Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 January 2020 at 7.30 pm at The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury

Present: Cllrs L Anstee B Hallett

S Berlyn (Chair) A Keeler
A Chapman (Vice Chair) P Sutton
G Chapman J Thombs

In attendance: Ms M Harper, Clerk

Cllr Berlyn advised that C Baker had resigned for personal reasons as a Parish Councillor.

19/20 - 79 Apologies for Absence

Cllr M Hessing and County Cllr J Spence

19/20 – 80 Declarations of Interest

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time. Members have dispensation to discuss and vote in respect of matters relating to the Precept and the DCA.

There were no declarations of interest.

19/20.81 Presentation regarding Danbury Energy Project

Luciana Almeida and Tom Day, Environment and Climate Action Team from Essex County Council (ECC) gave a presentation (Appendix 1)

The Danbury Energy Project is part of a scheme of looking at development opportunities for ECC; the Climate Change agenda forms an important part of its objectives with projects such as carbon efficiency across the estate and support for the county and local communities in general. ECC are working with an European project EMPOWER to look at ways to enable communities to have ownership of energy transmission; renewable energy and local production of energy becoming more prevalent and digitalised.

The Danbury Energy Project is looking at community led energy schemes and is working with Danbury Park Community School, Danbury Outdoors and Danbury Library to install assets such as solar panels. Solar panels will enable the production and use of their own energy which will hopefully reduce utility costs. The Project will also be looking at how to get best value from energy produced – at times more is produced than needed and it is possible to sell the energy back to the supplier. The Project would mean that rather than sell to suppliers who make a profit the energy could be sold to local residents or moved across the three sites. There are regulatory challenges and restraints but ECC foresee the scheme becoming viable and then public assets will be able to sell surplus energy to local users (ie School energy company to parents). In addition, ECC are Looking to work with schools to educate children and families on energy saving and waste reduction in general.

One of the reasons Danbury is ECC choice for looking at this scheme is there are technical problems with solar panels but there is a electrical substation with capacity situated next to primary school which makes process easier. It was noted that it was easier to get schemes started with ECC controlled assets but they were also seeking to broaden out to other organisations and individuals.

ECC is looking to run sessions with public to discuss the Project and other concerns such as energy efficiency advice and would be interested in working with the Danbury Community and wished to start a dialogue with the Parish Council regarding community engagement events

Members of the Parish Council were in support of the Project and was keen to discuss and promote within the community. Discussions were held regarding expanding the education to schools on sustainability. It was advised that a Community Energy Survey will be sent out to local groups to start looking at business cases and other groups who are interested in similar schemes in the area

Ms Almeida gave information on the Solar Together Essex scheme whereby residents can sign up on the ECC website for a solar panel collective scheme; once supplier has been selected, they would email the collective offer to residents who can choose to take it if they wish; details will be out in near future

Cllr Berlyn thanked Mr Day and Ms Almeida for attending the meeting and for an informative presentation

19/20.82 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present

19/20.83 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council minutes from 27 November 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

19/20.84 Reports from Committees

- 19/20.84.1 Resources Committee
 - 84.1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted
 - 84.1.2 RESOLVED: that the continued use of variable direct debits for utility supplies and Barclaycard and standing orders for salaries, IT Support and waste collection be agreed, proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Thombs, all agreed
 - 84.1.3 RESOLVED: that the Financial Regulations are approved, proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Hallett, all agreed
 - 84.1.4 RESOLVED: that the Financial Risk Assessment is approved, proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr A Chapman, all agreed
 - 84.1.5 RESOLVED: that the System of Internal Control is re-adopted, proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Thombs, all agreed
 - 84.1.6 RESOLVED: that the payment for replacement heras fencing be approved, proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr G Chapman, all agreed
- 19/20.84.2 Planning Committee

The minutes of the last meeting were noted

19/20.84.3 Environment Committee

The minutes of the last meeting were noted

19/20.84.4 Facilities Committee

The minutes of the last meeting were noted

- 19/20.84.5 Community Engagement Committee

 It was noted that the next meeting will take place 10 February 2020
- 19/20.84.6 Health & Wellbeing Committee 85.6.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted

Cllr Berlyn updated the meeting on the Domestic Abuse training held on 27 January – It was well attended, mainly from Beacon Health, the attendees provided positive feedback

Cllr Anstee noted the article on the Committee in this month's Contact magazine

85.6.2 Following discussion it was agreed that use of the building and charging structure would be considered on each applications merit i.e. business use as opposed to services for the village. The plans for use are in preliminary stages and more details will be forthcoming through the Health & Wellbeing Committee

RESOLVED: that the use of the Old Pavilion as a Community Hub be approved, proposed by Cllr Anstee and seconded by Cllr Sutton, all agreed

19/20.85 Appointment to Committees

19/20.85.1 RESOLVED: that Cllr Hessing join the Community Engagement Committee, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr Thombs, all agreed

RESOLVED that Cllr Hallett join the Health & Wellbeing Committee, proposed by Cllr Berlyn, seconded by Cllr Sutton, all agreed

19/20.86 Community Led Library

- 19/20.86.1 The Clerk advised that contact had been made with three organisations who had submitted Expression of Interest (EOI) requests to Essex County Council Library Service regarding a Community Led Library Service in Danbury. Two of these were for service providers who would be interested in having space in a Community Hib and providing services to the residents of Danbury however were not prepared to run a Community Led Library. The other EOI was from a local business who were still in the process of formalising a business proposal.
- 19/20.86.2 Essex County Council's library strategy is to maintain the current levels of service for a period of 5 years. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council do not have the capacity to run a Community Led Library

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council did not wish to lead on a Community Led Library service in Danbury, proposed by Cllr G Chapman and seconded by Cllr Keeler, all agreed

19/20.87 Bowling Club

After some discussion it was agreed that works to the bowling green to bring it up to the standard required by the Lease would be approved using money held in the Emergency Earmarked Funds

RESOLVED: that the remedial works required to return the bowling green to the standard agreed in the Lease were approved, proposed by Cllr A Chapman and seconded by Cllr Hallett, all agreed

19/20.88 Open Gardens – Eves Corner

After some discussion the Parish Council agreed to grant permission for the Danbury and Little Baddow Open Gardens to use Eves Corner as a centre for the community on Sunday 21 June 2020 for selling programs and refreshments, giving gardening advice and inviting other community groups to promote their clubs and activities.

RESOLVED: that Danbury and Little Baddow be granted permission to use Eves Corner for a community event on Sunday 21 June 2020 subject to the provision of suitable and sufficient insurance and risk assessments, proposed by Cllr G Chapman and seconded by Cllr Sutton, all agreed.

19/20.89 **Danbury Flag**

The current logo pre dates all members of the Councils and was created by a local artist. After some discussion it was agreed to invite the students of Sandon School who had offered to design for a Danbury Flag or Standard to Community Engagement Committee for a meeting to discuss further.

19/20.90 Consultation – Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments Responses to the Consultation were agreed and the Clerk will complete and return the forms.

19/20.91 **Councillors' Surgeries**

To note and agree attendance for Councillor Surgeries to be held in the Sports and Social Centre –

1 February 2020 Cllrs Keeler and Berlyn 7 March 2020 Cllrs Hallett and Hessing 4 April 2020 Cllr Anstee and G Chapman

19/20.92 **Reports from Village Organisations**

Cllr G Chapman gave a update on Superfast Essex – this does not apply to Danbury as commercial companies are available in this area to provide services

Cllr A Chapman advised that she had attended the Chelmer Valley Landscape meeting with representatives of groups with interest in the area, and that it was trying to extend its protection, and conservation area. There will be a formal launch in Autumn for organisations

Matters for Report (for information only)

Clerk provided update on land slippage monitoring.

Cllr Anstee noted that the Essex Chronicle had an interesting article regarding coasts under threat and ideas for climate

Cllr A Chapman noted that a consultation on Coastal Habitats and mitigation by developers has been personally received and asked members to complete and return if they receive it directly

19/20.94 Dates of next meeting

•	5 March 2020 to be held at the Danbury Parish Committee Room, Old School House, Ma y, CM3 4NQ at 7.30pm
Meeting close	ed at 9.30pm
Chairman	
Date	
	PC13