19/20/93.1 Members noted the list of reported highways items.

19/20/93.2 The quotation for vegetation cutting along the right-hand side of Mayes Lane (in the direction of Bicknacre) had been decided by the Facilities Committee and so was withdrawn from the agenda at the meeting.

19/20.94 Review of Speed Limits

Members considered a proposal from Mr Chesterman (made prior to his resignation from the Council that speed limits within the Danbury Parish were reviewed. After a long discussion, Cllr A Chapman proposed that the Local Highways Panel be asked to look at the two points where there was an abrupt change from 60-30mph limits and whether anything could be done to make that a safer transition; and to extend the 40mph limit along the Bicknacre Road to the boundary with Bicknacre. It was suggested that the impact of abrupt changes in acceleration on emissions be mentioned in the request. There was also a discussion regarding vehicular activated speed signs and this would be brought to the next agenda.

RESOLVED: that the Local Highways Panel be asked to look at the two points where there was an abrupt change from 60-30mph limits and whether anything could be done to make that a safer transition; and to extend the 40mph limit along the Bicknacre Road to the boundary with Bicknacre.

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

19/20.95 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)

19/20 95.1 Members noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 23rd January 2020.

19/20 95.2 Updates had been received from the LHP after the agenda had been published:
i) Bicknacre Road – improved signage: This had been completed.

ii) A414/Hyde Lane Junction – New bend/junction warning signs with SLOW road markings: This had been validated as being feasible and was available for Panel Consideration.

iii) St John’s School, Little Baddow Road – Advisory 20mph with wig-wags: This had been validated as being feasible and was available for Panel Consideration.

19/20 96 Climate Change

Members considered how the Parish Council would like to respond to Climate Change. After a long discussion, it was agreed that a statement would be issued to endorse the CCC Climate Change Emergency Declaration made in July 2019 and that climate change would be brought to the agendas for each Committee to be discussed. A list would be created of what the Parish Council had done and what it was planning to do.

19/20 97 Plastic Recycling and Dog Waste Bags – Appendix 10

Members considered the purchase and provision of Plastic Recycling and Dog Waste bags to residents, following the announcement by Chelmsford City Council that Plastic Recycling and Dog

Waste bags would no longer be available for residents to collect from outposts, such as the Parish Office.

i) After a long discussion weighing up the benefits of encouraging residents to recycle by providing sufficient bags against the benefits of encouraging residents to reduce plastic use and therefore require fewer bags, Cllr Thombs proposed that: in the interim, until there was another viable solution, the Parish Council would purchase bags that could be recycled at an approximate cost of £672 for a year. The proposal failed.

ii) After a discussion regarding the provision of dog waste bags, Cllr Thombs proposed the Council continue to supply biodegradable bags after Chelmsford had ceased to supply them. The proposal failed.

19/20 98 Fingerpost Adoption and Maintenance

Members considered a proposal to adopt and maintain the Fingerpost at the junction of Gay Bowers Lane and Mill Lane. As the costs would be significant and the Parish Council would become responsible for all future maintenance and repair costs, it was decided not to adopt and maintain the Fingerpost.

19/20.99 Matters for Report (for information only)

It was reported that a den had been created in a garage but that noise was kept to a minimum.

19/20.100 Forthcoming Meetings 2020

Meetings are scheduled for 23rd March and 11th May 2020 at 7.30pm at the Parish Council Office.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.47pm.

Chairman

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Signed

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Date