

## DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

*A Quality Council*



## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the meeting of the held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at the Committee Room, the Old School House, Main Road, Danbury

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

In attendance: Mrs Margaret Saunders, Clerk to Danbury Parish Council

#### **81 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs S J Court and Cllr A Pemberton

#### **82 Declarations of Interest**

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

None were declared.

#### **83 Public Question Time**

No Members of the Public Present

#### **84 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2012**

Minute 62.3 should have the words added "would be further from footpath".

Minute 62.4 should read "and had inspected the boundary of the housing development"

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record with the above alterations.

#### **85 Strategic Plan for Environment**

Further meetings of the Working Group have been held and a proposal will be taken to Parish Council on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012.

The Chairman of the Council wished to speak to the Environment Committee regarding the way forward for this committee.

The Chairman of the Council had concerns that Highways Matters took a lot of the Agenda. Footpaths also took a lot of the Agenda. It had been stated that the Committee was a reactive committee. Green issues had been considered but the committee could not find any large issues. Concerns had been raised with the Chairman of the Council regarding the direction of the committee and the repetitive nature of the meeting. Questions to be answered are there things that could be addressed which none of the committees are doing. Highways items are difficult to progress due to the availability of money.

Some members felt that there should be more working groups and the Environment Committee should meet more often. The Clerk reminded the meeting that all these meetings needed to be minuted so that actions could be taken forward which was difficult regarding the amount of staff time available. It was felt that there was a need for the committee.

It was felt that the Environment Committee pulled things together and covered items which were not covered by other committees.

A suggestion was made that on-going items which had no new information should be placed at the back of the Agenda on a sheet. Items to be discussed at the front of the Agenda. It was explained that this may be difficult to put into practise as items were often added at the last minute to the Agenda.

The Clerk explained that different environmental topics were brought to the committee. Sometimes items were difficult to achieve and had even taken several years to complete.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **86 Deforestation at Lingwood Common Little Baddow**

No further information at the current time. The works due to occur during the summer.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **87 Footpaths**

#### **87.1 Danbury Youth Camp and park - footpath opposite Riffhams Lane**

The project had moved on considerably. The landowners Danbury Outdoors and Danbury Park School had agreed to the change in footpath route. The District Officer had agreed to help with the clearing of vegetation. The Essex County Council had to find £2000 in legal costs. The Resources Committee of the Parish Council (Minute 93 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 Meeting) agreed to contributing £500.00 from reserves to help with the project. Vegetation had been cleared by the District Officer's team a gap had been left for a new gate closer to the bus stop this would be a kissing gate.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **87.2 Cycling on Footpaths**

Discussion took place regarding the definitive footpaths and cycling taking place on these paths. The Parish Footpaths Officer had walked the footpaths, of 50 footpaths, 20 were bridleways, 10 – 12 exited to a Main Road, 5 – 6 had signs already so there could be 5 – 6 situations where no cycling signs could be added. In view of the information received from the District Footpaths Officer and the Parish Footpaths Officer. Members unanimously agreed the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Environment Committee are now satisfied that there are enough no cycling signs at the appropriate locations.

### 87.3 Works to Footpaths P3

A request had been made from Clive from the church for more pea shingle for the footpath which runs along behind St Johns Church. This was originally a P3 Project. The Footpaths Officer felt that more was required than just laying pea shingle. It was felt that some drainage should be dug then some base material laid with the pea shingle on the top.

The work needed to be costed. It was felt that the P3 Officer at the Essex County Council should be contacted for help to put the project together.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk arrange a meeting with the P3 Office at Essex County Council for help to cost the project.

### 87.4 First Aid Certificate

The Parish Footpaths Officer's First Aid Certificate expires in February and the Essex County Council would not renew the qualification it would be responsibility of the Parish Council to pay for this training. The Essex County Council had further explained that they did not think the Certificate was necessary as the P3 Officer at the Essex County Council would be present when any project was being completed.

Cllr Berlyn proposed to leave it up to the Essex County Council to provide a First Aider for projects. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Chapman. Three members voted for this course of action. 1 was against and there were 2 abstentions. Therefore the proposal was carried.

RESOLVED: that the Essex County Council provide a First Aider for P3 projects.

### 87.5 Web Page for Volunteers

A web page had been set up by the Essex County Council for those who are looking to volunteer "Good for Essex" ([www.goodforessex.org](http://www.goodforessex.org))

### 87.6 Report from Footpaths Officer Cllr Bolwell

Cllr Bolwell had nothing further to report. The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked Cllr Bolwell for walking the footpaths.

## 88 Highway Matters

### 88.1 Essex County Council 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 has been logged as system reference 1845815 and has been allocated to New Roads and Street Works Inspector for assessment. This had not been completed. <i>Subsequent to the meeting all the potholes were completed.</i>
Tree outside the pharmacy was covering a street light screwed to a telegraph	Passed to Essex County Highways Lighting Section	This has been logged on the system as reference 1845840 a site inspection

Items for Report	Authority Sent to	Work Completed
pole	15.9.2010	has been complete and the vegetation was found to be overgrown however it is believed not to be highway land a boundary check has been requested to establish ownership to request the owner to cut back vegetation. This had not been completed.
Elm Green Lane – parking resulting in break up of verge edge.	Passed to Essex County Council several times	This has been logged as 1845819 a site inspection has been carried out, however regrettably this does not meet the investigatory level as determined by the ECC Maintenance Strategy However the area will continue to be monitored. This had not been completed Concerns were raised regarding obstructions being made in this area. It was explained that this would be a Police issue.
Pillar box (this area is where the safety marks run to the road)	Groundsman Monitoring	Groundsman to re-investigate It was explained that none of the original team that completed the A414 Project were now working in this area for Essex County Highways
Butts Lane/Hopping Jacks Lane at junction – holes in road. One dealt with, the other outstanding.		This has been logged as reference 1845816 a site inspection has been carried out however, regrettably this does not meet ECC investigatory level as determined by their Maintenance Strategy. <i>Subsequent to the meeting this work had now been completed.</i>

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **89 Signage Items on Highways as follows:**

### **89.1 Well Lane**

Signage was on Essex County Council's list.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **89.2 Sightlines at Cherry Garden Lane (As referred from Planning Committee)**

It had been confirmed that the Parish Council's request to improve the signage (left hand turn – side road ahead) at the western junction of Cherry Garden Lane and Maldon Road had been added to ECC list. All signs had to adhere to the Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2002, which is a statutory document.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **90 Localism small scheme list when opened is as follows:**

### **90.1 Runsell Green Reduction in Speed Limit**

This item had been confirmed as being on the list for consideration but with no timescale.

### **90.2 Well Lane – Zebra Crossing**

### **90.3 Gating Signs**

### **90.4 Footpath – Mayes Lane, Penny Royal Road, Woodhill Road**

### **90.5 Installation of Bollards**

### **90.6 Speed Reduction in in Woodhill Road (to be added when scheme opens)**

Items left on Agenda at the present time.

## **91 Quarries**

### **91.1 St Clere's Hall** There was nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **91.2 Royal Oak Quarry**

Members were still concerned regarding the condition of the road outside the Royal Oak Quarry. Members wished the Clerk to write to Essex County Council regarding the condition of the road. Members had witnessed off road motorcycling being completed on the field just outside the village boundary which might be causing the problem.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Essex County Council regarding the condition of the road.

### **91.3 Sandon Quarry** There was nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **91.4 Proposed site at Tyndaes Farm .**

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **91.5 New proposed site at Whitehouse Farm, Woodham Walter** There was nothing further to report.

## **92 Bus Shelters**

**92.1 Bus Shelter at The Avenue (Maldon Side)** The light had not yet been connected. 2 panels were now out of the bus shelter the Clerk was investigating how to put them back. The Groundsman had tried to replace the panels but it was proving more difficult than first thought.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk would continue to investigate as to how to replace the panels.

**92.3 Bus Shelter outside nr Service Station (Chelmsford Side):** The light had not yet been connected.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **93 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Police**

A meeting had been held in December but there had been nothing further to report other than Neighbourhood Watch items. Mainly burglaries had been the most problem. There had also been a lot of vandalism on Dawson Memorial Field over the recent months.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **94 Danbury Times**

Cllr Mrs Chapman explained that this edition was to be the Annual Report with reports from Committee Chairmen. A report would be required from the Chairman of Environment.

### **94.1 Any Articles for future Editions**

Nothing further was discussed.

### **94.2 Danbury Leaflet**

This document needed to be progressed if it was to be in time for the Olympics. The last instructions to the Clerk had been to advertise for historical items to be included. There had only been one response to this from the residents.

Cllr Bolwell and Cllr Mrs Chapman had both brought ideas to the meeting. It was essential that the top portion which would show when put into stands needed to reflect that the leaflet was about Danbury. Suggestions were made as to a plan in the centre which then could be arrowed to pictures. This could perhaps be related to a walk around the village.

A small working group needed to be set up at Parish Council to progress the leaflet.

RESOLVED: that ideas be brought to Parish Council and to suggest a Working Group to move this project forward.

## **95 Danbury Common/Cyclists**

Updated information was circulated from the National Trust.

RESOLVED: that Members noted the information.

## **96 Olletts, Belvedere Road**

Chelmer Housing Partnership had sent details of a proposed development of the site and this had been considered by the Planning Committee. A Formal Planning

Application had now been submitted for 8 properties the parking had been re-arranged.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **97 Keep Danbury Tidy Posters**

These had been circulated to the main central locations of businesses around the pond and had been well received. A further suggestion was made for posters to be delivered to the new fish and chip shop adjacent to Tesco's.

The Chairman of the Council wished to thank Cllr Sarah Jane Court for delivering the posters.

RESOLVED: that a) Cllr Sarah Jane Court be formally thanked for delivering the "Keep Danbury Tidy Posters"

b) that the new fish and chip shop had some posters delivered

*Cllr Berlyn Chairman of Council left the meeting at this point.*

### **98 Hedging**

A overhanging hedge at Main Road Hunters Lodge had been reported to the appropriate authority.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **99 Living Landscapes**

Cllr Thomson had no updates but it was proceeding slowly. Cllr Bolwell tabled a report which had not been seen by the Clerk this would be circulated to all members.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **100 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Tree**

Suggestions were made for the Tree at Runsell Green (it was explained how difficult it had been to get a tree to grow in this area). Cllr Thomson drew a sketch as to where the road was under the grass. Another location was the triangle at Copt Hill/Gay Bowers Lane.

**RESOLVED:** that the above locations were put forward to Chelmsford Borough Council.

*(Subsequent to the meeting delivery of the tree had to happen immediately and so that there was some chance of the tree surviving it has been located on Dawson Memorial Field close to Robins Nest this was agreed with the Tree Officer at Chelmsford Borough Council)*

### **101 Conservation Area Enhancement**

The Parish Council was to list items that needed to be addressed under the Conservation Area Enhancement Scheme run by Chelmsford Borough Council.

a)The sign on Church Green regarding Danbury Fort was very worn. b) It would be good to have some Information Boards regarding wildlife. c)Screening for the definitive footpath for Danbury Parish School.

RESOLVED: that the above items be put to Chelmsford Borough Council

**102 Transportation Group Closure**

Members were made aware of the closure of the Parishes Transportation Group. Any monies left in the bank account would be returned to Hatfield Peverel Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the information was noted.

**103 Love Where You Live**

The Parish Council had been offered a Parish Cleansing Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2012 included was Gay Bowers Lane, Mill Lane, Outside St Johns School, Main Road particularly near Tescos. Mayes Lane on the right hand side had been suggested. At the meeting Members further suggested the hedge opposite Frettons needed to be cut back.

RESOLVED: that a) Chelmsford Borough Council were informed of the hedge opposite Frettons  
b) the Clerk to bring this item back to Environment for further ideas.

**104 Bus Passenger Transport Meeting**

The Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 were circulated.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes were noted.

**105 Matters for Report.**

**105.1 Highway Ranger Team**

A new Highway Ranger Team had been set up by Chelmsford Borough Council and they were cleaning the road signs within the 30 mph limit area of Danbury. The Clerk has seen the work being completed in East Hanningfield.

**105.2 Recycling Centre South Woodham Ferrers**

The Recycling Centre at South Woodham Ferrers would be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week.

Members had no further reports to make.

**106 Dates of next meeting for 2012**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.17pm.

Cllr Alan Keeler  
Chairman

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Signed

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Date