

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on 2nd June, 2010 at the Parish Office

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

In attendance: The Clerk,
Norman Bartlett

1 Election of Chairman

Cllr A Keeler was nominated by Cllr M Wood and seconded by Cllr Berlyn. It was unanimously decided that Cllr Keeler be duly elected for the municipal year 2010 – 2011 as Chairman of the Environment Committee.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Keeler be duly elected as Chairman of the Environment Committee for the municipal year 2010 – 2011.

2 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr J Langley was nominated by Cllr A Keeler and seconded by Cllr M Wood. It was unanimously decided that Cllr Langley be duly elected for the municipal year 2010 – 2011 as Vice Chairman of the Environment Committee.

3 Election of Outside Representative

This item was deferred to the next meeting as John Bowen was not present.

4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs David Bolwell and Mrs Y Chapman together with John Bowen outside representative.

5 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.

Cllr Pemberton declared an interest in item 10.4 by virtue of living near the site.

6 Public Question Time Limited to 15 Minutes

No Members of the Public were present.

7 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 3rd March, 2010

Members discussed the requested change in the Minutes.

A vote was taken. There were 6 for removing the line in question, 1 against and 1 abstention. Therefore the line will be completely removed from the minutes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of Environment Committee held on 3rd March 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record with the omission of the line 'Cllr Clacy also informed the meeting that the new promoter for Tyndales Farm was Sworders Agricultural'.

Mr Bartlett arrived at the meeting.

8 Footpaths

8.1 Footpath Map to be placed on Web-Site

The Assistant Clerk had spoken with Essex County Council and was working out the licensing process.

RESOLVED: that this information be noted.

8.2 Danbury Youth Camp and park – footpath opposite Riffhams Lane

A complaint had been received from a local resident regarding overgrown vegetation. This had been forwarded to Essex County Council. Cllr Bolwell had emailed the following information:

A permissive path from this location to the bus stop had been sought for many years. The new metal fence for Danbury Park School had been set back from the old fence in the roadside hedge giving ample room for such a path. The old fence has been knocked down 100 metres west of the bus stop and the wear of the grass would indicate that it is being used as an access to the park.

The Clerk explained that this item was on the small schemes request list for Danbury but as yet in Chelmsford a panel had not been put together and no decisions had been made regarding the list.

Members thought that Cllr Bolwell's idea was very good. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Essex County Council in support of the suggestion.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Essex County Council to put forward the suggestion.

8.3 Gap between houses which runs from St Cleres Way to Footpath 16

The area in question was not owned by the Parish Council. The only involvement the Parish Council had was to leave a gap on the side of the entrance to the allotments, so that residents at this end of St Cleres Way could take a short cut to Footpath 16 instead of walking back to the proper access point. A local resident was now investigating through the land registry if anyone owns the land as they would like it adopted by the ECC as a Public Right of Way. There was a procedure for this i.e. witness statements. This could also be taken by an individual. The landowner's consent was required.

RESOLVED: that this information was noted.

9 Highway Matters

9.1 List of Roads for Repair

91.2 Runsell Green Outside Anchor Public House

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 Essex County Council had requested that this item was put forward as a small scheme for the village but at the moment there was no information on when the scheme would open again. The correspondence did confirm that this location had been investigated before and the sight splay was detrimental to a crossing.

RESOLVED: that the information was noted.

91.4 Mayes Lane

Essex County Highways has an order outstanding for these works.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

9.5 Eves Corner

Essex County Highways still plan to repair the area outside the Chemist shop including the parking bay.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

9.6 Traffic Orders

There have been the following traffic orders:

Copt Hill Danbury – overhead cable and gas connections

Mill Lane – Water Mains Works

Woodhill Road near Common BT Pole

Members did report that with both Mill Lane and Copt Hill closed it had been quite difficult to access this area of the village. Also that the diversion down the Avenue meant negotiating several potholes.

RESOLVED: that the information was noted.

9.7 Pillar Box

The Clerk reported that she had written to the local Post Office in Danbury requesting help in the matter but had received no reply. Members wished the Clerk to write again.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Danbury Post Office again to see they could help in the matter.

9.8 Posts Runsell Green

The posts had now been installed.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

9.9 Runsell Green Reduction in Speed Limit

Essex County Highways had not as yet made a decision on the Small Scheme Lists for the Parish Councils. This was not yet available.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

9.10 Highways Community Infrastructure Fund (HCUF)

Correspondence was circulated to Members regarding the future of this fund which appeared to be closing.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

10 Quarries

10.1 St Cleres Hall

No further correspondence received.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

10.2 Royal Oak Quarry

Essex County Council still had not arranged the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

10.3 Sandon Quarry

Nothing further to report

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

10.4 Proposed site at Tyndales Farm

The Council had been informed that the outcome of the Site Allocations document would not be until after October 2010.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

11 Parishes Transportation Group/A.12 Inquiry

11.1 Minutes of the Meeting of the 11th May, 2010

Minutes of the Meeting of the 11th May, 2010 were circulated. Cllr Berlyn had attended the meeting and felt that the Group was still active. Keith Francis had been donated with a voucher for his work for the group regarding strategic planning on the London – Ipswich route. Maldon Town Council and Maldon District Council now had adopted a policy for a proposed by-pass from Heybridge to the A.12. Cllr Berlyn requested that the Council should write formally to the three borough councillors to request that they take this item formally to Chelmsford Borough Council to adopt the policy to support this policy. This was unanimously agreed.

It was also unanimously agreed to take this proposal to Parish Council in July for adoption as policy of Danbury Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk write to the three Borough Councillors to request that Chelmsford Borough Council adopt a policy to support a proposed by-pass from Heybridge to the A. 12

b) this item was to be taken to Parish Council at the end of July so that Danbury Parish Council could adopt this policy

11.2 Payment of Subscription

£150.00 had been requested for Membership of the Group which had been paid at Resources Committee.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk check the amount as the letter stated £100.00 but the Council had always paid £150.00

12 Bus Shelters

12.1 Bus shelter opposite The Avenue (Maldon side)

The Area Highways Manager had completed a site visit with the Clerk. A complaint had been received by a resident regarding that there was no high kerb in placed for disabled person at this location. The Area Highways Manager was investigating the installation of this kerb and was still investigating the installation of a new bus shelter and was securing the funding. Then the project would go to the Design Team for action

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

12.2 Bus Shelter near the Avenue (Chelmsford Side)

The light still needed to be fitted. This was being incorporated within the works for the new bus shelter.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

12.3 Wooden Bus Shelter – Maldon Road

A Member had received a complaint that it was impossible to see the bus coming from within the shelter as the bushes were totally over grown.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the residents to see if they can cut back the vegetation to help the matter.

13 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Police

Cllr Whiteing had attended a meeting three weeks ago and the Police were very concerned regarding the recent amount of burglaries. On several occasions the residents had been asleep in the house when the burglary had occurred. They had been stepping up a police presence. There was an area of concern at Little Baddow as they police were constantly being called to the lock.

Cllr Whiteing could not understand why the police could not inform him if any arrests had occurred following incidents.

The Police had been questioned about dog bins. Members thought it would be good idea to have a map as to where the dog bins are located.

Members would like to the know the result of the Community Police Officers house to hose visits recently.

It was requested that Sergeant Perry Land come to the next meeting in September.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk request Sergeant Perry Land to attend in September
b) request the result of the house to house home visits
c) a map of dog bins etc be produced and circulated

14 Climate Change/ Green Group

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated including the calendar of green ideas. The Clerk had been unable to attend this meeting.

Members requested further information on the September items – Draft Proofing and Energy Efficiency in older buildings as they be appropriate for an article in the Danbury Times.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

15 Climate Change

Members had nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

16 Danbury Times

Items for Danbury Times Neighbourhood Watch and Burglaries

Draft Proofing and Energy Efficiency in older buildings.

Bus Timetables was discussed but it was thought better to place a link from the web site.

RESOLVED: that Neighbourhood Watch and Burglaries be put forward as articles for the Danbury Times

b) also Draft proofing and emergency efficiency in older buildings

c) also Inconsiderate Parking

d) the Assistant Clerk be asked if it was possible to place a link to the bus timetables

17 Bus Passenger Transport

Nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

18 Danbury Common/Cyclists

Richard Wallace from the National Trust had installed some bollards in Copt Hill with the agreement of the residents. Cllr Whiteing was concerned that the bollards had left little room for vehicles to pass.

Blakes Wood and Lingwood Common were also being used by cyclists and even fencing had not stopped them using an area as they had used a residents garden.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

19 Ollets

No further information.

20 Annual Litter Pick

This had taken place on Saturday 24th April, 2010 between 9 – 11.30 a.m. 19 residents and 10 scouts and their leaders had taken part. Over 30 bags of rubbish were collected. A thank you had been forwarded to Caroline Lambert for her help. Articles have been written to thank the residents who had helped.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

21 “Love Where You Live Event” 7th – 14th June, 2010

Members decided that that had already completed the Annual Litter Pick for the Village and could not take part in this event at short notice.

Members also requested to have information on the litter pickers within the village as to which areas of the village they completed litter collection.

RESOLVED: that a) the Parish Council does not take part in this event.
b) the clerk to ascertain from the litter pickers which areas of the village they are collecting litter from

22 Daffodils

Cllr Bolwell had prepared a survey of the daffodils in the village together with photographs and some sites for consideration. Members wished Cllr Bolwell to be formally thanked for his hard work at preparing the documentation. It was unanimously decided to put forward the six sites as stated so that two could be chosen which would have health and safety approval by Essex County Highways.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk forward the information to the NEAT officer at Chelmsford Borough Council for submission for approval by Essex County Highways.

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

The Village had been entered into this competition again this year.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

24 Gating Signs

The Danbury Society had suggested that at the entrances to the villages they should be highlighted by gating similar to that at Woodam Walter and Sandon. Members felt that this had been investigated before. Members did not have a problem in principle with this idea. It was also thought that this item should be investigated for a later meeting as there were many projects being investigated at the moment.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk investigated what has happened in the past and bring it back to a further meeting.

25 Parking Conditions in the Avenue

Members noted the correspondence which had been circulated from Chelmsford Borough Council regarding the request for parking restrictions in the Avenue. Members discussed this item and it was decided to draw the Police attention to the inconsiderate parking.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk write to the Police regarding the parking situation in the Avenue
b) Inconsiderate parking be placed as an item for the Danbury Times

26 Matters for Report only

The Clerk reported that Chelmer Housing Partnership had forwarded their timetable for walkabouts and would be in Danbury on 15th September, 2010 10.00a.m. at Jubilee Rise and 11.00 a.m. at Ollets West Belvedere – the Chairman of the Council to attend.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from a local resident regarding the Zebra Crossing on the Main Road outside Park School. Members were very

concerned that the approach signs had gone missing. This item was to be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr Berlyn updated the meeting regarding Emergency Planning in Essex.

Cllr Wood informed the meeting that there were 5 bags of rubbish on Dial Common. Also that the Shoe Shop was to become a charity shop for CARE research.

27 Dates of Meetings for 2010

Wednesday 8th September, 13th October and 1st December

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Cllr A Keeler, Chairman

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Signed

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Date