

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 January 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs J Armstrong, S Berlyn, G Chapman, B Hallett, A Keeler and M Hensing

In attendance: Ms M Harper (Clerk) and one member of the public

22/23.87 Apologies for absence

Cllrs A Chapman and L Naggs

Essex County Councillor J Spence sent his apologies

22/23.88 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.

There were no declarations of interest

22/23.89 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

22/23.90 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held 7 December 2022 and 19 January 2023

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 December 2022 and 19 January 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record

22/23.91 Sustainable Danbury

Mr Bird, from Sustainable Danbury gave an update on their status as a Community Benefit Society, the recent energy advice that had been given to resident regarding changes and improvements to property and the projects currently being undertaken – solar panels and community energy/share offers, Energy Local whereby local people are offered reduced energy rates from excess production and Community Power helping people look at their decarbonisation pathways and retrofitting. Mr Bird advised that Sustainable Danbury were hoping to work with the Parish Council on a project similar to one being run at Littlebury. Following discussion, it was felt that this was an item that should be referred to the Environment Committee post May elections.

22/23.92 Reports from Committees

22/23.92.1 Community Engagement and Health & Well-being Committee

22/23.92.1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted. The Chairman advised that a Health & Wellbeing Event was being held on 22 April at the Leisure Centre and that the Committee would be contacting local schools regarding recommencement of the school visits previously made by members

22/23.92.1.2 The Chairman noted that plans for the Coronation event on 7 May 2023 were moving ahead and it was important that members advised of their availability to help by email to the Clerk

22/23.92.2 Environment Committee

The minutes of the last meeting were noted

22/23.92.3 Leisure, Activities & Facilities Committee

The Chairman advised that the meeting scheduled for January had been postponed and that the works to the zip wire were due to be completed once the ground conditions improved

22/23.92.4 Planning Committee

22/23.92.4.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted. The Chairman advised that Regulation 14 Consultation in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan would commence for 6 weeks on 1 February.

22/23.92.5 Resources Committee

22/23.92.5.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted. The Charman noted that the new manager, Darren Swash, was in post and that the voluntary redundancy process had been completed. The Chairman advised that there would be a financial report available for the March Parish Council meeting and that the recent Comedy Night had been well supported. The Chairman thanked staff and members for their support

22/23.92.5.2 RESOLVED: that the Parish Council accepted the Internal Auditors Interim Audit Report, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr G Chapman, all agreed. The Chairman expressed special thanks to the Clerk for the hard work that had gone into achieving the successful audit

22/23.92.5.2 RESOLVED: that the continued use of variable direct debits and standing orders for utility supplies, recycling collection, photocopier, salaries and IT Support be approved, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr Armstrong, all agreed

22/23.93 Eves Corner Lease

Following discussion, with particular reference to maintaining the area for the enjoyment of the residents and the costs of maintenance, the Clerk was requested to contact the National Trust regarding the potential of purchasing the land before entering into lease negotiations.

22/23.94 Councillor Surgeries

To confirm attendance at the following Farmer Markets held at the Sports & Social Centre:

- Sunday 7 May - Cllr A Chapman
- Saturday 3 June – deferred to May meeting
- Saturday 1 July – deferred to May meeting

22/23.95 Reports from Village Organisations

There were no reports

22/23.96 Community Engagement

There were no items for engagement

22/23.97 Matters for Report (for information only)

Cllr G Chapman advised that the Community Woodland would become the responsibility of the Parish Council at the end of March 2023, and that the Parish Paths Partnership Group may form a Friends of Community Woodland group

Cllr Armstrong noted that a working group meeting looking at local Area of Outstanding Beauty would be held on 17 February at the Little Baddow Memorial Hall for an initial informal discussion

22/23.98 Dates of next meeting

Wednesday 29 March 2023 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.53pm.

Chairman

Date