

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A Quality Council



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the held on Wednesday 7th March, 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
Cllr Arthur Allen

107 Apologies for Absence

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

108 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.

109 Public Question Time

Cllr Allen wished to bring to the attention of the Committee the fact that notices within the village were getting out of hand. He was concerned regarding posters advertising events throughout the village and particularly on Eves Corner. He was also concerned regarding "A Boards" being placed on pavements. He wanted to draw attention to these notices and to Chelmsford Borough Council enforcement section. Also that the Parish Council to consider how an improvement can be achieved. As this item was raised in Public Question Time, the item was also placed on the Planning Agenda where this had been raised previously and also on the Facilities Agenda so that all Members of the Council were aware of this.

Concerns were also raised regarding the litter in Well Lane.

110 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 18th January, 2012

Minute 87.6 should read Councillor Bolwell.

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

111 Best Kept Village Competition

Members of the Committee considered whether to enter the Competition this year. After deliberation a vote was taken. Cllr Bolwell proposed that the Parish Council does not enter the Best Kept Village Competition for 2012 this was seconded by Cllr Berlyn. 5 members voted for this course of action with 1 abstention.

Therefore the Parish Council will not be entering the Competition.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council does not enter the Best Kept Village Competition.

112 Annual Litter Pick – Saturday 21st April, 2012

The Annual Litter Pick is to be held on Saturday 21st April, 2012. Equipment available from the Parish Office 9.30 a.m – 11.30 a.m. Members also felt that the schools should be contacted. Members thought that the Clerk should email all members to see if someone would contact the schools. Cllr Bowell talked about refining plans. Also about the list of current litter pickers. The Clerk would arrange for circulation of the current list.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk email all councillors to ascertain if someone would contact the schools regarding litter picks
b) The Clerk would arrange for the circulation of the current litter picker list for Danbury.

113 Danbury Leaflet

Cllr Bolwell had put together a draft of a leaflet for Danbury. He wished the historical facts to be checked. Also the use of the map.

£900 had been earmarked for the budget for the leaflet.

He had spoken with Printing Place and a price of £320.00 had been supplied for 1000 copies. Artwork would be £40.00 per hour. The Clerk would photocopy the draft leaflet for all Members to put forward their comments.

Members wished to thank Cllr Bolwell for all his hard work in getting the leaflet together.

RESOLVED: that a) the Clerk check the historical facts also the mapping license.
b) Photocopy the document for all members so that they could comment.

114 Footpaths

114.1 Cycling on Footpaths

The Chairman of the Council explained that a meeting had been held between the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Vice Chairman of Planning and the Clerk regarding the Minute 87.2. 11th January, 2012, and Minute 62.2 of the 2nd November, 2011 regarding cycling on the footpaths. It was felt that there had been a discrepancy between the two minutes.

The point was made that the Parish Council could not legally put signs up unless the National Trust or the Essex County Council (landowners) agree.

It was felt that a Working Party should be set up to walk the footpaths to ascertain the current position.

Cllr Allen was concerned that even when no cycling signs are present, people choose to ignore them.

Cllr Chapman felt that she had been walking the footpaths for 33 years and that there was no problem. Also who was going to police the signs if they were put up. She also felt that the Minutes were correct in that further information had been obtained and that was why the further decision was made. Although there was a problem as regards litter.

Cllr Allen was frustrated that people tend to ignore the signs and turn a blind eye, irrespective of whether it is a waymark or a sign as on Footpaths 17 and 19 near his house, he sees cycling occurring several times a week and is told by the cyclists that they are permitted to ride along the footpath even though the signs are up.

After further heated discussion Cllr Berlyn made the following proposal:

This Council requests its Footpaths Officer to establish a Working Party to determine how many public footpaths do not have "No Cycling Signs" at each end of the path within the Parish of Danbury"

This was seconded by Cllr Wood. 3 were for the proposal, 2 were against and there was 1 abstention. Therefore the proposal was carried.

RESOLVED: that "This Council requests its Footpaths Officer to establish a Working Party to determine how many public footpaths do not have "No Cycling Signs" at each end of the path within the Parish of Danbury".

The following councillors offered to help with the working party Cllr Thomson, Cllr Allen, Alan Keeler and Cllr Pemberton offered after the meeting

114.2 Danbury Youth Camp and park - footpath opposite Riffhams Lane

30 metres of the hedging would be made available shortly but volunteers would be required for the planting so that the hedging could go in at the correct time of the year. As soon as the plants were available the project would need to be completed during March.

It was also requested that the P3 Partnership consider a grant for the works for hedging the additional 70 metres which would cost in the region of £660.00. The hedging would provide screening along-side Danbury Park School and the main A414. Volunteers would again be required to aid with the planting. This project could go forward as the P3 Project for next year.

RESOLVED: that Clerk puts in the further screening of 70 metres along-side Danbury Park School in the sum of £660.00

114.3 Report by Footpaths Officer Cllr Bolwell

Cllr Bolwell had nothing further to report.

114.4. Wildlife and Countryside Action 1981 Section 53 Case 831 Footpath 55 Danbury

The Essex County Council has completed its investigation into the status of Footpath 55 and it had been decided that the available evidence is not sufficient to show that there were higher public rights to footpath along the route. The Definitive Map will therefore not be changed.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

115 Highway Matters

116 Essex County Council Highway Matters

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	This has been logged on the system as reference 1845840. A letter had been sent to the owner to cut back the tree.
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
Pillar box (this area is where the safety marks run to the road)	Groundsman Monitoring	The post box has been demolished by a vehicle accident.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

117 Signage Items on Highways as follows: (Item noted No change)

117.1 Well Lane

Signage was on Essex County Council's list.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

117.2 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.

118.1 Localism small scheme list when opened is as follows:

118.2 Runsell Green Reduction in Speed Limit

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

118.3 Well Lane – Zebra Crossing

118.4 Gating Signs

118.5 Footpath – Mayes Lane, Penny Royal Road, Woodhill Road

118.6 Installation of Bollards

118.7 Speed Reduction in in Woodhill Road (to be added when scheme opens)

Items left on Agenda at the present time no change at present time .

119 Quarries

119.1 St Clere's Hall There was nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

119.2 Royal Oak Quarry

A request was made to write to Essex County Council Planners regarding the conditions regarding the wheel washing facility. As an accident had occurred with one of the haulage vehicles where they had a considerable amount of mud on their wheels.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Essex County Council Planners.

119.3 Sandon Quarry There was nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

119.4 Proposed site at Tyndales Farm .

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

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

120 Bus Shelters.

120.1 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.

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

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

121 Neighbourhood Action Panel and Police

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Action Pane will be 4th April, 2012.

The latest update on the current position with the Police had been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

122 Danbury Times

Cllr Mrs Chapman stated this was nearly ready to go to print and she would email out when they are ready to collect for delivery.

122.1 Any Articles for future Editions

Nothing further was discussed.

123 Danbury Common/Cyclists

Richard Wallace the Warden for the National Trust was retiring shortly in April. No details of the replacement have been forwarded to the Parish Council.

Members wished a letter be written to Richard Wallace the Warden wishing him a happy retirement and a big thank you for all the works he had completed within the village.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write a letter to the Warden thanking him and wishing him well.

124 Hedging

No further hedging complaints have been received.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

125 Living Landscapes

Cllr Thomson had no updates but it was proceeding slowly.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

126 Climate Change/Green Group

126.1 Green Group - no further meetings held

126.2 Climate Change - it was reported that a Sun Spot Cycle was being entered and it was going to be a period of extreme cold now. Nothing further to report

127 Queens Golden Jubilee Tree

The tree had been planted on Dawson Memorial Field near to Robins Nest so that the Groundsman could water the tree.

Members felt that there should be some sort of plaque fitted but it was decided to leave this to see whether the tree would live.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk monitors how the tree survives.

128 Proposed Deforestation at Lingwood Common Lt Baddow

Nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

129 Matters for Report.

- a) Footway from Lower Car Park along Mayes Lane to Penny Royal Road dangerous.
- b) Potholes outside cricketers Public
- c) White spot on mini roundabout has holes in.
- d) The Chairman of the Council has a new email

130 Dates of next meeting for 2012

Wednesday 27th June, 5th September, 17th October, 5th December

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Cllr Alan Keeler
Chairman

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Signed

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Date