

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting **Held on Monday 20th May 2019 at 8pm** **At the Sports & Social Centre, Danbury**

Present: Parish Cllrs: S Berlyn (Chairman), Mrs A Chapman (Vice Chairman), Mrs L Anstee, C Baker, G Chapman, Mrs M Hessing, Mrs B Hallett, A Keeler, P Sutton, J Thombs.

Chelmsford City Council (CCC): Cllrs: Bob Shepherd, Richard Ambor
Essex County Council (ECC): Cllr John Spence

Plus, approximately 67 Members of the Public.

In attendance: Ms M Harper (Parish Clerk), Mrs M Dyer (Assistant Clerk) and Mrs L Mitchelmore (Neighbourhood Plan Co-ordinator & Assistant Clerk).

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from City Cllr I Wright, Ms Andrea Gabriel - Danbury Country Park, Frances & John Harrison and Danbury First Responders.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Stuart Berlyn, welcomed all present to the meeting and advised that an annual report, last year's minutes and a financial report had been placed on each chair for residents to read about the work of the Parish Council in the last year. Cllr Berlyn then briefly outlined the format for the evening.

2. Approval of Annual Parish Meeting Minutes of 23rd April 2018

Mrs Irene Guidotti proposed that the minutes be approved. This was seconded by Mrs/Ms Pat Clements and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Cllr Berlyn then introduced the first guest speaker of the evening, Dr Mike Gogarty and his colleague Ms Kirsty O'Callaghan.

3. Guest Speaker:

Dr Mike Gogarty, ECC Director of Public Health & Communities:
"Reducing Social Isolation – the Essex Approach"

Dr Gogarty started by saying how delighted he was to learn that Danbury Parish Council is establishing a Health & Well Being Committee, as even if Council Tax was increased tenfold it would not be sufficient to identify all victims of social isolation. However, with support and involvement from Parish Councils and other communities these people can be reached and offered or directed to the available support networks.

Social isolation and loneliness are recognised as issues that impact significantly on health and wellbeing. People in the following categories are most likely to experience isolation:

- over 80 years of age
- on low incomes
- living in isolated rural areas or deprived urban areas
- living alone
- in poor physical or mental health.

Increasingly younger people, such as young Mums, are now suffering from social isolation.

From a health view, over two thirds of adults and one third of children are overweight and need to be made aware of the risk of diabetes; budgets are available to facilitate support groups and access to physical activities.

Mental health issues can cause social isolation and lead to premature death, just as much as from a physical health issue, such as high blood pressure, heart issues etc.

ECC is addressing these issues via a 'Social Isolation Forum' using three key groups to communicate and identify those in need/at risk. Firstly, via GPs to establish if someone needs and wants help, then providing support and access, via 'Live Well Link Well', to support workers who will provide a free and confidential Social Prescribing Service. Secondly, via the Volunteer Sector, utilising social media/facebook such as the scheme already operating in South Woodham Ferrers – bringing people together, so that together they form part of the solution. The third key group is local councils, such as Parish Councils, who are ideally placed to identify local needs and help to address these local issues.

For Dr Gogarty's full presentation please follow the link to Appendix 1:

https://www.danbury-essex.gov.uk/images/minutes/Minutes_2019/Tackling_Social_Isolation.pdf

Dr Gogarty thanked the audience and invited any questions/comments.

Questions/Comments put to Dr Gogarty:

Question: What services can the 'Care Navigators (Live Well Link Well support workers) provide?

Answer: A wide variety, including access to support from healthy living and physical wellbeing to home adaptations and transport

Comment: Whilst I use Facebook I don't like all the advertising that is included and detracts from the messages.

Response: Facebook does have advisors who can help control this and this is being looked into with Facebook in relation to this project and its messages.

Comment: Cuts in local funding are contributing to people not getting out e.g. limited transport and closure of public toilets.

- Response: This project does have small grants available e.g. funding was given to install a bench in a wooded walk area, so that more people could enjoy a longer walk.
- Comment: There is no longer a dedicated community bus in Danbury, now part of Chelmsford Community Service and taxis to/from Doctor cost £4 each way.
- Response: Those with a bus pass can use the community transport service for free.

Ms Kirsty O’Callaghan then showed the ‘Live Well Link Well’ leaflet which details all the services available, and can be accessed direct via telephone: 0300 303 9988 (Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm); email: livewell.linkwell@nhs.net

Cllr Berlyn thanked Dr Gogarty and Ms O’Callaghan and concluded this section, by talking briefly about the new committee the Parish Council has created and advising that the Members will be working with Ms O’Callaghan and Danbury Medical Centre – this committee is in its early stages, but residents are very welcome to contact the Parish Council with any requests or questions.

Cllr Berlyn then introduced the second set of speakers: Ms Diane Robson and Mr Chris Duffield from Green Earth Management Company Limited (GEMCO).

4. Dawson Memorial Field: Land Slippage Update

Ms Diane Robson - Green Earth Management Company Limited (GEMCO)

Mr Chris Duffield - Green Earth Management Company Limited (GEMCO)

“Slope Failure at Dawson Memorial Field”

Using a series of visuals to illustrate their update, Ms Robson and Mr Duffield advised that they are taking a ‘slow and steady’ approach to this issue so that they fully research the problem in order to be able to recommend works that will not have to be repeated at a future date.

The geology of the site is sand and gravel from the last ice age on top of London Clay. The history of the site is being researched using old maps e.g. 1960 map of Mayes Lane with a gentle slope and another map 1966/1968 which shows two cuts in the slope to create two terraces – it could be the slip surface or the two terraces that caused the slope failure. However, as this is not conclusive it is necessary to do further site investigation (initial work undertaken by another company has been reviewed but did not provide enough detail for a complete solution to be put forward).

Proposed site investigation will involve bore holes which will allow GEMCO to ‘see’ ground conditions and collect samples to learn more about the soil. Monitoring Wells will be installed with a blue steel ‘hat’ protruding from the ground, this will allow ground water to be measured and to gauge how much the pipe moves in the ground.

When the data is analysed GEMCO will be in a position to recommend the most effective, long term solution, which is likely to be one of the following:

- Mesh/plastic membrane to hold the slope in place
- Gabion wall – steel cage filled with rocks

- Sheet piles
- Soil nails – large steel nails to hold slope in place

It is proposed that the works on the bore holes will start mid June.

For GEMCO's supporting visuals please follow the link to APPENDIX 2:

https://www.danbury-essex.gov.uk/images/minutes/Minutes_2019/Slope_Failure_at_DMF.pdf

Ms Robson and Mr Duffield then invited questions:

Question: Depth of bore hole?

Answer: Up to 20 metres (60 feet)

Question: Is the area (terrace) where the Sports Hall is located being investigated?

Answer: Yes, the whole area is being reviewed

Question: There are an abundance of springs in this area, are they being looked at, as could they be affecting the area?

Answer: Yes, springs would normally be considered, but none seem to be in this area according to historical maps. It was agreed that the postcode of the lady who raised this question would be forwarded to GEMCO for research

Question: Slippage at the Bowls Club goes back some time and the SW corner has lifted on a couple of occasions, when a lot of water was released; how far down the hill are you (GEMCO) planning to come?

Answer: There are no plans to disrupt the Bowls Club; investigations will be from the slip upwards

Question: Will the Mayes Lane car park be closed whilst bore holes are installed?

Answer: We (GEMCO) will try to limit disruption, but part of the car park will be closed and we may need a compound. The Parish Council advised that it will work with the Bowls Club to limit disruption and if necessary, find alternative areas for club members/visiting club members to park – a list of the Bowls Club match fixtures will be passed to GEMCO.

Question: Why couldn't a temporary metal staircase to the Bowls Club have been installed?

Answer: The Parish Council looked into this and a temporary (hired in) metal staircase would have cost £20,000.00. There will be a temporary pathway installed to the Bowls and Tennis Clubs and this work will be undertaken shortly now that the Groundsman is back.

Question: It has now been two years since the land slippage became a major issue and several Civil Engineers seem to have been involved, but still no remedial action taken, why? How long will the proposed bore holes need to be in place to produce the now required data?

Answer: The bore holes will be a 12 month monitoring programme. All concerned are mindful not to spend money on works/reports that are not needed. When a programme of works is recommended the specification will go out to tender to comply with Government Regulations. It has been necessary to do these additional stages and research as no company would be able to produce 'designs' for a solution based on information currently available.

Question: How much will the works cost (estimate)?

Answer: Not known at this point, and probably not until the tender stage. The Parish Council has set aside a sum in excess of £90,000 has already been put aside for works without having to increase the precept.

Question: What risks are the PC trying to mitigate?

Answer: Initially the footway to the clubs, but if this is not addressed it could affect the Bowls Club, car park and Robin's Nest. The PC is managing the risks with professional advice. Longer term implications could affect not only above, but impact the whole site, which is why bore holes will be on all levels, including the Sports Centre level. Movements on slopes are not predictable and therefore it is necessary to determine if the slip is due to either the London Clay and deeper or if it is a terrace based slip between the gravel and clay, Again this is why we must have the right data in order to give the right recommendation for a long term solution.

The GEMCO representatives concluded by cautioning the public for safety reasons not to cross the Heras fencing.

Cllr Berlyn thanked Ms Robson and Mr Duffield for attending and then invited Mrs Sue Dobson to give an update re the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

5. Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mrs Sue Dobson: Chairman Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Mrs Dobson thanked everyone who had completed the questionnaire last September, Members of the Steering Group, namely and Mrs Lesley Mitchelmore, the Neighbourhood Plan Co-ordinator.

Mrs Dobson then gave a short report, starting by advising that in December there had been an exhibition detailing results of the questionnaires and then going onto to give details about the work of the Steering Group and the stages to reach approval of the Danbury NP.

The Steering Group consists of two teams: one team is working on site selection, assessing each site and consulting with various bodies and independent companies to check viability/suitability, and taking into account the views expressed by residents, the Parish Council and CCC.

The second team is concentrating on writing a draft plan, taking into account all elements above. Once completed the next stage will be a formal six week

consultation with residents, followed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment. After that the draft plan will go to CCC and an independent assessor before the NP will be given approval.

Mrs Dobson invited questions, but none were put forward.

Cllr Berlyn thanked Mrs Dobson for her report and then went on to thank County Cllr Spence and his wife and District Cllrs Shepherd and Ambor for attending the APM.

Cllr Berlyn then added that due to the change of 'politics at the District Council following the May elections, it was not clear if this would have an effect on Neighbourhood Plans.

Cllr Berlyn then invited questions/comments from the floor.

6. Questions/Comments for the Parish Council

Question: Sheet piling for the slippage issue could act as a 'dam' for water and cause flooding. Has this been taken into account?

Answer: Yes, and if sheet piling is installed there will be holes drilled to allow the water through.

Question: With regards to the houses being constructed next to the Parish Offices, can any experience from this site be useful to the land slippage issue?

Answer: No – different set of circumstances

Question: Situation regarding Wickham House at Runsell Green?

Answer: The owner is known. Plans to develop the site were approved early last year and the owner has three years to commence the works.

7. Chairman's Concluding Remarks

Cllr Berlyn reminded those present that DPC can have 15 Cllrs and at present there are three vacancies – anyone interested or for further information should contact the Clerk, Ms Michelle Harper.

Cllr Berlyn then thanked his fellow Cllrs and the Parish office staff and invited them to stand up and introduce themselves.

The Chairman of Council thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm

Signed.....
Chairman of the Parish Council