



## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm in the Committee 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), D Carlin, Mrs A Gardiner, A Keeler, P Sutton,  
R Wakefield

In attendance: Mrs H Mayes, Assistant Clerk

#### **21 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **22 Declarations of Interest**

All Members were reminded that they must disclose any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests they know they might 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 had not previously notified her about it. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

Cllr Mrs Chapman declared a non pecuniary interest in minute 27.5

#### **23 Public Questions (Time limited to 15 minutes)**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **24 Minutes of the Environment Committee**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **25 Footpaths**

##### **25.1 Footpath Officer Reports**

The following was reported by one of the Footpath Officers:

*A resident reported at the last parish surgery that they had difficulty in negotiating part of FP 4: the section that went past the gravel pit workings towards Old Hare Wood. They said that the path was overgrown and that there was inadequate signage to indicate the route of the footpath. From the gravel pit road the footpath is indeed a 'very green' corridor, especially after the recent wet and warm weather. This footpath is not use very often and hence can get somewhat overgrown. There is a footpath sign as you leave the gravel pit road. The next sign is not until after the wooded area when you have to cross an open field. With the guidance of Danbury Parish Footpaths Map the walker should have no problems.*

*A resident had reported over hanging nettles on FP19 which are at a low level causing problems for children in buggies. It would be a simple job to cut back the offending nettles.*

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **25.2 Footpath 17**

The LHP Liaison Officer had advised that surface and drainage improvements could be put forward to the LHP for consideration. An informal assessment had been requested to be carried out to see what options might be suitable before a formal request is raised.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **25.3 Footpath Map Signs**

This issue was discussed by the Facilities Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> July.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **25.4 Public Rights of Way Officer for Danbury**

Cllr Spence had investigated the lack of officer and the response was circulated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **25.5 Footpath 11**

An application had not yet been received regarding the diversion of this footpath and due to a long waiting list would not be processed until next summer. The Parish Council would be consulted at this time.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **26 Bus Transportation – Transport Partnership Meeting**

A report had been received from the Transport Representative and an advance notification of a bus consultation had been received. There was still no response from ECC regarding consultation on the location of bus stops/shelters. This would be chased again. The Committee wished to thank the Transport Representative for attending the meetings and sending a regular report. Members discussed the issues raised at the last meeting and wished to send the following comments.

*Danbury Parish Council regrets that no alternative provision is being discussed or put in place where cancellations are being made.*

The Committee would look at the next consultation due to be carried out in August and September with a view to making further comments then.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the Transport Representative was formally thanked
- b) the comments above were sent to the ECC Bus Transport Meeting

## **27 Highway Matters**

### **27.1 Parking Issues – Elm Green Lane**

The posts had now been delivered to Robins Nest. The Groundsman had added this job to his list of work.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **27.2 Entrance/Exit from the Library onto Main Road**

Emails had been received from residents living behind the library regarding vehicles pulling into and out of the library/Co-op car park without looking both ways. There were no markings or signs at this location to advise drivers that they should give way at this point. One resident had been in touch with the Co-op who advised they would look into it. Members agreed that this was an issue that needed to be resolved and asked the Assistant Clerk to also contact the Co-op in support of this request.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **27.3 Parking Issues Well Lane**

The photographs had been sent to the SEPP but they were unable to take any action as there were no parking restrictions on Well Lane.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **27.4 Bollards/Yellow Lines at the junction of The Avenue & Maldon Road**

A resident had emailed concerns regarding this junction. Members viewed the photographs and emails that had already been sent regarding this problem. Members agreed that a request should be submitted to the SEPP as suggested by ECC for junction protection measures/bollards. The Assistant Clerk would ask the resident if any of her neighbours could send in letters or emails of support for the request.

RESOLVED: that a request for junction protection measures and/or bollards be sent to the SEPP.

## 27.5 Highways matters (reported items)

The items below had been reported and updates requested.

| Location                 | Issue   | Reported to | Date first reported | Reference No      | Outcome  |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Footpath Reports:</b> |   |             |                     |                   |  |
| St Cleres Way            | Concrete posts are leaning over causing a hazard  | ECC         | 23/05/2014          | 2330013 / 2429631 | 21/6/16 still being investigated. 28/10/15 to be inspected. further photos sent - new ref 2429631. 14/09/15 The Assistant Clerk would take photographs and send again. Posts were leaning further over. 11/9/15 rang ECC have asked for Prow to contact with update. 25/8/15 more information req. 6/8/15 owner disputing ownership of posts. 15/5/15 no prow officer for Danbury yet. Still waiting for updates. 10/2/15 Owner has been contacted in regard to removal of posts. 26/06/14 ECC to contact owner to request removal. 23/05/14 to be visited and assessed. |
| St Cleres Way            | area near footpath 17 is uneven (near to steps)   | ECC         | 26/05/2015          | 2403638           | 21/6/16 still being investigated. 12/11/15 rang highways still awaiting inspection - email sent to highways. 11/9/15 still to be inspected - chased with ECC. 26/5/15 to be inspected. reported by resident.   |
| Junc footpath 16/17      | Oak Tree - deadwood branch hanging down   | ECC         | 22/07/2015          | 2414074           | 21/6/16 does not meet criteria at present - will be monitored for deterioration. 12/11/15 still awaiting inspection - email sent to highways 11/9/15 still to be inspected - chased up. 22/7/15 to be inspected. reported by AC  |
| Penny Royal Road         | Tree obstruction footpath 52  | ECC         | 24/09/2015          | 2424596           | 21/6/16 does not meet criteria at present - will be monitored for deterioration. 12/11/15 still awaiting inspection - email sent to highways. 24/9/15 to be inspected. reported by resident.   |
| Footpath 11              | As the footpath leaves Hall Wood to make its way towards Graces Lane - finger post down | ECC         | 11/03/2016          | 2452638           | 11/3/16 to be inspected. reported by Footpath Officer  |

| <b>Other Highway Issues:</b> |                                    |     |            |         |   |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|------------|---------|---|
| Hyde Lane                    | Verge damage                       | ECC | 26/02/2016 | 2449889 | reported by resident  |
| Mill Lane                    | Pothole                            | ECC | 15/04/2016 | 2458895 | reported by resident  |
| Little Baddow Rd             | Drainage issue                     | ECC | 23/05/2016 | 2465297 | SB reported that the recent resurfacing may have caused additional issues with the drains. drains are blocked.  |
| Main Road                    | Drainage issue                     | ECC | 23/05/2016 | 2465295 | drains are blocked.   |
| Main Road                    | vegetation issue                   | ECC | 14/06/2016 | 2469488 | Take off 01/07/16 does not meet criteria, to be monitored.  |
| Southview Rd                 | manhole damaged and tarmac lifting | ECC | 21/06/2016 | 2471206 | AC advised the manhole had now lifted further due to the heavy rain. 30/6/16 inspected - does not meet criteria. 07/07/16 Anglian Water advised is ECC issue. |
| Butts Lane                   | Pothole                            | ECC | 04/07/2016 | 2474441 | Reported by resident  |
| The Heights                  | Overgrown vegetation               | ECC | 08/07/2016 | 2475465 | 11/7/16 to be inspected. reported by resident. Triangle of land adjacent to Well Lane.  |

The Assistant Clerk was asked to remove the items that did not meet the criteria and were to be monitored. Members asked the Assistant Clerk to find out exactly what the criteria were for carrying out repairs or maintenance for highways issues. It was also reported that the road surface in Hyde Lane was in very poor condition along the whole stretch of road. This would be sent to ECC.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk requests a copy of the criteria from ECC and any new issues were reported to ECC.

## **28 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)**

The minutes from the last meeting held in June were not yet available.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **29 Local Highways Panel Requests**

Updates had been received from the LHP Liaison Officer as follows:

### **29.1 Schemes currently submitted to the LHP**

#### **29.1.1 Footway between Overshot Bridge and Poplar Farm, Bicknacre Road**

The validation should be completed shortly and any resulting scheme would be added to the Potential Schemes List for a funding recommendation. The Panel were currently repopulating their Potential Schemes List with view to making 2017/18 funding recommendations at their March 2017 Panel meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **29.1.2 One Way System to exit The Heights**

At the March 2016 Panel meeting the Panel recommended funding in 2016/17 towards the feasibility study into creating a one-way road and this scheme has been added to the Approved Works Programme. Currently the feasibility study had a completion date in Quarter 4 2016/17. Any resulting scheme would be added to the Potential Schemes list for a funding recommendation. The Panel were currently repopulating their Potential Schemes List with view to making 2017/18 funding recommendations at their March 2017 Panel meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **29.1.3 Woodhill Road & Bicknacre Road Speed Limit Reduction to 30mph**

This had been added to the Potential Schemes list for a funding recommendation from the Panel. The Panel are currently repopulating their Potential Schemes List with view to making 2017/18 funding recommendations at their March 2017 Panel meeting. The results of the automatic traffic counts were circulated and would now feed into the LHP Scheme Validation process. Members discussed the figures provided at some length. It did appear that Bicknacre Road was the section with the fastest speeds recorded. There was an issue with volume as well as speed of vehicles. It was suggested that it would be useful to send the figures to CCC Planning Department to highlight issues with traffic and the impact of new developments. The outcome of the LHP validation would be awaited.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **29.1.4 Parking Issues in Belvedere Close**

City Cllr Ambor had been investigating this issue and an update was circulated. Members were grateful that Cllr Ambor had taken the time to investigate this issue but it appeared that the options were very limited. Residents could send a petition directly to CCC or CHP to see if there is anything else that can be done.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **29.2 LHP Agreed Schemes**

#### **New Footway Mayes Lane, Penny Royal Road, Woodhill Road**

This had been moved back to the potential schemes list for consideration in 2017-2018.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **30 Quarries**

**30.1 St Clere's Hall:** Nothing to report

**30.2 Royal Oak Quarry:** Nothing to report

**30.3 Sandon Quarry:** Nothing to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **31 Living Landscapes**

The landowner adjacent to Dial Common had not yet been back in touch regarding the owl box. The Assistant Clerk would send another note asking for an updated. Cllr Mrs Hallett advised that she was unable to attend the last Living Landscapes meeting but that the minutes should be circulated shortly.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **32 Danbury Common**

No updates from National Trust. Cllr Berlyn had spoken with a resident at Copt Hill who advised that the additional litter bin had been successful and the litter issue had improved.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **33 Danbury Park Forum**

Cllrs Mrs Chapman and Keeler attended the Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> June and the notes of the meeting were circulated. Cllr Keeler advised that the meeting was both useful and enjoyable. The door in the boundary wall to the Palace had been closed off and the Country Park had planted a bed across it. It appeared that the Palace residents had been advised that they would have access to the park but this was not thought to be the case. Members had been offered a tour of the Palace grounds (date TBA) and this would be an opportunity to view the boundary. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact the developers regarding access from the Palace to the park as it was understood that there was a planning condition in place regarding this. If the conditions had not been adhered to then this would be a planning enforcement issue. Members also asked the Assistant Clerk to contact CCC to ask if it was acceptable that the developers had filled in the pond and created a rose garden.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the Assistant Clerk would investigate the access between Danbury Park and the Palace and check the planning conditions.
- b) the Conservation Officer be asked about the filling in of the pond.

### **34 Project Danbury**

The notes of the most recent meeting were circulated. Cllr Mrs Chapman gave an update.

- Heathcote School had received their rose bush and were very happy with it. The two other schools would take delivery of their roses in September.
- Cllr Mrs Chapman would be meeting with two garden companies this week to get a quote for ongoing bed maintenance.
- One sponsor had indicated that they would still be interested in sponsoring the bed (dependant on figure proposed)
- The bed would need watering due to the ongoing dry weather.
- Members agreed that the bed was looking very nice and the Committee wished to extend formal congratulations to the group for all their hard work.

- The Assistant Clerk had contacted Esso to ask them to provide planters outside the garage. They had agreed to provide the planters, plant and maintain them and it was hoped this would be an improvement in the area.

The following recommendations had been made by the Working Group

- To agree to purchase signs for rose bushes and sponsors when required.
- To engage the services of a garden maintenance company following quotes obtained and site visits.
- To purchase bulbs to be planted in the bed in the autumn.

Cllr Berlyn proposed that the recommendations from the working group be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Carlin and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: that the above recommendations be agreed.

### **35 Matters for Report (for information only)**

Cllr Berlyn congratulated the Chairman and Danbury Times editorial group on an excellent edition of the Danbury Times.

Some interest had already been registered at the Parish Office for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that the information on the Plan be sent to the Danbury Business Lunch Club.

### **36 Dates of Meetings for 2016**

10<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> November.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.36pm.

Cllr Mrs April Chapman  
Chairman

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Signed

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Date