

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31 July 2019 at 7.30 pm at The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury

Present: Cllrs L Anstee B Hallett
C Baker M Hensing
S Berlyn (Chair) A Keeler
A Chapman (Vice Chair) P Sutton
G Chapman J Thombs
D Chesterman

In attendance: Ms M Harper, Clerk

19/20 - 28 Apologies for Absence

None

19/20 – 29 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 – 30 Public Question Time

Four members of the public were present. There was discussion regarding the provision of youth services in Danbury and how the needs of the youth can be met, with several suggestions relating to youth clubs, wifi availability and places to go. The dismantling of the Den on the Recreation Ground was discussed and the Parish Council advised that the Den had been removed on the advice of the Community Policing Team due to the evidence of drug use, criminal damage to the trees within the conservation area and tools being used that had been connected to thefts in the area. The Parish Council reiterated its interest in suggestions and ideas for engagement with youth projects.

19/20 - 31 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council minutes from 3 June 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

19/20 - 32 Parish Councillor's Allowances

RESOLVED: Danbury Parish Councillors did not wish to take the Parish Councillors Allowance, proposed by Cllr P Sutton and seconded by Cllr C Baker, all agreed.

19/20 - 33 Local Council Award Scheme

After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would not proceed with the Local Council Award Scheme at this time and monies would not be budgeted for in the April 2020 to March 2021 financial year.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council would not undertake the process to qualify for the Local Council Award Scheme and monies would not be budgeted for in the April 2020 to March 2021 financial year, proposed by Cllr A Chapman and seconded by Cllr A Keeler, agreed.

19/20 - 34 Terms of Reference – Amendment from Resources Committee

RESOLVED: that the Resources Committee Terms of Reference be reworded to allow the Committee to consist of up to 7 Councillors, proposed by Cllr P Sutton and seconded by Cllr J Thombs, agreed.

19/20 – 35 Appointment to Committees

RESOLVED: that the request from Cllr D Chesterman to join the Community Engagement Committee be approved

RESOLVED: as a result of item 19/20.34 the two vacancies on the Resources Committee be filled by Cllrs C Baker and M Hessing

19/20 - 36 Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies

RESOLVED: that the Representatives of the Chelmsford Association of Local Councils be amended to Cllrs S Berlyn, M Hessing and the Clerk

19/20 - 37 Land Review

RESOLVED: that the Environment Committee be asked to carry out a strategic land review and report back to the Parish Council

19/20 -38 Den on Recreation Ground

19/20. -38.1 It was noted that the den that had been created on the recreation ground, behind Pitch 3, had been dismantled on the advice of the Community Policing Team due to the evidence of drug taking, criminal damage to the trees and the use of axes, saws etc by persons unknown on council property. The recreation ground is being regularly monitored and further removal will take place if there is evidence of the same behaviours. The Parish Council Office are in conversation with the Chelmsford City Council Conservation Officer regarding the damage to the trees and are seeking advice on their ongoing management

19/20 -38.2 It was noted that Members had been emailed advice from the Community Policing that as Class A Drug Use is suspected interaction and engagement should be left to the police

19/20 - 39 Engagement with village youth

There was some discussion regarding the appointment of a Youth Co-ordinator and a Youth Council for Danbury as a means of engaging with the younger residents.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk researches establishing a Youth Council and terms of reference for a Youth Co-Ordinator for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting, proposed by Cllr C Baker and seconded by Cllr L Anstee, all agreed

19/20 - 40 Community Police Special Update

The monthly update from Essex Police, as previously distributed to Members was noted. There are currently no applications for the Danbury role

19/20 –41 Summer Police Patrol

After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would enter into an agreement with Essex Police regarding the deployment of police patrols to Danbury, focusing on the Dawson Memorial Field from Thursday 1 August until Friday 6 September with the funds coming from the Community Specials Police Earmarked Reserve. Cllr D Chesterman thanked

the Clerk for arranging and the Chairman of the Council asked for congratulations to the Clerk to be noted.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council agree to the deployment of police patrols at a cost of up to £1,000.00 to cover the costs of up to 40 hours overtime over the main summer holiday period, proposed by Cllr S Berlyn and seconded by Cllr M Hessing, all agreed

19/20 - 42 Ongoing policing in Danbury

After some debate it was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss the potential for employing a Police Community Support Officer.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk initiate discussion with neighbouring parishes to gauge interest in employing a Police Community Support Officer to work solely within the boundaries of the contributing parishes, proposed by Cllr A Chapman and seconded by Cllr D Chesterman, agreed.

19/20 - 43 Danbury Library

The Essex County Council decision not to close any libraries following the recent consultation and the request from County Councillor John Spence for Danbury to continue formatting proposals for the use of the building and optimisation of library use were noted.

19/20 – 43.1 It was agreed that the Health & Wellbeing Committee would proceed with developing plans to use the Library Building as a Community Hub, in conjunction with other partners including the Medical Practice

RESOLVED: that the Health & Wellbeing Committee continue to develop a business plan, in conjunction with other partners, to present to the appropriate Cabinet Holder for the additional uses of Danbury Library, proposed by Cllr B Hallett and seconded by Cllr L Anstee

19/20 – 43.2 It was agreed that the Community Engagement Committee would make recommendation to the Parish Council for communication with the village on the future uses of Danbury Library in terms of potential opening times and other uses of the building

RESOLVED: that the Community Engagement Committee be asked to make recommendation to the Parish Council for communication with the village regarding library uses, proposed by Cllr G Chapman and seconded by Cllr A Chapman, all agreed

19/20 - 44 Code of Conduct

There was a lengthy debate regarding the Code of Conduct for Parish Councils and discussion regarding Councillor interactions

19/20 - 45 Reports from Village Organisations

Cllr L Anstee noted attendance at the Patient Interest Group. Cllr D Chesterman noted that the Hawks Close Residents Association will be holding annual elections shortly.

19/20 - 46 Reports from Committees

19/20 -46.1 Resources Committee
The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted

19/20- 46.2 Planning Committee

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted

19/20 - 46.3 Environment Committee
The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr A Chapman advised that there would be a Woodland Walk on 18 August and that there would be a tree dressing activity during the Play In The Park sessions

19/20- 46.4 Facilities Committee
The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr G Chapman advised that the Resources Committee had agreed additional funding for the refurbishment of the village sign

19/20 - 46.5 Community Engagement Committee
The minutes of the last meeting will be published once the links on the website have been set up

19/20 - 46.6 Health & Wellbeing Committee
The minutes of the last meeting will be published once the links on the website have been set up

19/20 - 46.6.1 - It was noted that Mental Health Training has been arranged for Monday 16 September and Saturday 26 October.

19/20 - 46.7 Land Slippage Sub Committee
It was noted that the monitoring process has commenced.

19/20 – 47 Councillors’ Surgeries

Attendance for Councillor Surgeries to be held in the Sports and Social Centre were agreed:

- 3 August 2019 -Cllrs L Anstee and B Hallett
- 7 September 2019 – Cllrs M Hessing and C Baker
- 5 October 2019 – Cllrs A Keeler and S Berlyn

19/20 - 48 Matters for Report (for information only)

Cllr D Chesterman noted that a Climate Emergency had been declared by Chelmsford City Council; Clerk advised that this would an agenda item for the Environment Committee

19/20 - 49 Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with S.1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to resolve that in view of the nature of the business to be discussed it is in the opinion of the Committee advisable that the Public and Press be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw

19/20 - 50 Staffing Update

Staffing update was received from the Clerk

19/20 - 51 Dates of next meeting:

Wednesday 25 September 2019 to be held at the Danbury Parish Committee Room, Old School House, Main Road, Danbury, CM3 4NQ at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.59pm

Chairman

Date