

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on 3rd March 2010 at the Parish Office

Present: Councillors A Keeler (Chairman), S. Berlyn, (ex officio) D. Bolwell, S. Freeman, J. Langley, J Thomson, D Whiteing, M. Wood (ex officio)

In attendance: The Clerk, Cllr Clacy
PCSO Paul Farrant and PCSO Sarah Martin
Norman Bartlett

85 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Pemberton who was at the Parish Plan Review Group and John Bowen outside representative.

86 Declarations of Interest

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

None were declared.

87 Public Question Time Limited to 15 Minutes

Cllr Clacy felt that the school had not been cooperating with Danbury Outdoors. Also that the caretaker of the school may be able to help more.

Norman Bartlett informed the meeting that the new surface at Eves Corner was already breaking up in bays 2 and 3 of the parking area.

88 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 13th January, 2010

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of Environment Committee held on 13th January, 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Members agreed to take the item on the Agenda regarding Speed of Traffic using Little Baddow Road first.

89 Speed of Traffic Using Little Baddow Road

PCSO Sarah Martin advised the meeting that she had completed speed checks on 31.1.2010 between 12.15 and 12.44 at junction of Runsell Lane 1 speeding motorist in 100 readings

On 12.1.2010 at the junction of Runsell Lane 4.40 – 5.00 p.m. both directions 8 speeding motorists in 100 readings.

On 21.1.2010 3.50 to 4.35 p.m. coming into Danbury 17 speeding motorists in 100 readings.

On 4.2.2010 5.40 – 6.15 p.m. at the Generals Arms in both directions 10 speeding motorists in 100 readings.

On 8.2.2010 5.25 – 6.00 p.m. Junction Runsell Lane 20 speeding motorists in 100

Readings.

On 15.2.2010 10.55 – 12.25 Junction of Runsell Lane 5 speeding motorists in 100 readings.

The checks showed that the speed of vehicles had not got worse. In some cases the PCSO could only just be seen so the motorists would not have been able to slow down. Letters were sent with a speedwatch letter. If a police constable was present then tickets could be served. The new surface had not made the stretch of road any faster. The PCSO was not permitted to take readings after dark. A speed trap with 8 police officers had been established in this area prior to Christmas and not one speeding motorists was found.

The PCSOs were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Members considered the information received from a member of the public. This information had already been circulated before the Environment Committee previously. Members felt that nothing had changed so there was nothing to review. There was also no budget available to purchase a Speed Activated Sign.

The Speed Activated Sign on Maldon Road Danbury had been placed there by Essex County Highways.

Members felt that the Parish Council should do nothing further at the present time.

Cllr Berlyn proposed that the member of the public was thanked for their letter. Also as the further reports from the PCSO showed no significant speeding in Little Baddow Road that the Committee did not recommend to Parish Council to investigate further Speed Reduction Signs. This was seconded by Cllr Bowell and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that a) the member of the public be thanked for their letter and also pointed out that the Speed Activated Sign on Maldon Road was installed by Essex County Highways

b) That the Committee did not recommend to Parish Council to investigate further Speed Reduction Signs.

90 Footpaths

90.1 Footpath Map to be placed on Web-Site

Assistant Clerk was working on placing the map on the web including researching the license.

RESOLVED: that this information be noted.

90.2 Churchyard

The works had been completed on Wednesday 17th February, 2010. Concerns had been raised regarding the digging of the additional drainage channels.

RESOLVED: that this information be noted.

90.3 Dawson Memorial Field

Permission had been given to remove the hump to allow wheelchair access to the footpath. The Groundsman and the Clerk had met with a representative from Strutt

and Parker and agreed the works. Members agreed that the works should be completed.

Regarding the other end of the footpath the Groundsman was concerned that people were using a cut through and that he had placed sand on the area but did not wish pea shingle to be laid as this would affect his machinery.

Apparently people were also cutting across Pitch 4.

Members wished both areas to have more hedging planted.

RESOLVED: that a) the works be completed to remove the hump by the Groundsman
b) the Clerk to request that the areas of gaps in the hedging be blocked up

90.4 Footpath 17

Several Members of the Committee had walked Footpath 17 and could not see a problem with the footpath.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

90.5 Footpath 15

There was a request from Essex County Highways to use road planings on Footpath 15. Cllr Berlyn proposed that whilst the Parish Council would not support the use of road planings in this particular location could indigenous gravel be used to maintain the rural aspect of the footpath. This was seconded by Cllr Freeman and members agreed this course of action with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Essex County Council requesting that road planings are not used but could indigenous gravel be used to maintain the rural aspect of the footpath.

91 Highways Matters

91.1 List of Roads for Repair

91.2 Runsell Green Outside Anchor Public House

The water had been cleared. The Essex County Highways had an order outstanding to mend the pipe adjacent to the pond.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

91.3 Well Lane

The Clerk had written to the Essex County Highways to request investigation into a pedestrian crossing at Well Lane. The Essex County Highways response stated that this was investigated some time ago but that the sight lines were not adequate. The scheme will be placed as a scheme that the Council can put forward as a parishes small scheme when requested to do so the next time. This may not be until September, 2010. Even this was not a definite date.

A petition was circulated at the meeting that had been instigated in support of the crossing. Lots of the people on the petition lived outside the village and were thought to come to the school by car.

The Clerk had also checked to see if a school crossing patrol could be initiated. The Essex County Council will not fund a patrol unless there has been a history of accidents. If either the school or the Parish Council were prepared to fund a patrol it would cost £3,000 per annum. Alternatively the school could appoint or recommend an unpaid volunteer who would agree to operate the site for all 10 sessions per week. The Essex County Council would be prepared to train and equip the volunteer. The Essex County Council would not recommend the site for a school crossing patrol.

Chelmsford Borough Council was in consultation with Essex County Highways regarding parking restrictions. They have requested that the usage of the car park at Danbury Outdoors be reconsidered by the Essex County Council for the school users so that there would be somewhere for the traffic to park if parking restrictions was to be introduced.

There had been no accident at this location. Members were concerned that the school should manage the car park. The car park had been partially closed due to an ambulance seeking to gain access to Danbury Outdoors and was unable to do so because of the car parking. This is when Danbury Outdoors closed part of the parking area to the school. Members could also remember that when the crossing was investigated the last time the sight line was bad because the pavement stops short and without moving the fence back and the pavement back this would still be the same.

Cllr Berlyn proposed that the Parish Council support a feasibility study for a pedestrian crossing at Well Lane. However, it had to be that the provision of a crossing was safe for all users. This was seconded by Cllr M Wood and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that a) the clerk writes again to Chelmsford Borough Council regarding parking restrictions
b) the clerk writes to Essex County Highways in support of a pedestrian crossing in Well Lane with a copy to the Essex County Council and the Chair of Governors.

91.4 Mayes Lane

Essex County Highways were investigating the area which floods. Engineers had made a preliminary visit.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

91.5 Eves Corner

Essex County Highways were trying to repair the area outside the Chemist shop.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

91.6 Pillar Box

The Clerk reported that there were no finances to look at this work. Members thought it might be a good idea to write to the Post Office in Danbury requesting help in the matter.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

91.7 Posts Runsell Green

Further posts were on order for this area. The works will be completed as soon as the weather improved.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

91.8 Runsell Green Reduction in Speed Limit

The Clerk had contacted Essex County Highways and the decisions regarding the small schemes would not occur until March, 2010 for the next financial year. The residents had been notified.

Correspondence was circulated from the Warren Golf Club notifying of a serious accident at the junction between Woodham Walter Danbury and Maldon.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

91.9 Hyde Lane Speed Request

A request was circulated from a resident for a speed reduction in Hyde Lane as there had been another serious accident. The PCSO had investigated the matter and the accident had been caused by icy conditions not speed.

RESOLVED: that Members noted the information.

92 Quarries

92.1 St Cleres Hall

No further correspondence received.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

92.2 Royal Oak Quarry

Essex County Council still had not arranged the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

92.3 Sandon Quarry

Nothing further to report

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

92.4 Proposed site at Tyndales Farm

The Council had been informed that the outcome of the Site Allocations document would not be until after June 2010. The promoter of the site had changed to Sworders Agricultural. The same owners owned the land.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

93 Parishes Transportation Group

93.1 Minutes of the Meeting of the 12th January, 2010.

Minutes of the Meeting of the 12th January, 2010 were circulated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

93.2 A meeting took place at by Hatfield Peverel Parish Council with Cllr Hume to which the Parish Council was invited but unfortunately the Parish Council had to send apologies.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

93.3 Parishes Transportation Meeting 23rd February, 2010

Apologies were sent to this meeting.

RESOLVED: that this information be noted.

94 Bus Shelters

94.1 Bus shelter opposite The Avenue (Maldon side)

The Clerk had been advised that there were no monies available for this project until the spring.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

94.2 Bus Shelter near the Avenue (Chelmsford Side)

The light still needs to be fitted. Essex County Highways were aware.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

95 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Police

The Police asked what problems there were in Danbury. Nothing put forward.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

96 Climate Change/ Green Group

No further meetings have been held.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

97 Climate Change

Members had nothing further to report.

The Clerk circulated details of a Conference in Ipswich on 15th March, 2010 at Ipswich. No members wished to attend.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

98 Danbury Times

Cllr Wood reported that all copy had been received. He also announced that after 13 years he was retiring as editor of the Danbury Times.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

99 Bus Passenger Transport

Buses 31 and 36 were now timed a little bit earlier. There is now real time telemetry and you can receive a text when the next bus is going to arrive.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

100 Danbury Common/Cyclists

Nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

101 Ollets

The Clerk had written a further letter to the Chelmer Housing Partnership requesting information on the current residents and whether the Warden was being replaced.

There was a meeting planned with residents on Friday 5th March.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk notify the Chairman of the Council of the time of the meeting.

102 Gritting Bins

A further request had been received from St Johns Church for a grit bin. Essex County Highways would not fill the bin as it would be located on private land. Members decided not to fund this bin. The cost for the supply and installation at Elm Green would be a flat fee of £350.00 Members unanimously agreed to order the grit bin for Elm Green.

RESOLVED: that a) the Council could not fund the grit bin at St Johns Church
b) Members agreed to pay for the cost of £350.00 flat fee to install a grit bin at Elm Green.

103 Annual Litter Pick

This was to take place on Saturday 24th April, 2010 between 9 – 11.30 a.m. Caroline Lambert had agreed to coordinate the roads covered.

RESOLVED: that Caroline Lambert is thanked for helping with the litter pick again this year.

104 Recycling Battery Box

There will be a battery collect box in the Parish Office for AA batteries.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

105 Saturday Morning Stand Outs

The Saturday Morning Stand Outs had been withdrawn by Chelmsford Borough Council.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

106 Neat Newsletters

The Neat Newsletter was circulated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

107 RCCE Essex Villages of the Year and Best Kept Village Competition

Members agreed to enter the competition again this year.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council enter the RCCE Essex Village of the Year and Best Kept Village Competition.

108 Healths and Social Care

Public Meetings were being held at the Essex Record Office on 25th February and the 17th March at Central Baptist Church Chelmsford and the 16th June at the Cliffs Pavilion Westcliffe-on-Sea.

109 Matters for Report only

Cllr Thomson had attended the District Councillors open day. He stated that several members of the public were complaining regarding the Public Conveniences.

Cllr Berlyn was concerned regarding a blue van parked on a grass verge which had been dug out on the Bicknacre Road.

110 Dates of Meetings for 2010

Wednesday 2nd June, 8th September, 13th October and 1st December

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Cllr a Keeler, Chairman

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Signed

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Date