

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on Wednesday 8th June at the Committee Room at the Old School House, Main Road, Danbury

Present: Cllrs A Keeler (Chairman), S. Berlyn, D. Bolwell, Mrs A Chapman, Mrs S J Court, J Thomson,

In attendance: Cllrs. W. Scaiffe and B. Kennewell, Mr J Bowen (Danbury Society), Mrs M Saunders Clerk

1 Election of Chairman

Cllr Bolwell proposed that Cllr Keeler be Chairman for the Municipal Year 2011 – 2012 this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S J Court and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that Cllr A Keeler be duly elected as Chairman of the Environment Committee for the Municipal Year 2011 – 2012.

2 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Berlyn proposed that Cllr Mrs A Chapman be Vice Chairman for the Municipal Year 2011 – 2012 this was seconded by Cllr J Thomson and was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs A Chapman be Vice Chairman of the Environment Committee for the Municipal Year 2011 – 2012.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs A Pemberton and M Wood.

4 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.

No interests were declared.

5 Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

6 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 4th April, 2011

RESOLVED: that minutes of the meeting of Environment Committee held on 4th April, 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record.

7 Strategic Plan for Environment Committee

Members had been reminded of the discussion at the previous meeting. Also that all committees were writing their own strategic plan to be taken to the Strategic Plan Working Group.

A discussion took place on what to take forward.

The following as detailed in the resolution was to be put forward from the Environment Committee.

Some members felt that the overall document should only be 1 -2 pages long. Planning had made their document based on an enlarged current terms of reference.

RESOLVED: that a) The Environment Committee would promote the quality and safety of the Danbury area paying particular attention to Highways, Footways, Environmental Issues and the condition of the village.

b) To take account of the environmental issues as presented in the Danbury Development Framework

c) Raising greater awareness of environmental interest

d) Monitor changes in the Localism Bill over the next 4 years

John Bowen arrived

8 Footpaths

8.1 Footpaths Map - website

The document had been placed on the web site under tourism section.

After the meeting it was ascertained that the document had been taken down again.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

8.2 Danbury Youth Camp and park – Request for a footpath on the south side of the main road running east from opposite Riffhams Lane

This was with the Essex County Council. Members were concerned that the approval process might take a considerable time. The Clerk was most concerned regarding approaching Danbury Outdoors as the Parish Council had been instructed not to do this. Cllr Bolwell thought it would be a good idea to go down the permissive paths route this is where the Essex County Council contacts the responsible landowners.

Concerns were raised that the gateway from the footpath entered directly onto the A414. It was hoped to put the path through Danbury Outdoors to the Bus Stop. The Clerk had ascertained that the Request for the Footpath was still on a list and that legalities had to be established with the landowner which was in this case Essex County Council. It was hoped that this would move the footpath priority up the list. Apparently there were many cases outstanding and there was a backlog which needed to be completed.

Cllr Berlyn proposed that the original process was left in place. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs April Chapman 5 members were for this course of action and there was 1 abstention

RESOLVED: that the original process was left in place.

8.3 Work Proposal for P3 for Next Year: Footpaths map

The Clerk had ascertained that the Footpaths Map could only be reprinted not altered drastically. The only updates to the map were to include Moors Bridge Lane. Highlight and change the Parish Office at the Old School House.

Footpath 16 by the Water Tower needs to read 16 not 17.

Members were concerned that in other parishes the money had not been reserved. The Clerk had the monies of £375.00 reserved in writing from Essex County Council

RESOLVED: that the Clerk puts into progress the reprinting of the Footpaths Map.

8.4 Footpaths Officer's Report

Cllr Bolwell had requested way-mark signs in Cherry Garden Lane and a further sign was required near the Balancing Pond on Bridleway 28 as the footpath sign was in the ditch.

RESOLVED: that a further request be made to the District Footpaths Officer for the above works.

8.5 Overgrown Hedging

Overgrown Hedging continued to be a problem. The Clerk explained that she could only list the items and forward them to the Essex County Council for action she had no powers.

John Bowen thought it would be a good idea if the Danbury Society would carry out an audit of overgrown footpaths and forward details to the Essex County Council. Members thought that this would be a good idea. John Bowen to take this back to the Danbury Society.

RESOLVED: to report the following

- a) the beech hedge 100 metres from Eves Corner the bus stop side required cutting back
- b) The Main Road beyond the Bell Public House before Danbury Palace as you had to walk in the road
- c) From Tesco to the Avenue was very dangerous and needed cutting back
- d) Outside 56 Main Road required cutting back
- e) the Danbury Society to complete an audit of areas of hedging which required cutting back.

9 Highway Matters

Items for Report	Authority Sent to	Work Completed
Outside the Pharmacy Hopping Jacks Lane the tarmac had formed a pothole making it like a sleeping policeman and was dangerous	Essex County Highways 15.9.2010	This area possibly not owned by Essex County Council this is being checked. This area was outside the Medical Centre and still had not been completed.

Items for Report	Authority Sent to	Work Completed
Tree outside the pharmacy was covering a street light screwed to a telegraph pole	Passed to Essex County Highways Lighting Section 15.9.2010	These trees owned by the shops and a request for tree works has been received by Chelmsford Borough Council.
Cllr Mrs S J Court had received several complaints regarding dog fouling in the Avenue and Well Lane	Chelmsford Borough Council Dog Wardens	This item was mentioned later in the Agenda as still being bad. Note: After the meeting. The PCSO's were taking this up with the Dog Wardens.
Outside Leigh House Eves Corner	One of services has dug a whole not reinstated properly and caused a sleeping policeman	
Butts Lane/ Hopping Jacks Lane junction 50 metres left of it	One pot hole filled in the other left	
Eves Corner Parking Bays	Bays 1 and 2 breaking up. Some asphalt had been poured but area not rectified	

Correspondence had been received from Kellys Turkeys requesting permission to park at Eves Corner. The Parish Council had no authority to give permission. Permission had already been sought from Essex County Highways plus the Environmental Health Department who had no objection. Members felt as did the Facilities Committee that the vehicle should not be there more than once a month and not to clash with the farmers market. Also that may be they should consider a stall at the Farmers Market.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Kellys Turkeys and convey the above information

10 Signage Items on Highways as follows:

10.1 Wood Hill Road

This was now completed.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

10.2 Well Lane

Signage on Essex County Council List

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

10.3 Sightlines at Cherry Garden Lane

Signage on Essex County Council List

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

10.4 Sightlines at Cherry Garden Lane

Signs to improve safety at the western junction of Cherry Garden Lane and Maldon Road were on Essex County Council's list following issues raised by a resident.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

11 Localism Highways – Small Schemes List when it opens is as follows

11.1 Well Lane Zebra Crossing: This item would be placed on the Small Schemes List - Localism when it was opened by ECC.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

11.2 Runsell Green, reduction in speed limit

No further information was available. Residents informed that it was definitely on the list.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

11.3 Gating signs at ends of village

These had been requested by the Danbury Society. Members agreed that this proposal should be placed on the Small Schemes List, though other items might be considered more urgent when the list was prioritised.

RESOLVED: that village gate signs be added to the Small Schemes List.

11.4 Need for a footpath – Mayes Lane, Penny Royal Road, Woodhill Road: This item had already been included on the Small Schemes List. (It was also part of the Unilateral Undertaking for the Planning Application south of Shaftmoor.)

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

12 Quarries

12.1 St Clere's Hall:

Nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

12.2 Royal Oak Quarry:

Nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

12.3 Sandon Quarry:

There was nothing to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

12.4 Proposed site at Tyndales Farm:

The land at Tyndales Farm was currently for sale. It had been ascertained that bids were currently being accepted some were for agricultural and some were for mineral but no firm sale had been agreed as yet.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

13 Bus Shelters

13.1 Bus Shelter opposite The Avenue (Maldon Side)

Essex County Highways had now installed the bus shelter after 16 years of requesting this item. The Clerk had requested that this further bus shelter be added to the cleaning list at a cost of £20.00 per month.

RESOLVED: that the additional bus shelter be added to the cleaning list at a cost of £20.00 per month

13.2 Power to Bus Shelter near Service Station, Maldon Road (south side)

The Clerk requested Members to ascertain if this work had been completed.

RESOLVED: that Members inform the Clerk if this work had been completed.

14 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Police

14.1 To report on Neighbourhood Action Panel Meetings

A serious attack had occurred to a girl on a bus. This was a source of concern. David Whiteing to continue reporting. There had also been 7 crimes within one month. The circulation list for Danbury Neighbourhood Watch had increased. David was also investigating methods of circulating information to the Village. Any Police issues should be sent directly to the Police

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

14.2 Danbury Community Safety Topic for Discussion

This item was deferred until Cllr Pemberton was present.

14.3 Any further policing matters

Members were concerned at the lack of Police Community Support in the Village. The Clerk had already written to them and requested that they come to the village.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk chase up the Police Community Support Team.

15 Climate Change/Green Group

No meetings had been held and no reports were made.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

16 Danbury Times and publicity leaflet

16.1 Items for Next Danbury Times

Cut Your Hedges

Danbury Litter Poster

16.2 Discovering Danbury Leaflet

It had been felt that this should be a historical leaflet. It was felt that it would be a good idea to advertise for historical information.

RESOLVED: that a request for historical information be advertised

17 Bus Passenger Transport

No-one was currently attending meetings as the Council's Transport Representative. Cllr W Scaiffe came forward and volunteered to attend the meetings as he used the busses regularly.

RESOLVED: that Cllr W Scaiffe attend the Bus Passenger Transport Meetings and that it be highlighted the difficulty using the buses with a pushchair.

18 Danbury Common/Cyclists

A monitoring report from National Trust had been circulated. A slight increase in cyclists. Members had not observed any problems when walking on the Common.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

19 Olletts, Belvedere Road

There was no further information regarding the future of the building. All residents had now moved out.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

20 Annual Litter Pick: Saturday 18th June 2011

This would take place from 9am to 11.30am and those attending were asked to meet at the Parish Office (The Old School House, Main Road). Refreshments would be served by the Clerk

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

21 Keep Danbury Tidy Posters

The Clerk had checked these posters would have to be placed in notice boards or local shops would have to agree to have them in their windows otherwise it could be classed as littering. No posters had been made as yet. Cllr Mrs S J Court volunteered to visit the shops to see if they would put them up. It was decided the area around Eves Corner would be the most appropriate.

RESOLVED: that a) in consultation with the Clerk, suitable notices be prepared and issued to local local premises

b) Cllr S J Court to visit the shops and request if they would display the poster

22 Essex Wildlife Trust: 'Living Landscapes – A Vision for the Future of Essex': Meeting held on 5th March 2011

Members felt that anything that could be done to improve the "Living Landscape" would be a good thing. Parish Council awaits decision on consultation.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council awaits decision on consultation.

Note: Information about the Living Landscapes project and copies of the Draft Vision document for Danbury Ridge are available at the following web address:

http://www.essexwt.org.uk/protecting_wildlife/living_landscapes/

23 English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (Bus Pass) Update

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

24 Essex Waste Strategy

An update was circulated this to be deferred to the next meeting

25 Matters for Report

The Clerk circulated the "Love Where You Live Campaign Information"

Fly Posting must be reported to Chelmsford Borough Council the Parish Council has no powers.

Dangerous tree at Riffhams has been reported and is being dealt with by Tree Office Essex County Council.

Dog Fouling in the Avenue still a problem.

A car had been offered for sale by the War Memorial the Clerk had rung the number and requested removal which had been completed.

26 Dates of Meetings in 2011

Wednesdays 7th September and 2nd November 2011.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.13pm.

Alan Keeler
Chairman

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Signed

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Date