

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on Monday 19th September 2016 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, the Old School House, Main Road, Danbury

Present: Cllrs: Mrs B Hallett (Vice Chairman), S Berlyn (ex officio), D Carlin, A Keeler, P Sutton,

In attendance: Mrs H Mayes, Assistant Clerk
3 Members of the Public

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Mrs Hallett.

37 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs A Chapman and Mrs A Gardiner. Cllr Wakefield was absent.

38 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.

There were no interests declared.

39 Public Questions (Time limited to 15 minutes)

Two members of the public had attended to observe the meeting. The third member of the public reported that the pavements in Runsell View had deteriorated and allowing water to flood the road, pavement and his property during times of heavy rainfall. The Assistant Clerk would report this to ECC.

40 Minutes of the Environment Committee

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

41 Footpaths

41.1 Footpath Officer Reports

The Footpath Officers had no issues to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

41.2 Footpath 17

An informal assessment had been requested to be carried out to see what options might be suitable for the surface before a formal request is raised. No further updates had been received. The Assistant Clerk would continue to chase.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

42 Bus Transportation – Transport Partnership Meeting

Notification of the consultation had been received. Members were also concerned about deterioration in the Park & Ride service at Sandon since the timetable had changed. The bus no longer stopped in the city centre or Duke Street as before but did pick up at these stops on the way back out. This meant people coming into town had to walk from Parkway into the city centre which had been an issue for residents with impaired mobility. The timetable change was a three month trial but there did not appear to be any way of feeding back comments. Members asked the Assistant Clerk to forward the Committee's concerns about the changes and ask for the reasons behind the timetable change.

RESOLVED: that the concerns regarding the Park & Ride are raised with ECC.

43 Highway Matters

43.1 Entrance/Exit from the Library onto Main Road

An email with photographs had been sent to the Co-op in support of the resident requesting markings or signs. The resident who had originally contacted the Co-op had advised that they had agreed to improve the junction but had not been given any detail on what this would be or when it might take place. She had written again to chase this up with them and would keep the Parish Council informed. Members had previously requested yellow lines in this area but this had not met the ECC/SEPP criteria and would need to be funded by the Parish Council. Cllr Keeler reported that a driver had been caught on the kerb when exiting the carpark due to vehicles being parked on the entrance road. The Assistant Clerk would chase this up again with the Co-op and see if they would consider funding yellow lines at this location.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk would contact the Co-op for an update and see if they would consider funding yellow lines at this location.

43.2 Bollards/Yellow Lines at the junction of The Avenue & Maldon Road

The resident who raised the original issue had got 26 signatures on a petition which had been submitted to the SEPP for junction protection measures.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

43.3 Speeding Traffic at A414 & Cherry Garden Lane

An email had been received from a resident regarding traffic on the A414 and Cherry Garden Lane. Members did not consider that there was a significant issue at this location and agreed that a crossing would not be appropriate in this location. The Assistant Clerk had forwarded the concerns to the Casualty Reduction Section.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

43.4 Parking on Entrance to The Heights

An email from a resident was circulated with the Assistant Clerks reply.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

43.5 Drainage along Penny Royal Road and Bicknacre Road

A resident had emailed regarding drainage issues that ECC have advised would need to be submitted to the LHP. Similar work had been carried out by Ringway Jacobs on another nearby drain at Footpath 52 which did not have to be requested via the LHP. The resident had challenged ECC on this point and reiterated his request for additional drainage at the above location. Members agreed that this should not be submitted to the LHP at this time and to wait for a further response from Highways.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

43.6 Highways matters (reported items)

The items below had been reported and updates requested. Chapter 8 of Essex Highways Maintenance Strategy regarding inspection, assessment and recording of defects was circulated for information.

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Outcome
Footpath Reports:					
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.
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
Footpath 52	Overgrown vegetation	ECC	26/08/2016	2478588	reported by resident
Other Highway Issues:					
Hyde Lane	Verge damage	ECC	26/02/2016	2449889	reported by resident
Mill Lane	Pothole	ECC	15/04/2016	2458895	reported by resident

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Outcome
Little Baddow Road	Drainage issue	ECC	23/05/2016	2465297	19/9/16 no change SB. drains are blocked.
Main Road	Drainage issue	ECC	23/05/2016	2465295	19/9/16 no change SB drains are blocked.
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 Heights	Road surface in poor condition at junc Well Lane	ECC	03/08/2016	2479993	16/8/16 does not meet criteria - will be monitored. reported by resident
Bicknacre Road	SLOW markings have faded	ECC	01/08/2016	2479498	reported by resident
Copt Hill	Overgrown vegetation	ECC	18/07/2016	2477006	reported by resident
Maldon Road	Overgrown vegetation	ECC	03/08/2016	2480061	04/08/16 being inspected. reported by resident
Hyde Lane	Road surface poor	ECC	04/08/2016	2480411	8/8/16 inspected - does not meet criteria. reported by Env Com
Main Road	Overgrown hedge between Moores Bridge Lane and PC Office	ECC	21/07/2016	2477942 2485133	06/09/16 has been reported again as complaint received from resident. 01/08/16 does not meet criteria. reported by resident
Maldon Road	overgrown hedge outside 59 Maldon Rd	ECC	22/07/2016	2477952	1/8/16 does not meet criteria. reported by resident
Main Road	overgrown hedge - bend towards Church & Hawes	ECC	11/08/2016	2481339	12/8/16 being investigated. reported by resident
Woodhill Common Road	Overhanging branches in road	ECC	12/08/2016	2481514	12/8/16 being investigated. reported by resident
Maldon Road	Overhanging Tree junc with The Avenue	ECC	08/08/2016	2480671	24/8/16 being investigated. Reported by resident

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Outcome
Ludgores Lane/Sporhams Lane	Drainage issue	ECC	13/06/2016	2468999	Resident has been dealing with ECC regarding the road which has sunk. ECC have confirmed that work will be carried out but no date as yet. Resident will chase.
Footpath 25	Blocked ditch Southern end of Ludgores Lane/junc with Pump Lane	ECC	08/07/2016	2475675	reported by resident - ECC due to inspect

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

44 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)

The minutes from the last meeting held in June were circulated. The LHP had produced new Terms of Reference which were not standard across each district. The Braintree LHP had representation from Parish and Town Councils with voting rights whereas Chelmsford did not. An email had been circulated regarding a Highways Briefing Session on the 6th October but no one was able to attend.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

45 Local Highways Panel Requests

Updates had been received regarding current submitted schemes and were also noted on the circulated attachments:

45.1 Footway between Overshot Bridge and Poplar Farm, Bicknacre Road

This was still awaiting validation.

45.2 One Way System to exit The Heights

A feasibility study had been approved.

45.3 Woodhill Road & Bicknacre Road Speed Limit Reduction to 30mph

The results of the automatic traffic count were in the validation process.

45.4 Parking Issues in Belvedere Close

No further updates had been received from Cllr Ambor.

45.5 New Footway Mayes Lane, Penny Royal Road, Woodhill Road

No further updates had been received.

RESOLVED: that the information in 45.1 to 45.5 be noted.

46 Budgets 2017/2018

The budget sheet was reproduced below for information. The Clerk had produced a sheet showing actual spend up to 17th August 2016. The bus shelter cleaning contract would end in December 2016 and quotes would be sought for the next three years. Members agreed that any money left in the Danbury Project 2016-2017 budget should be earmarked for the 2017-2018 budget (in addition to the proposed budget request). Members discussed the budget and recommended the following for the next financial year.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Bus Shelter Cleaning	£2100	£2100	£2100	£2205
Repairs Bus Shelters	£500	£500	£500	£500
Other Environmental	£150	£150	£150	£200
Project Danbury	£500	£500	£500	£500
Total	£3250	£3250	£3250	£3405

Members agreed unanimously to recommend a budget of £3405 for the Environment Committee 2017 – 2018.

RECOMMENDED: that the Environment Committee budget for 2017-2018 be £3405.

47 Quarries

47.1 St Clere's Hall & Royal Oak Quarry

Two planning applications for these quarries had been discussed at the Planning Committee meeting of 5th September 2016.

47.2 Sandon Quarry

Nothing to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

48 Living Landscapes

The landowner adjacent to Dial Common had been in touch and a site visit was still trying to be arranged. The minutes of the last meeting on Living Landscapes were circulated. Members would like to receive the minutes earlier and the Assistant Clerk would forward these by email when they were received. Although it was difficult when relying on volunteers, it was important that people were kept informed and engaged with the project. Members would be interested to see a list of achievements of the Living Landscapes group. Cllr Mrs Hallett would feed this back at the next meeting.
RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

49 Danbury Common

There were no updates to report.
RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

50 Danbury Palace

Information from the Design & Access statement was circulated regarding the filling in of the pond. Members were disappointed that it did not appear to be a requirement to reinstate the listed gardens back to their original state and felt that this should have picked up by CCC at the time of the application. The site was currently open at weekends for viewings at present. There were no planning conditions in place regarding access between the Palace and Danbury Park. This would be for the two parties to negotiate. The Assistant Clerk was still waiting for a date for a tour as promised by Wilson Properties.
RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

51 Project Danbury

Quotes from garden maintenance companies were circulated. Members discussed the requirements of the flowerbed outside the Old Pavilion. Members also discussed the quotes for the proposed signs and it was agreed to defer this to the next Environment meeting. No sponsorship had yet been confirmed. Cllr Keeler proposed that Danbury Garden Services be engaged for one year to water and maintain the flowerbed and to cut the surrounding grassed area for 32 hours per year at £15 per hour. This was seconded by Cllr Carlin and agreed unanimously.
RESOLVED: that Danbury Garden Services be engaged for one year to water and maintain the flowerbed and cut the surrounding grassed area for 32 hours per year at £15 per hour

A Councillor from Little Baddow PC had visited the office as he was proposing to put a trough for flowers on the verge underneath the Little Baddow sign on Little Baddow Road. This was likely to be a Highways verge and he was advised to contact Highways to get permission. Members did not have any issues with this.
RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

52 The Old School House

Members did not have any additional ideas to add to those put forward at the recent Facilities Committee. A meeting was shortly to be held with ECC.
RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

53 Matters for Report (for information only)

One of the Tree Wardens had provided an information sheet regarding ash dieback and care of trees. She would attend the next meeting to speak about her ideas.

54 Dates of Meetings for 2016
21st November.

There being no further business the Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.

Cllr Mrs Barbara Hallett
Chairman

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Signed

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Date