

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on Monday 7th March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, the Old School House, Main Road, Danbury

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

In attendance: Mrs H Mayes, Assistant Clerk
One Member of the Public

88 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Gardiner.

89 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.

90 Public Questions

A resident who had recently moved to Riffhams had attended to speak about the possible diversion of footpaths on his land.

He reported that the manhole cover at the top of Riffhams Chase and Graces Lane was leaking out foul water which was going into the nearby stream. He had reported this to Anglian Water.

A Barn owl box had been put up at Riffhams but there was a footpath within 20 metres which was too close during breeding season. This was an unofficial footpath adjacent to the woodland. Although the owner was not too concerned with people using the path, he would like to encourage more wildlife in the area and perhaps put in a loop to allow people to walk on part of the land and leave the rest to wildlife. He was intending to submit a Section 31 through ECC on this path to see if it would be claimed.

He was also considering diverting footpath 11 in order to join it up with footpath 19 in Little Baddow.

The Assistant Clerk was asked to notify the Footpath Officer for this area. Members thanked the resident for attending to speak about his intentions and the resident left the meeting at 7.40pm.

91 Minutes of the Environment Committee

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

92 Footpaths

92.1 Footpath Officer Reports

There were no issues with footpaths at present, although the Footpath Officer reported that there was an increase of litter at Eves Corner which had gone into the pond. This was to be discussed later in the meeting.

92.2 Footpath 17

The Groundsman/Reparation had not yet been able to put down further woodchip due to the amount of work outstanding in other areas of the parish.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

93 Bus Transportation – Transport Partnership Meeting

The Maldon meeting was held on Tuesday 2nd February and a report was circulated from the Transportation Representative. The notes of the Chelmsford meeting were also circulated.

Members were concerned about the lack of consultation by ECC when siting bus shelters and stops. The Parish Council would be most likely to know where they were most needed in the village. The Assistant Clerk was asked to request that the Parish Council be consulted in the future. The Parish Council had responsibility for most of the shelters.

The Assistant Clerk advised that she had requested that the notes of the Maldon meeting were also sent. The Assistant Clerk was asked to publicise the 33 service to the hospital as this was a useful addition. The next bus consultation would also be publicised. Members thanked the Transport Representative for attending the meetings and reporting back.

RESOLVED: that

- a) ECC be requested to consult with the Parish Council regarding the siting of bus shelters and stops.
- b) information regarding the new hospital service and any further consultations were publicised.

94 Highway Matters

94.1 Parking Issues

Two emails had been received regarding two parking issues at Parkdale and at The Spinney/Elm Green Lane.

Elm Green Lane: Members agreed that verge parking was an ongoing issue in the village. Highways did not believe that the land on this side of the verge (noticeboard side) was within their ownership and that it was included as part of the village green on the other side of the road.

It was suggested that posts could be put in (as had been done on the other side) to prevent verge parking. The Assistant Clerk was asked to confirm the ownership of this land and to consult with The Spinney to see what their view would be on putting in posts.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk to confirm ownership of the verge at Elm Green Lane and contact The Spinney to ask their opinion on posts at this location.

Parkdale: A resident had written in regarding parking at the junction with Elm Green Lane. If yellow lines were required at this junction it would have to be sent to the SEPP. There would need to be support for the scheme and enforcement was always an issue. It was agreed that residents in the area would need to submit support in writing or do a petition before the Parish Council could consider sending a request.

RESOLVED: that the resident is asked to send in further support for yellow lines at Parkdale.

94.2 Speed reduction along Bicknacre Road

A number of emails had been received requesting a reduction in speed to 30mph along Bicknacre Road. This would have to be submitted to the LHP for consideration.

Members discussed the issues at this location and were reminded that a request had already been sent regarding a reduction in speed at Woodhill Road. Members agreed that the traffic was likely to increase along this road and it was unanimously agreed to send the request for a reduction in speed to 30mph along Bicknacre Road.

RESOLVED: that a request is made to the LHP to reduce the speed limit along Bicknacre Road to 30mph.

94.3 Highways matters (reported items)

The items below have 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	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	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	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	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	2/03/16 no update. 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	2/3/16 no update. reported by resident
Main Road o/s Bell Pub	Belisha Beacon not working	ECC	02/02/2016	2445106	Still not flashing 3/2/16 issue has been repaired. reported again - will be inspected.
Woodhill Rd o/s Copperbeech	Gravel across footway	ECC	02/02/2016	2445099	10/02/16 to be investigated

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Outcome
Woodhill Road	encroaching hedges onto footway	ECC	02/02/2016	2445070	22/2/16 Does not meet criteria but will be monitored.
Main Road	Encroaching hedges onto footway between co-op and Heathcote	ECC	02/02/2016	2445081	22/2/16 Does not meet criteria but will be monitored.
Maldon Road	Encroaching hedges onto footway opposite Copt Hill	ECC	02/02/2016	2445097	22/2/16 Does not meet criteria but will be monitored.

It was reported that there is a pothole on the bend before Danbury Palace (a previously patched area). The Assistant Clerk would report this to ECC.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted and the additional pothole be reported to ECC.

95 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)

The minutes from the meeting held on 26th January 2016 were circulated. Cllr Berlyn advised that from April 2016 all of the Local Highways Panels have had their budgets cut by 50%.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

96 Local Highways Panel Requests

Members had already resolved to submit a request for a speed reduction in Bicknacre Road (see minute 94.2).

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

96.1 Schemes currently submitted to the LHP

96.1.1 Footway between Overshot Bridge and Poplar Farm, Bicknacre Road

The results of the scheme validation were awaited and it was hoped they would be presented to the next Chelmsford City LHP meeting on 23 March 2016. At the March meeting the Panel would be making their 2016/17 Capital funding recommendations.

96.1.2 One Way System to exit The Heights

The results of the scheme validation were awaited and it was hoped they would be presented to the next Chelmsford City LHP meeting on 23 March 2016. At the March meeting the Panel would be making their 2016/17 Capital funding recommendations.

96.1.3 Parking Issues in Belvedere Close

City Cllr Ambor was due to see County Cllr Spence regarding this issue.

96.1.4 Woodhill Road Speed Limit Reduction

An email and map from the Highways Liaison Officer was circulated for Members to decide the areas for three traffic counts. Sandon Parish Council had also expressed concern regarding the speed limit along the section of Woodhill Road through Sandon and might also make a similar request.

Members agreed to submit the following locations:

- between the two entrances to Danbury lakes (where 40mph becomes 60mph)
- at Woodhill Lodge
- opposite Southview Road junction.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the locations agreed above be submitted to the LHP for a traffic count.
- b) the information be noted.

96.2 LHP Agreed Schemes - New Footway Mayes Lane, Penny Royal Road, Woodhill Road

A detailed design was currently being produced for the end of March and the new completion date was August 2016.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

96.3 LHP Completed Schemes - Bend improvements outside 56 Main Road:

Signage had been put in either side of the bends at this location. This had now completed this scheme

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

97 Cyclists

There were a number of cycling organisations both locally and nationally. Information was attached from Safer Essex Roads Partnership and Chelmsford Cycling Action Group. There was also a Danbury Cycling Club which had recently been set up. An email had been received from the Senior Road Safety Officer at ECC regarding the recent campaign. Cllr Carlin was aware of a previous scheme between the police and ECC which fined cyclists riding in an unsafe manner. He would see if this scheme was still running.

Members discussed the issues raised about unsafe cycling practices in Danbury. It was felt that this was a road safety issue which fell within the remit of the Police. Cyclists did cycle two abreast for safety reasons and this was not an illegal practice. Some cyclists could behave in a more considerate manner but it was felt that those in cycling clubs were more likely to adhere to the rules. Members agreed that it would be difficult to find a solution to this problem and that it would not be productive to write to cycling clubs as they were not usually the ones causing concern. It was agreed unanimously not to take any further action.

RESOLVED: that no further action be taken.

98 Quarries

98.1 St Clere's Hall: Nothing to report

98.2 Royal Oak Quarry: Nothing to report

98.3 Sandon Quarry: Nothing to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

99 Living Landscapes

A response had not been received from the landowner in regard to the barn owl box. Cllr Mrs Hallett would check the rules regarding the distances for barn owl boxes during the breeding season. She would also check to see how many had been put up by Essex Wildlife Trust. The Assistant Clerk was asked to send a further letter to the resident regarding access across the land.

RESOLVED: that

a) Cllr Mrs Hallett would get further information from Essex Wildlife Trust regarding barn owl boxes

b) the Assistant Clerk would send a further letter to the resident asking for access across their land.

100 Danbury Common

There were no updates.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

101 Project Danbury

A meeting had taken place on 29th February 2016 and the notes would be circulated separately. The weeding had taken place today and the soil was good. The top dressing would be delivered next week. Volunteers would be needed to fork in the top dressing. Plants were being obtained with a view to planting soon.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

102 Litter

It had been noted that there had been an increase in litter around the village, and particularly at Eves Corner. It was agreed at a recent Facilities Committee that the litter bins in the village would be emptied on a weekly basis rather than fortnightly. It had been reported by CCC that the liners in the bins at Eves Corner (four in total) were damaged and litter was falling through. These would need to be purchased by the Parish Council. If agreed this would need to be referred to full Parish Council to resolve to spend this money. The regular volunteer litter picker had been away which may have contributed to the additional litter.

Litter was getting into the pond. The Assistant Clerk would ask the Groundsman if he had any equipment to get the rubbish out. The Groundsman had removed the bin in Copt Hill to replace the fixings.

The Assistant Clerk had written to local businesses in the past to ask for them to be considerate and help with clearing up litter. A lot of the litter was coffee cups, bottles and food containers. It was felt that the issue is specific to the shops and that the shop owners should take responsibility for picking up some of the litter around the area. The Assistant Clerk was asked to write to all shops and businesses around the village to see if they would help to keep the village tidy.

Capons Lane appeared to have more litter than usual. The bin at Runsell Green was always full as people dumped large bin bags in it. The Assistant Clerk was requested to write to all the volunteers to see if they were still happy to litter pick areas around the village. An advert could also be put out for more volunteers.

Members agreed to purchase five bin liners (one as a spare) for Eves Corner. The cost of these is £28.20 plus vat.

RESOLVED: that.

- a) the Assistant Clerk asks the Groundsman if he can clear the litter from the pond.
- b) five liners are purchased for the bins at Eves Corner at a cost of £28.20 plus vat each.
- c) the Assistant Clerk writes to all the litter pickers to see if they are still volunteering in their areas and advertises for more volunteers.
- d) the Assistant Clerk writes to all the shops and businesses to ask for assistance in keeping the village tidy.

103 Parish Cleansing Day

The Parish Cleansing Day had been confirmed for Thursday 18th August 2016. The following work had been requested:

- Pavement sweep and litter pick along Well Lane
- Litter picking at Eves Corner and along Maldon Road (between The Bakers Arms & The Avenue)

Members put forward the following requests:

- Pavement sweep at Maldon Road (Chelmsford bound where speed limit goes from 40mph to 30mph) as there was some debris where surfacing was done previously.
- The Main Road towards Chelmsford had a lot of litter but this would be hard to do as there was no pavement at this point.
- Remove litter from the pond.

It was also suggested that village sign could be cleaned but this would be working at height which the rangers would not be equipped for.

RESOLVED: that the additional work be sent to CCC for the Parish Cleansing Day.

104 Lower Thames Crossing Route Consultation

Members discussed the consultation and did not wish to send any comments from the Parish Council. Members could make individual comments if they wished.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council did not send any comments for this consultation.

105 London Southend Airport Standard Instrument Departure Procedures Consultation

Members did not wish to make any comment on this consultation.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council did not send any comments for this consultation.

106 Matters for Report (for information only)

There were no matters for report.

107 Dates of Meetings for 2016

16th May (Cllr Mrs Chapman gave her apologies for this meeting), 18th July, 10th September, 21st November.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48pm.

Cllr Mrs April Chapman
Chairman

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Signed

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Date