

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 24 November 2021 at 7.30 pm
at The Parish Office, Main Road, Danbury

Present: Cllrs J Armstrong, S Berlyn (Chair), A Chapman (Vice Chair), G Chapman, N Day, M Hessing, A Keeler, N Orange and P Sutton

In attendance: Ms M Harper, Clerk

21/22.85 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Thombs

Cllr Berlyn thanked councillors and staff for all their hard work and for the activities that have been undertaken during 2021

21/22.86 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 interests

21/22.87 Public Question Time

Members of the public are invited to address the Council, give their views and question the Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration (at the discretion of the Chairman). Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself. At the close of this item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 5 minutes. Members of the public should address their representation through the Chairman of the meeting.

There were no comments from the public

21/22.88 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held 3 November 2021

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 November 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr A Chapman and seconded by Cllr A Keeler, all agreed

21/22.89 Reports from Committees

21/22.89.1 Community Engagement Committee

21/22.89.1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted

21/22.89.1.2 It was noted the Christmas Tree Lighting Event will take place on Monday 6 December at 7pm Tree and drinks/refreshments made available afterwards and that the larger Christmas Fayre would be postponed until next year.

21/22.89.2 Environment Committee

21/22.89.2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted

21/22.89.2.2 Cllr A Chapman proposed that the quote for landscaping works be agreed, this was seconded by Cllr Hallett and amended by Cllr Armstrong to not proceed with the works on the landslip area until the final invoice for the landslip remedials have been agreed.

RESOLVED: that the quote for £8,200.00 from Bradley Faulkner for landscaping of the landslip area and the wildflower area be agreed but the works on the landslip area be held until the final invoice for the remedial work has been agreed, proposed by Cllr A Chapman and seconded by Cllr Hessing, all agreed

21/22.89.3 Facilities Committee

21/22.89.3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted

21/22.89.3.2 Cllr G Chapman advised that the Facilities Committee had agreed to continue to support cricket at Danbury for a further three years.

21/22.89.4 Health & Wellbeing Committee

21/22.89.4.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted

21/22.89.4.2 Cllr Hessing advised that the Danbury Men's Shed had had a successful first meeting

21/22.89.5 Leisure & Activities Committee

21/22.89.5.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted

21/22.89.5.2 It was that the Committee is working with the Danbury Community Association Trust Ltd and Lifestyle Fitness on the future of the Sports & Social Centre. Cllr Berlyn advised that an initial meeting had been held earlier and that a Turnaround Group and Capital Expenditure Group would be established. The Clerk will be carrying out a Facilities Management/Health and Safety Audit to determine compliancy.

Cllr Berlyn invited other members of the Council to contact the Clerk if they wished to join the Leisure & Activities Committee

21/22.89.6 Planning Committee

21/22.89.6.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted

21/22.89.6.2 Cllr Hessing advised that the Neighbourhood Plan had made huge progress and the sites and plan writing groups were working hard with regular meetings. Cllr Berlyn thanked the groups for their hard work

21/22.89.7 Resources Committee

21/22.89.7.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted

21/22.89.7.2 Cllr Sutton advised that the Grants Sub Committee had received an application for a grant that they are recommending for approval: Friends of St Johns School were requesting funding towards an all-weather running track at the school to improve access to fitness. The Grants Working Party were recommending £1,500.00

RESOLVED: that a grant of £1,500.00 be provided to Friends of St John's School towards the all-weather running track, proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Hessing, all agreed

21/22.90 Agenda Items

It was noted that Councillors can and should ask for specific items to be put onto the relevant Committee agenda so that more leadership comes from councillors rather than clerks.

21/22.91 Timetable of meetings 2022

The meeting timetable for 2022 was agreed

21/22.92 Poppy Wreath

RESOLVED: that a donation of £100.00 would be made to the Royal British Legion in respect of the Poppy Wreath, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr G Chapman, all agreed

20/21.93 Precept 2022/2023

Cllr Sutton thanked the committees for their active participation in the budget process. The impact of facilitating the future of a Sports & Social facility was discussed along with the need to ensure that the building is compliant with statute and a village asset is protected.

After lengthy discussion the proposed Precept of £331,618.00 was agreed. This represents a 24.8% increase on last year; effect on Band D property would be an increase of £25.84 per annum as recommended by the Resources Committee. The breakdown of the precept proposal is below:

Community Engagement Committee - £13,675.00
Environment Committee - £6,395.00
Facilities Committee - £65,346.00
Health and Wellbeing Committee - £500.00
Leisure & Activities Committee - £123,500 (facilitation of a sports & social centre and maintenance/repair)
Resources Committee - £140,326.00

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council would submit a precept request of £331,618.00 to Chelmsford City Council for the financial year April 2022 to March 2023, proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Hessing, agreed

21/22.94 Reports from Village Organisations

Cllr A Chapman advised that she had attended a meeting of the Chelmer Valley Landscape who are looking at a scheme for Chelmer Valley that will involve the protection of wildlife, waterways and pathways

Cllr Hessing advised that the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteers Group were now on hold until after Christmas

Cllr Berlyn noted that the Parish Council had limited numbers of meetings through December to give everyone a break and a chance to catch up.

21/22.95 Community Engagement

Advertisement of the Christmas event and the Precept

21/22.96 Matters for Report (for information only)

Cllr G Chapman advised that the bulb planting around the village over the past few weeks had been very successful and thanked the Rotary Club, Marie Curie and the volunteers for their work

21/22.75 Dates of next meeting

Danbury Parish Office on Wednesday 26 January 2022 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.26pm.

Chairman

Date