

Danbury Parish Council
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2023 7.30pm at Danbury Parish Council Office,
The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury, CM3 4NQ**

Present: Cllr Mrs B Hallett (Vice Chairman), Cllr G Chapman, Cllr A Keeler and Cllr N Orange

In Attendance: Mrs M Dyer (Assistant Clerk)
One Member of the Public

22/23.66 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Chapman and Cllr Berlyn

22/23.67 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.

There were no declarations at this point.

22/23.68 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.

The Member of the Public present spoke of his concern regarding light pollution at night in the village emanating from many houses, the Medical Centre and the Leisure Centre, commenting that most people who had moved to Danbury had done so for its rural aspects, and that light pollution can impact negatively on wild life; photographs were shown of houses with numerous external lights. The Gentleman asked if the Council would consider including a request in a future article or publication for people to reduce the number of external lights on their properties. As a Danbury Times meeting was scheduled for the following day it was agreed that this request would be taken to the editorial team for consideration. Lighting at the Leisure Centre would be reviewed.

22/23.69 Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 16 November 2022

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 16 November 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Chapman, seconded Cllr Orange, all Members agreed.

22/23.70 Actions

Members noted the actions from the minutes and requested that the Rotary Club be advised that if they wish to proceed with planting a tree in memory of Queen Elizabeth II that it needs to be planted by the end of March.

22/23.71 Environment Committee Strategic Plan Updated

Members noted the changes to the plan as agreed at the November meeting. Members discussed the aim to protect green areas/buffers along parish boundaries - Assistant Clerk to contact the neighbouring Clerks as applicable. It was noted that school visits would be organised shortly to promote the local natural environments and encourage the planting of trees and hedges. Assistant Clerk to research the level of complaints received re the ECC policy of rewilding areas in Danbury and in regards to sustainability to clarify recycling/green tariffs at the Leisure Centre.

22/23.72 Hedge at The Old Pavilion on Frettons Boundary

Members noted that this work had been completed. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Chapman for undertaking this task. It was noted that as Cllr Chapman had undertaken the works the only cost incurred was for compost.

22/23.73 Speedwatch Group

Members noted that there is no longer an active Speedwatch group in Danbury

22/23.74 P3 Group

Cllr Chapman advised Members that a meeting was being arranged with P3 Group Members to discuss works for 2023, which would then be submitted to Essex County Council (ECC) for approval. Members were advised that a new Member had been recruited to the Group.

22/23.75 Community Woodland

Cllr Chapman updated Members re works undertaken by Chelmsford City Council (CCC) Volunteer Group and issues at the Woodland in 2022 including a fire. Assistant Clerk to contact CCC regarding timing of support agreement with CCC and replacement of the 5/6 trees that had died to be installed by March with water bags, plus clarification of any other planned works by CCC, before a sectional survey is undertaken to agree a programme of works for this area. Volunteers who had kindly come forward to help in the woodland (Friends of the Community Woodland) to be duly advised. It is envisaged that works needed will include replacement of any dead mature trees (CCC); installation of water bags as necessary; checking/replacing whips as necessary; removal of large weeds, general 'cleaning' of areas; taking appropriate action in the burnt area.

Cllr Mrs Hallett advised Members that 'Living Landscapes' is starting up again; it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Hallett would contact this group to ascertain if they would like to be involved in this area.

22/23.76 Highways Matters

Members noted that the potholes at Eves Corner reported through the special pothole scheme via Cllr Spence had been repaired; the one on Maldon Road near the petrol garage and in West Belvedere had been logged, but not yet validated.

Members noted that the issue in Cherry Garden Lane, also reported under the pothole scheme, had been fast tracked via the Highways team as it was classed as a safety risk.

Members discussed the design from the Local Highways Panel (LDP) for kerb improvements for the walkable verge at Penny Royal Road; Cllr Chapman proposed that these be approved; Cllr Orange seconded the proposal; all Members were in agreement.

RESOLVED: that the design proposed by LHP for kerb improvements for the walkable verge at Penny Royal Road be approved.

22/23.77 Road Speed Limited: 20's Plenty

Members briefly discussed this initiative of reducing the speed limit to 20mph; it was agreed it should be deferred to the March meeting to allow time to consider further information.

22/23.78 Community Heating

Members discussed a request from a resident to consider community heating in Danbury as per the scheme that is being progressed in a village in Swaffham Prior by Cambridgeshire County Council. Members were in agreement that this was not a project for a Parish Council, but it be referred to the Sustainable Danbury Group for their consideration and if appropriate then to pass to ECC for consideration/progression by the County Council.

Assistant Clerk was asked to refer '20's Plenty' and 'Community Heating' to the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Group as both these initiatives could possibly work/be implemented within a proposed new housing development in Danbury.

22/23.79 Matters for Report (for information only)

There were no matters reported.

22/23.80 Matters for Communication

Light pollution from homes per minute 22/23.68

22/23.81 Dates of Meetings in 2023

Wednesdays 15 March, 17 May, 12 July, 13 September and 15 November

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

Signed: Chairman..... Date: