

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 March 2023 at 7.30 pm

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

In attendance: Ms M Harper (Clerk), Essex County Councillor John Spence and one member of the public

22/23.99 Apologies for absence

Cllrs A Keeler, L Naggs and N Orange

22/23.100 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

22/23.101 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.

Essex County Councillor (ECCllr) John Spence advised that

- the pre-booking for recycling centres was a trial that was being closely monitored and asked councillors to report any increases in local fly tipping
- the walking verge works along Penny Royal Road were continuing and that bollards were to be installed to help prevent parking – Cllr Berlyn thanked ECCllr Spence for helping to secure the additional funding required
- the route-based review of the A414 was due to be completed by the end of the third quarter last year, however some works needed to be re-undertaken and the completed report is due by the end of the first quarter this year
- the Solar Farm work is going ahead and councillors expressed concerns regarding traffic movements and appropriate use of land
- it would be possible to arrange a Royal Oak Steering Group meeting as there had been complaints regarding the mud on the roads and the speed to HGVs from the quarry, however there is often the question of speed perception from pedestrians
- locality funding had been granted to Sustainable Danbury and the Men's Shed

Cllr Berlyn advised that since taking over the management of the Danbury Leisure Centre classes and activities had been increased, a Communication and Events Administrator had been employed on a temporary contract and that the Parish Council would be hosting a village fete on Sunday 7 May for the Coronation. ECCllr Spence noted that there was a great sense of community in Danbury.

Cllr Berlyn advised that the Neighbourhood Plan had been out for Regulation 14 Consultation

Cllr Berlyn formally thanked councillors for their efforts over the past four years and the staff who have worked so hard in relation to the Leisure Centre

ECCllr Spence left the meeting

22/23.102 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held 25 January 2023

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25 January 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record

22/23.103 Reports from Committees

22/23.103.1 Community Engagement and Health & Well-being Committee

22/23.103.1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted. Cllr Hallett advised that St John's had responded regarding a school visit, that there was a Health & Wellbeing Fair being held at the Leisure Centre on 22 April and that the Annual Parish Meeting was due to be held on 22 May.

22/23.103.1.2 Cllr Hallett gave an update on the Coronation event arranged for 7 May 2023

22/23.103.1.3 Councillors confirmed their availability to help at the Coronation Event:

22/23.103.2 Environment Committee

The minutes of the last meeting were noted. Cllr A Chapman advised that the Men's Shed would be making bird boxes, that the Committee would wait to see if the improvements to the walkable verge made a difference and that pavement parking issues had been passed on to the relevant departments but if councillors observe any pavement parking to take a photo of the offending cars so they can be passed on. Cllr Hessing noted that she will put a Facebook post up regarding the parking on the Village page

22/23.103.3 Leisure, Activities & Facilities Committee

22/23.103.3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were noted. Cllr G Chapman advised that a pitched roof would be replaced on the Eves Corner bus stop, that the cricket contract for a years maintenance of the cricket wicket had been agreed, additional electrics at the Ground Store had been agreed and the hatching lines in the car parks would be renewed. In terms of the path to the Bowling and Tennis Pavilions it had been agreed to review the condition of the path in Autumn and decide whether it would need to be relayed

22/23.103.3.2 RESOLVED: that a mains fed Giga 3x coffee machine would be leased from Coolersense, proposed by Cllr Hessing and seconded by Cllr Hallett, agreed

22/23.103.4 Planning Committee

The minutes of the last meeting were noted. Cllr Hessing advised that a concrete slab ramp had been installed as part of a repair at Danbury County Park. There was some discussion on the listed status of the curtilage and that materials should be sympathetic to the local environment.

22/23.103.5 Resources Committee

22/23.103.5.1 The minutes of the last meeting would be available shortly

22/23.103.5.2 RESOLVED: that the following policies be approved, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr A Chapman, all agreed

- the Financial Regulations
- the Financial Risk Assessment
- the re-adoption of the System of Internal Control
- the re-adoption of the Adequate and Effective System of Internal Audit
- the Standing Orders

22/23.104 Councillor Surgeries

To confirm attendance at the following Farmer Markets held at the Leisure Centre:

Sunday 7 May - Cllr A Chapman

Saturday 3 June – deferred to May meeting

Saturday 1 July – deferred to May meeting

22/23.105 Reports from Village Organisations

There were no reports

22/23.106 Community Engagement

There were no issues of community engagement

22/23.107 Matters for Report (for information only)

Cllr G Chapman advised that a working party with members of the P3 Group would be planting whips in the Community Woodland over the weekend

22/23.108 Dates of next meeting

Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47pm.

Chairman

Date