

## DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

*A Quality Council*



## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### **Minutes of the meeting of the held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, the Old School House, Main Road, Danbury**

Present: Cllrs: Mrs A Chapman (Chairman, ex officio),  
A Allen (Vice Chairman), S Berlyn, Mrs A Gardiner, Mrs B Hallett,  
A Keeler, P Sutton

In attendance: Mrs H Mayes, Assistant Clerk

#### **62 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Carlin and Wakefield.

#### **63 Declarations of Interest**

All Members were reminded that they must disclose any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests they knew they had 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 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.

No interests were declared.

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

No members of public were present.

#### **65 Minutes of the Environment Committee**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **66 Footpaths**

##### **66.1 Footpath Officer Reports**

Two reports had been received from the Footpath Officers as follows:

- Nothing major to report at the moment with the exception of an observation concerning footpath 17. Over the past month this footpath has become very muddy and slippery at the South View Road end; the section going past the church became completely flooded. All the wood chippings added last year have now been almost completely integrated into the ground.
- The only comment I would make, is that the paths I have walked lately are very, very, muddy. But this is just a feature of the weather.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **66.2 Footpath 17**

The Reparation Team had not been available up to Christmas and the Groundsman had only had one day with them so far this year and was currently hedge cutting and carrying out a backlog of other work with their assistance. Members discussed this area again but agreed to wait for the Groundsman and Reparation to find a suitable time to lay more woodchip over the original trial area.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

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

The Maldon meeting would be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and the Transportation Representative would attend and report back to the Committee. An email had been received from a resident regarding the bus service. This had been passed to the Transport Representative to take to the next meeting and the resident had also been advised to complain directly to the bus company which he had now done.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **68 Highway Matters**

### **68.1 Reduction of Speed Limit to 30mph on Woodhill Road**

The Assistant Clerk had requested the ECC carry out a traffic survey. ECC advised that they would not carry out a survey as the request for this would have to be submitted to the LHP. Members agreed that certain areas of Woodhill Road were more dangerous than others. The section from Penny Royal Road to Well Lane had several bends to negotiate and vehicles were often seen speeding on this stretch. There was an issue with enforcement of any changes to the speed limit. There was also a danger to pedestrians walking on the narrow footway which was not helped by encroaching hedges. It was felt that even if some drivers kept to a new 30mph limit this would slow down other drivers generally. Members agreed unanimously to submit a request to the LHP for the speed limit to be set as 30mph along the whole of Woodhill Road (from Penny Royal Road to the Danbury boundary with Sandon).

RESOLVED: that a request be made to the LHP for the speed limit to be set as 30mph along the whole of Woodhill Road (from Penny Royal Road up to the Danbury boundary with Sandon).

*Cllr Mrs Gardiner arrived at 7.43pm*

### **68.2 Road closures**

This would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **68.3 Resurfacing of A12 Slip road at Sandon towards London**

Highways England had advised that the resurfacing of the slip road was to be included in the 2018/19 programme of works.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **68.4 Cyclists**

Members discussed ways in which local cyclists could be encouraged to be more considerate when riding on the road. Some Members had experienced issues with cyclists riding two abreast within Danbury which could cause an accident and also holds up the traffic. The Highway Code says that cyclists should not ride more than two abreast and should ride in single file on narrow or busy roads. There was an issue around enforcement of the rules which would be difficult to overcome. It was suggested that the Casualty Reduction Group may be able to offer some assistance and may have some current initiatives. Cycling was now a very popular activity and it was felt that there had recently been more awareness in the media regarding safety. There was a national club (Cyclist Touring Club) and also a Chelmsford Cyclist Action Group that could be approached. The Assistant Clerk was asked to carry out research to see what was being done by other groups and to see what the Parish Council could do to raise awareness of dangerous riding. This information could be discussed at the next Environment Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk was asked to carry out research to see what was being done by other groups and to see what the Parish Council could do to raise awareness of dangerous riding by cyclists.

#### **68.5 Belvedere Road (and adjoining roads)**

Cllr Spence had advised that following a request for this area to be looked at again, an inspection had been carried out. A number of highway issues were identified although the potholes did not meet ECC criteria for repair and would be monitored. Some work had been raised to repair the worst sections of pavement in Belvedere Road. It was acknowledged that larger scale work was required in this area to the roads and pavements. However, the resources were not available under the general maintenance programme. Therefore a request had been submitted for capital scheme consideration. If this was approved, work could be carried out in 2016/17 regarding inspection and repair of these roads. Members remained concerned that this area was still extremely dangerous to drivers and pedestrians and had caused damage a car tyre recently. This area would continue to be monitored.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## 68.6 Highways matters (reported items)

The items below had been reported and updates requested.

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Outcome
St Cleres Way	Concrete posts are leaning over causing a hazard	ECC	23/05/2014	2330013 / 2429631	15/1/16 update requested. 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	15/1/16 update requested. 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-Jul	2414074	15/1/16 update requested. 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	15/1/16 update requested. 12/11/15 still awaiting inspection - email sent to highways. 24/9/15 to be inspected. reported by resident.
Butts Lane	Street light not working outside No 1	ECC	03/11/2015	20204669	14/1/16 being investigated for repair. reported by resident
Cherry Garden Lane	2 potholes	ECC	12/11/2015	2431767 & 2431768	25/1/16 ECC had looked at flooding but no action yet. 30/11/15 BH advised ECC had inspected a pothole not reported. She would report other potholes and flooding at Cherry Garden Lane/Maldon Rd. 16/11/15 2431768 & 2431767 do not meet criteria for repair. reported by BH
Eves Corner	Lt Baddow Rd sign damaged	ECC	20/11/2015	2433102	20/1/16 defect raised. reported by resident

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

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

The next meeting was due to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **70 Local Highways Panel Requests**

Members had already agreed in minute 68.1 to submit a request for a 30mph speed limit in Woodhill Road for consideration in 2016/17. There were no other suggestions. The current position of the scheme requests are listed below.

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

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

This had been passed to the LHP scheme validation team under reference LCHE152110. This proposed scheme would now feature on the Chelmsford City LHP Potential Schemes List and be shown as In Validation.

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

This had been passed to the LHP scheme validation team under reference LCHE152104. This proposed scheme would now feature on the Chelmsford City LHP Potential Schemes List and be shown as In Validation.

#### **70.1.3 Parking Issues in Belvedere Close**

City Cllr Ambor would be enquiring about this issue at the next LHP meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

RESOLVED: that the information in 70.1.1 to 70.1.3 be noted.

### **70.2 LHP Agreed Schemes**

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

The finish date was February 2016. No start date had been given and the Assistant Clerk was asked to chase this up as no work had begun.

Members also reported the following hedges were encroaching and leaning towards the footways making them narrower and more dangerous for pedestrians.

- Footway from Southview Terrace to where it joins Penny Royal Road (outside Lundie).
- Footway from the Co-op to Heathcote School.
- Footway from the shops at Maldon Road (opposite Copt Hill) towards the British Legion Pit.

There was also an issue on Woodhill Road outside Copperbeech where gravel from the driveway was spilling out onto the footpath making the pavement unsafe.

The Assistant Clerk was asked to report these issues to ECC for further action.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the new footpath at Penny Royal Road is chased up
- b) the issues above were reported to Essex County Council for further action.

#### **70.2.2 Bend improvements outside 56 Main Road:**

Signage had been put in either side of the bends at this location

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **81 Quarries**

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

**81.2 Royal Oak Quarry:** There had been issues reported by residents at Runsell Green regarding HGV's using Herbage Park Road. These had been forwarded to the Quarry Liaison Officer who had responded as follows

*Having spoken with my client I can confirm that there was a contract in Woodham Walter served mostly by one HGV but sometimes two. On the latter occasions the company operated a one-way system in order that its HGVs avoided meeting 'head to head', as it were, thereby removing risk of damage to verges on the road. The drivers were under strict instruction as to behaviour and speed as the business is local and sensitive to issues of HGVs in this area.*

*The company refutes absolutely any suggestion that there have been any lack of concern or responsibility for local matters.*

The Liaison Officer had also forwarded two letters from residents thanking the quarry for the consideration of its drivers. The resident who made original complaint had been advised of this and had noted that since the complaint was made the lorry movements appeared reduced.

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

RESOLVED: that the information in 81.1 to 81.3 be noted.

## **82 Living Landscapes/Essex Wildlife Trust**

A suitable location for a barn owl box on Parish Council land (Dial Common) had been found. Permission was needed from the adjoining landowner in order for the EWT to fit and monitor the box. A letter had been sent to the landowner but a response had not been received. Riffhams had also agreed to have a barn owl box. Cllr Mrs Hallett had recently attended a Living Landscapes meeting. There had been complaints about coppicing on the Backwarden. Cllr Mrs Hallett had suggested publicising the work beforehand in future to try to reduce the amount of complaints.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **83 Information Board at St Johns Church**

The new pole and board were installed on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The Groundsman had taken some photos which were circulated. Members were very pleased with the board.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **84 Danbury Common**

There were no updates to reports.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **85 Project Danbury**

A meeting had been arranged for the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10am. If anyone had any ideas for future projects they should let the Parish Office or Cllr Mrs Chapman know.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

**86 Matters for Report (for information only)**

**Parish Cleansing Days:** The Assistant Clerk advised that a letter had been received from CCC regarding Parish Cleansing days. Dates would be requested and any other work could be added to the list at the next meeting. It was thought it would be a good idea to have work carried out during the summer holidays and a litter pick at Eves Corner would be useful. The Assistant Clerk would check to see what had been requested in previous years and speak with the Groundsman.

**Danbury Times:** Some ideas were put forward for future editions of the Danbury Times.

- Hedge maintenance adjacent to the highways/footways
- Keeping footways clear of gravel from driveways
- Considerate Cycling

One of the belisha beacons at the crossing outside Danbury Park School was still not working. This had already been reported to ECC.

The cameras were now installed at the traffic lights at Mayes Lane and Little Baddow Road so it was expected that they would soon be operational.

The litter bin at the corner of Butts Lane and Hopping Jacks Lane was overflowing.

**87 Dates of Meetings for 2016**

7<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> November.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Cllr Mrs April Chapman  
Chairman

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Signed

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Date