

## DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

*A Quality Council*



### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

#### **Minutes of the meeting of the held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at the Committee Room, the Old School House, Main Road, Danbury**

Present: Cllr Mrs A Chapman (Chairman), Cllr Mrs C Jacobs, Cllr A Keeler, Cllr J Thomson, Cllr Wood

In attendance: Mrs H Mayes, Assistant Clerk

#### **53 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Allen, Howe and Scaife.

#### **54 Declarations of Interest**

All Members were reminded that they must disclose any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests they knew they had in items of business on the meeting's agenda and that they must do so at this point on the agenda or as soon as they became aware of the interest. They were also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the meeting, if they had not previously notified her about it.

No interests were declared.

#### **55 Public Questions**

There were no members of the public present

#### **56 Minutes of the Environment Committee**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **57 Footpaths**

##### **57.1 Paths for Communities Grant Scheme**

There were no new suggestions of schemes. The scheme would be finished in December 2013.

##### **57.2 Footpath Officer**

Cllr Howe had given apologies to the Committee for this meeting.

##### **57.3 Footpath 5**

The Public Rights of Way Inspector was aware of the issue of unsafe crossing at this point and had confirmed that Essex Highways would be willing to consider either an application for a creation or for a diversion of the footpath. The Parish Council would need to provide a proposal, plan and get landowner consent for ECC to determine if it could be altered. Members agreed that as there was development taking place at Danbury Palace, it would be appropriate to await the completion of the development before putting forward any alterations to the current path. In the meantime, the Assistant Clerk was requested to make enquiries to find out who is the owner of the land at the entrance to Danbury Palace.

RESOLVED: that the information in 57.1 and 57.2 be noted and the Assistant Clerk makes enquiries to determine the landowner of the entrance to Danbury Palace.

#### **57.4 Footpath from Allotments to footpath 16**

The creation of the path was still on-going through ECC and a Highways Act 1980 Section 26 notice had now been served.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### **58 Parish Transport Meetings**

Cllr Scaife had given apologies to the Committee. A new representative would be required to attend the next Parish Transport meeting. The next meeting for the Maldon area would be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 2pm. Members agreed to request that this item is put on the next Parish Council agenda to request a volunteer.

RESOLVED: that the request for a new representative for the Parish Transport Meeting is put on the next Parish Council agenda.

#### **59 Highway Matters**

##### **59.1 Double yellow line requests for the Junction of The Avenue and Maldon Road and Well Lane:**

An email was circulated from SEPP regarding provision of the double yellow lines. The requests did not meet ECC or SEPP criteria and they had advised that if the Parish Council wished to carry out this work it would be in the region of £1500 to £2000 for each location. Members discussed the benefit of double yellow lines in these locations and the cost implications. There was no money in the budget for this and it was felt that the lines would not improve the current issues and possibly move car parking into other areas. The amalgamation of the car parks at the Co-op and the Library had been approved by CCC and there was some concern about safety at the access point by the library. Members agreed not to fund double yellow lines in these locations.

RESOLVED: that the double yellow line requests for the junction of The Avenue and Maldon Road and Well Lane not be progressed any further.

**59.2 Request for yellow lines outside St Johns School:** This request had been submitted and sent to ECC for assessment.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

##### **59.3 Footway in Hopping Jacks Lane:**

This item had now been added to ECC's Capital list for future consideration as it cannot be carried out by the LHP.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

#### 59.4 Highways matters (reported items)

The items below had been reported and updates requested from ECC. Members updated the Committee on some of these issues.

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Outcome
Footway at junction of Maldon Road and Hyde Lane	Surface around postbox becomes muddy/slippery when wet. Level is not sufficient for drainage. Drains appear blocked.	ECC		2235103 2247252 - drains	4/9/13 JT reported drains were still blocked. /7/13 inspected and assessed. 4/7/13 Blocked drains reported 09/05/13 area has been inspected and assessed. Have requested ECC Highways if they can help again.
Southview Road	Japanese Knotweed present where property has been demolished	ECC & Essex Police	05/09/2012	89329	4/9/13 AC confirmed site has now been tidied and no knotweed appeared to be coming through. 17/6/13 Planning Enforcement have requested owner to tidy site. 15/05/13 also reported to EH and Planning Enforcement as neighbours complaining about condition of site. 1/3/13 emailed for update. 7/1/13 emailed ECC for update. 9/11/12 Inspection carried out. liaising with the Consultant Arboriculturist to determine if any action to be taken and ownership of land. 23/10/12 emailed ECC for update. Update from AC - Police Wildlife Liaison Officer will be visiting when next in area. Also reported to ECC as encroaching onto footway. Knotweed is a civil matter - neighbour would need to take action if knotweed encroaches into her property. Reported to AC by resident.
Copt Hill	Street light not working (only one in road)	ECC	05/11/2012	no ref given	4/9/13 SB confirmed the light was now working. 1/3/13 emailed lighting for update. 07/12/12 update lamp not drawing power due to faulty wiring in new cell. Referred back to manufacturer. Will chase up. 6/12/12 update requested from ECC Lighting. reported by resident
Slough Road	Footpath 55 requires an additional waymark	ECC	20/12/2012	2201895	15/04/13 ECC have requested further information from Landowner. 06/02/13 & 02/01/13 due for inspection. reported by landowner
Mill Lane	Street light on left hand side before The Avenue is not working	ECC	04/02/2013	no ref given	Reported by resident at Farmers Market

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Outcome
Capons Lane	Surface water drain blocked	ECC	31/01/2013	2210577	21/2/13 due for inspection. Copies of letters sent to Parish Council. Reported to CCC in error so have reported direct to ECC.
Butt Lane	Pavement is crumbling and there is a 2 to 3 inch drop from the boundary of the drive to the pavement.	ECC	02/04/2013	2227575	8/4/13 inspected and assessed. letter from resident - reported to ECC.
Hyde Lane (at top of Dilstons)	Large pothole around a manhole cover	ECC	08/05/2013	2235783	09/05/13 been inspected and assessed. Reported by resident
Footpath 22	Bridge needs repair/replacement	ECC	30/05/2013	2240193	reported by footpath officer
West Belvedere	Road and pavement in poor condition	ECC	08/07/2013	2247744	19/07/13 has been inspected and assessed. reported by BS
Footpath 5	Alter path to finish at Danbury Palace entrance to enable walkers to cross the road	ECC	08/07/2013	2247752	ECC would consider an application for creation or diversion. They would need a proposal with a plan and the landowners consent. reported by PH
Footpath 59	concrete surface is broken	ECC	08/07/2013	2247761	to be repaired by Essex & Suffolk Water as damaged during pipeline works. reported by PH
Corner Well Lane/Danbury Park School	Vegetation overgrown onto footway	ECC	08/07/2013	2247766	4/9/13 Vegetation has been cut back. 09/07/13 inspected and assessed
Junc Gay Bowers/Bicknacre Road	High vegetation obscuring sightlines	ECC	08/07/2013	2247767	20/8/13 has been assessed and further investigations being carried out. 19/07/13 further information required. reported by JT
1 & 2 The Heights	Tree overhanging road	ECC	08/08/2013	2248587	15/8/13 to be visited and assessed. 08/08/13 being investigated

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### 59.5 Highways matters – (completed/no further action)

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Outcome
Main Road	pothole opposite entrance to DCA car park	ECC	20/03/2013	2224768	NFA. 22/3/13 has been inspected and assessed. due for inspection.
Main Road	Belisha beacon not working and obscured by vegetation	ECC	17/06/2013	2243598	now working and vegetation cut back. 20/6/13 to be visited and assessed. reported by AK
Footpaths 33/28	the waymark at this junction has sunk	ECC	08/07/2013	2247764	No further action, It is a short waymark post possibly installed by National Trust. It has been inspected by PROW Officer and is in a reasonable condition for its location. reported by PH
Church Green	2 blocked drains	ECC	17/06/2013	2243676	Drains inspected by ECC and are blocked - not Highways land so forwarded to St Johns Church for action. 20/6/13 to be visited and assessed. Reported by resident at Farmers Market

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **60 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)**

The minutes of the meeting of 19 June 2013 were circulated. Funding had been given to a Casualty Reduction Scheme at Bicknacre Road/Gay Bowers Road. No response had been received from Cllr Bass regarding attending a Parish Council meeting. The most recent meeting of the LHP was due to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **61 Local Highways Panel Requests/Reserve Scheme List**

The current scheme list from ECC was circulated. The minutes of the LHP stated that they were not considering any new potential schemes from Parish Councils at this time and concentrating on issues, problems and suggested schemes preceding the establishment of the panel.

### **61.1 Schemes currently submitted to the LHP.**

**61.1.1 St Johns School/Butts Lane Safety Issues:** Cllr Berlyn confirmed that the trees had now been cut back in Butts Lane which had improved safety for parking and pedestrians.

**61.1.2 Footway Mayes Lane, Penny Royal Road, Woodhill Road.**

**61.1.3 Uneven footway at Mayes Lane.**

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **61.2 Active schemes with the LHP**

**61.2.1 Runsell Green Reduction in Speed Limit:** No further updates.

**61.2.2 Installation of Bollards – Parking on Verge 87 Main Road:**

**61.2.3 Casualty Reduction Scheme at Bicknacre Road/Gay Bowers Road.**

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### **61.3 Potential schemes for submission to the LHP**

**61.3.1 Speed Reduction in Woodhill Road.** Members agreed a reduction was unlikely to be carried out at this location and this should be removed from the agenda.

**61.3.2 Traffic Lights at Tesco Express.** Members felt that this junction may be improved if the Medical Centre is built. It was agreed that any additional lights would confuse motorists and pedestrians further and this should be removed from the agenda.

**61.3.3 Well Lane signage improvements.** Members agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

**61.3.4 Sightlines at Cherry Garden Lane.** Members agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

**61.3.5 Installation of posts on grass verges at Hoynors and Gay Bowers:**

Members felt that parking in these areas had not been a problem lately but it should remain on the list.

RESOLVED: that items in 61.3.1 to 61.3.4 be removed from the potential schemes list for the LHP and item 61.3.5 to remain.

## **62 Bus Shelters**

**62.1 Ace Bins:** There had been issues with the cleaning of the bus shelters. The Clerk had received complaints that the bus shelters were not being cleaned and invoices had not been received from Ace Bins for June and July. The Clerk had written to the company but to date had had no response. Members agreed unanimously that the Assistant Clerk obtains quotes for the cleaning contract.

RESOLVED: that the Assistant Clerk obtains quotes for the cleaning of the bus shelters.

**62.2 Power to Bus Shelter outside nr Service Station (Chelmsford Side):** This issue had been chased up again with ECC.  
RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### 63 Quarries

**63.1 Essex Replacement Minerals Local Plan:** Notification was circulated of the independent examination.

**63.2 St Clere's Hall:** There was nothing further to report

**63.3 Royal Oak Quarry:** Cllrs Berlyn and Keeler would be attending the Royal Oak Quarry Liaison Group in October. No date had been given.

**63.4 Sandon Quarry:** There was nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### 64 Danbury Country Park

The Danbury Lakes Forum was being held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with the time to be advised. Cllrs Keeler, Thomson and Allen would attend if available.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### 65 Danbury Times

Cllr Mrs Chapman updated the meeting. The next edition would be due out in November. Suggested ideas included the Oil Heating Club, explanation of the Local Highways Panel and how this process works, the Park and Ride fare increase and a request for more volunteer litter pickers. Any other suggestions should be given to Cllr Mrs Chapman.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### 66 Danbury Common/Cyclists

The most recent update was circulated.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

### 67 Hedging

Location	Issue	Reported to	Date first reported	Reference No	Actions
Mill Lane	Hedgerow causing sightline problems from Mill Lane to Hyde Lane	ECC	18/07/2013	2251516	09/08/13 has been inspected and assessed. reported by CJ
Runsell Green	Bus Stop is obscured by overgrowing hedges	ECC	12/08/2013	2254996	15/8/13 inspected and assessed. reported by resident.
Main Road	Overgrown hedge onto pavement between library and Moors Bridge Lane	ECC	13/08/2013	2255162	16/8/13 has been inspected and assessed. reported by resident.

Cllr Jacobs was concerned that ECC had cut down the oak trees in Mill lane although these were not the issue reported. Although the trees had TPO's there was not any notification to the public. The Assistant Clerk was asked to find out an update on the hedgerow at Mill Lane from ECC.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted and that the Assistant Clerk chases up the hedgerow at Mill Lane with ECC.

## **68 Living Landscapes**

Cllr Thomson did not have any further updates to report.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **69 Lingwood Common Lt Baddow**

**69.1 Heathland Restoration:** No further updates had been received.

**69.2 Village Green, Moores Bridge Lane:** Documentation had been received from Savills confirming that Northumbrian Water Ltd would be erecting a fence across the gate that had been put in to prevent vehicle access across the village green. An easement payment of £274 plus £40 for staff time had been paid to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **70 Litter Pickers**

There had been a reasonable response to the letters sent to the current litter pickers. Some people had returned the pickers to the office and a couple of additional people had volunteered.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **71 Information Board at St Johns Church**

Chelmsford City Council, Parks and Heritage Services were identified as being responsible for this board. The Museums Manger would be inspecting the board to assess the work required. He had confirmed that the work could need to be phased as they did not have a budget for it. The work could be carried out sooner if the Parish Council contributed to the cost. He would notify the Assistant Clerk of the costs once known.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

## **72 Budget – 3 Year Forecast**

A brief discussion was held about budgets. Members requested that the budget is brought to the next meeting. It would be difficult to increase any budgets in the future due to cuts and the cost of bus shelter cleaning would be likely to increase with a new contractor. Suggestions included replacing the noticeboards at Runsell Green and Elm Green to match the new noticeboard at Eves Corner and also a budget for posts for placing on verges where vehicles are parking.

RESOLVED: that the Assistance Clerk brings the budget sheet to the next Environment Committee.

## **73 Foul Water running across Well Lane**

Environmental Health had confirmed with Anglian Water that there had not been any further problems. The issue was identified as a misconnection from the gym and since this was resolved no further issues had occurred. The Environmental Health Officer had also visited the area recently and did not see any water in the area.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.



**74 Park and Ride Fare Review**

The Park and Ride Fare Review had been circulated to Members. A discussion took place and it was generally felt that the increase to £3 was excessive. Members did agree with the reduction of the Saturday day tickets and also the new charges for children.

RESOLVED: that the following comments be sent regarding the Park and Ride Fare Review. Danbury Parish Council does not support the fare increase on the day ticket to £3 as this is excessive. There are other schemes around the country which are charged per car not per person. The Parish Council does support the reduction of the Saturday day tickets and also the cost of the new day tickets for children is reasonable.

**75 Correspondence**

**75.1 Heating Oil Club:** A letter had been received from the Oil Club.

**75.2 Essex Village of the Year/Best Kept Village:** The winners of the competition had been published.

**75.3 Energy Exhibition:** A poster had been circulated to Members for this exhibition on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at the Village Hall.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

**76 Matters for Report (for information only, including any Climate Change updates)**

The following items were to be reported by the Assistant Clerk to ECC.

- Footpath 50 was overgrown.
- A street light at the entrance to Runsell Green was not working.

It was also reported that the HGV limit warning sign at Runsell Green was being obscured by the horse chestnut tree. This would be dealt with by the Parish Council.

**77 Dates of Meetings for 2013**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Cllr Mrs April Chapman  
Chairman

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Signed

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Date