



**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Meeting 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), C Baker, G Chapman, D Chesterman, Mrs M Hessing, A Keeler, J Steele, J Thombs.

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Mitchelmore (Assistant Clerk)

**69. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**70. Declarations of Interest**

All Members were reminded that they must disclose any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests they knew 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 J Thombs declared a non-pecuniary in interest in agenda item 76.4.

**71. Public Questions (Time limited to 15 minutes)**

There were no members of the public present.

**72. Minutes of the Environment Committee**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**73. Actions from the Minutes**

The actions from the minutes were noted. Item 18/19 29c would be removed from the action list. Item 18/19 65.2: Cllrs Mrs Chapman and A Keeler would attend the Danbury Park Forum. Item 18/19 67i: Further information to clarify what constituted fly posting was requested and it was pointed out that it would be difficult for Cllrs to know whether any postings had permission from Highways.

## **74. Footpaths**

### **74.1. Footpaths Matters (reported items)**

The list of reported items was noted. The Footpath Officer reported that item 18/19 2, footpath 15, was still waterlogged and was concerned that there was barbed wire on the fence.

An issue at Footpath 41 was raised and this would be considered under matters for report.

### **74.2. Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3)**

It was noted that the meeting with the Public Rights of Way and Localism Officer had been arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.

### **74.3. Footpath Maps**

It was noted that there were approximately 700 new footpaths maps and 250 old maps in stock. It was considered that there was sufficient stock at that time but that stocks would be reviewed at each subsequent meeting.

RESOLVED: that there was a sufficient stock of maps but that stocks would be reviewed at each subsequent Environment Committee meeting.

## **75. Bus Transportation**

### **75.1. Passenger Transport Representative**

The report from the Passenger Transport Representative was noted. In response to the question from the previous meeting (minute 62.2), the representative had reported that all bus companies were invited to passenger transport meetings and that most but not all companies attended on a regular basis. As many of the routes affected in the Bus Consultation proposals were First Bus, the Assistant Clerk would check their attendance at the meetings with a view to writing a letter if attendance was irregular.

### **75.2. Essex County Council Local Bus Consultation**

The Essex County Council Local Bus Consultation had been received. Cllr Mrs Chapman proposed that the consultation be completed by herself and the Assistant Clerk with the Passenger Transport Representative, and members agreed. Members raised the following issues:

- i. That the bus timetables were not up to date and that this may deter bus users.
- ii. That if bus services were not reliable, residents may use them less than might otherwise be the case.
- iii. Commuters arriving late from London may have no bus service to travel to Sandon Park and Ride.
- iv. Would smaller vehicles be able to cater for residents with disabilities?
- v. Generally not supportive of devolution.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs Chapman and Assistant Clerk would respond to the consultation and invite the Passenger Transport Rep to contribute to the response.

## 76. Highways Matters

### 76.1. Highways Matters (reported items)

The list of reported items was noted and completed or low priority items would be removed. Item 18/19 18, the dirty sharp bend signs, would be re-reported with a photograph.

A general discussion about dirty road signs and bus stop flags took place and one member suggested that councillors could clean the road signs. The Assistant Clerk informed members that they should not clean signs on behalf of the Parish Council due to Health and Safety Issues and the requirement for risk assessments.

A discussion was held regarding parking on verges and the footway and a member informed Cllrs that cars obstructing the footway could be reported.

### 76.2. Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP):

**76.2.1.** The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2018 had been received and noted. There were no items for Danbury recorded in those minutes.

**76.2.2.** It was noted that the next meeting was due to be held on 14th March 2019.

**76.2.3.** It was noted that the following were on the LHP Potential Schemes list for 2018/19.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Sporhams Lane	Width restriction on road to prevent goods vehicles damaging verges.	In Validation – waiting for outcome of request for quiet lane status.
Well Lane to the Heights – Service Road	One-way road	Feasible to make one-way with carriageway and footway improvements.
Penny Royal Road/Mayes Lane to Woodhill Road	Implementation of footway/walkable verge to link two parts of village	Estimated costs, design under review

**76.2.4.** It was noted that the following schemes were on the LHP Approved Schemes list for 2018/19 and members requested updates on items that had December finish dates.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bicknacre Road	Feasibility study into improvements to traffic warning signs	Finish date Dec. 2018
Penny Royal Road/Mayes Lane to Woodhill Road	Design of Footway/Walkable verge	Finish date Dec. 2018
Danbury Vale	Feasibility study into flood alleviation works	Finish date Dec. 2018

### **76.3. Traffic Count at Frettons Corner**

The traffic counts conducted at Frettons Corner in 2014 and 2018 were received. Average speeds were below the 30mph speed limit in both 2014 and 2018 with lower averages in 2018. In this light, the committee agreed that it would not support the resident's request for a speed camera in this location. The Assistant Clerk had been advised by the Highways Liaison Officer that there was no official highways sign to warn of a hidden entrance and so the Committee decided that it would be unable to support the resident's request for a sign of that nature.

RESOLVED: that the Committee would not support the resident's request for a speed camera and hidden entrance warning sign. The Assistant Clerk would write to the resident explaining the decision.

### **76.4. Speed Restriction Request for outside of St John's School**

The committee considered a request received by the County Councillor for a reduced speed limit outside of St John's School. This would be an advisory 20mph limit during school pick up and drop off times indicated by a sign with 'wigwag' lights. A letter had been received from a resident, subsequent to the agenda being published, expressing concerns about traffic speeds on that stretch of road and supporting a reduced speed limit. A general discussion regarding traffic speeds along the Little Baddow Road was held and concerns raised if motorists were not adhering to the 30mph speed limit. An agenda item would be included for the next committee meeting to consider requesting a traffic count along the Little Baddow Road. Cllr Mrs Chapman proposed that the request for the reduced speed limit of 20mph and signs with 'wigwag' lights be supported and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Hessing and carried.

RESOLVED: that the council would support the request made to the County Councillor for the reduced speed limit to 20mph and wigwag signs outside of St John's School. An agenda item would be included for the next committee meeting to consider requesting a traffic count along the Little Baddow Road.

**77. Griffin Meadow - Wildflower Meadow Area Proposal**

It was noted that the landowner had declined the Parish Council's proposal for the wildflower meadow areas at Griffin Meadow as they would like to maintain the field in its current set up. The Assistant Clerk had requested further information as to why but had not received a response. This would be brought back to the next agenda for further discussion.

**78. Tree Charter**

A report and information relating to the Tree Charter had been received and was considered by the Committee. After a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would support the Tree Charter Principles and sign the Tree Charter and undertake further investigation into the ramifications of becoming a Tree Charter Branch. Members suggested a variety of ways in which the Tree Charter Principles could be embedded into policy and procedure, including the production of a Tree Guidance Document. Cllr Mrs Hessing reported that it was now possible to identify potentially veteran and ancient trees and submit them for verification and consideration to be included in an ancient tree inventory. The Assistant Clerk requested that Councillors email suggestions for consideration at the next committee meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council would support the Tree Charter Principles and sign the Tree Charter and the Assistant Clerk would contact the National Association of Local Councils for further information regarding becoming a Tree Charter Branch. Further investigation would also be undertaken into whether and how the Parish Council could embed the Tree Charter Principles into policy and procedure and members would email the Assistant Clerk with suggestions prior to the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Chapman would inform the Parish Council at the next Full Council Meeting.

**79. Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA): Net Gain Consultation**

The the DEFRA Net Gain Consultation Document had been received and Cllr Chapman gave a summary of the main proposals in the document. A long discussion was held where members raised their concerns about the proposals. including: that existing protections may be lessened by the proposals; that mitigation may not be made locally but could be further afield at a national level; that the length of time that mitigation should be maintained for should be at least 25-30 years depending on the mitigation required and how long a specific habitat would take to become established.

As the closing date for the consultation was the 10<sup>th</sup> February, and the consultation lengthy it was agreed that the Chairman and Assistant Clerk would complete the consultation and circulate the responses to all Councillors prior to submission.

Members also enquired as to whether the Essex Association of Local Councils, National Association of Local Councils and Essex Wildlife Trust were aware of the consultation and requested that the Assistant Clerk contact the Senior Planner at Chelmsford City Council to enquire as to the Council's views on the proposals.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs Chapman and Assistant Clerk would complete the consultation and circulate the responses to all Councillors prior to submission. The

Assistant Clerk would enquire as to whether NALC, EALC and the Essex Wildlife Trust were aware of the consultation and proposals and contact Chelmsford City Council.

**80. Aircraft Noise**

Members received and considered a report from Cllr C. Baker regarding flights over Danbury and Little Baddow. After a discussion, members felt that there was no further action required at this time. Cllr C Baker agreed that the report could be shared with Little Baddow Parish Council. Cllr C Baker was thanked for producing the report.

RESOLVED: that no further action would be required at this time and that Cllr Baker's report be shared with Little Baddow Parish Council.

**81. Matters for Report (for information only.)**

Members raised a number of matters, including the planters outside Tesco Express being empty, Community Speedwatch, the condition of the road and pavement surfaces at Belvedere Road and the condition of footpath 41. Cllr Mrs Chapman raised a concern about the flowerbed outside the Old Pavilion.

The Assistant Clerk reported: that the contract for the bus shelter cleaning was due to be renewed at the end of the year and that this would be brought to the next meeting; and that a letter had been received from CCC regarding a tree grant but due to the application deadlines it would not be possible to plan a location and scheme in time to benefit from the grant.

**82. Forthcoming Meetings 2019**

The next meeting was scheduled for 25th March 2019 at 7.30pm at the Parish Council Office, however this may be subject to change to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Chairman

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Signed

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Date