

# Dedham

Parish Council

## Minutes of meeting held on 14th September 2011

### DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, in

## The Assembly Rooms

<b>Present:</b> In the Chair	Cllr. R. Laverick
Councillors	R. Appleby, Mrs. A. Cannon, R. Cannon, M. Dempsey,
	B. Hindley, A. Stock
Ward Councillor	C. Garnett
PCSO	Mark Hibben
Parish Clerk	Mrs. J. Flewin
Electors	8

The Chairman introduced Sgt. John Horscraft of Essex Police who was in attendance to update the Council on police matters and answer any question which they and the public might have. Sgt. Horscraft explained the set-up of the Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team for which he was responsible and the area covered by his team. Because of "budget cuts" it was necessary that there was some reform of the police force and Essex Police were anxious to find out what people's priorities were for their particular area. Some police stations have been closed or moved to "share" with other services but this had been offset by the appearance of a mobile police station in villages on a weekly basis. Savings were made through natural wastage and recruitment was on hold for the present. However, a dedicated minor investigation team now existed which released other officers for major incidents. Police forces were no longer restrained by county borders and this was an important step forward. The Dale Farm eviction was on-going at the moment and other forces were helping with this incident which was to be purely a "keeping the peace" exercise. Sgt. Horscraft answered several questions and said that his aim was to attend future meetings when he could. PC Dave Underwood was the Rural Officer for Dedham and Langham and he will also be introducing himself in the near future. Cllr. Laverick thanked Sgt. Horscraft for attending the meeting and bringing members up to date with current procedures and reforms

which are taking place within the Essex Police.

REPORT OF PCSO PCSO Mark Hibben gave a brief update on ongoing investigations of incidents within the village which included the theft of heating oil, criminal damage to a window and two burglaries. Racing in the Mill Lane car park had been reported and he will monitor this. The police were also investigating two anti-social behaviour incidents. He will look into a report that reflectors were not present on the back of a kayak carrier which was parked on the road.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Cllr.White.
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING having been circulated were approved subject to the following amendments. Item 4(d) should read "Cllr. Dempsey asked that a key to the toilets be made available..."  
4(e) delete "Simon Anstutz".

3. REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Cllr. Garnett advised that CBC had a new Housing Officer who unfortunately had not kept an appointment which he had arranged for a meeting in Dedham. There would be a meeting in the Duchy Barn on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, at 2.30 p.m. with CBC to discuss parking in the High Street and yellow lines round the war memorial.. All members were welcome to attend. Road and Speed signs around the village were becoming obscured and needed attention from CBC. The annual meeting of the Dedham Vale Community Health Association will take place shortly and Cllr. Garnett was pleased to report that the Dedham Surgery was working extremely well.

Members asked Cllr. Garnett to explain his reason for voting against the Hallfields project and voiced their disappointment that he had not supported the proposal for a development incorporating social housing and properties for private purchase which would enable residents to downsize but stay in the village for which there was a proven need. There was a lengthy discussion when Councillors challenged Cllr. Garnett's explanation of the situation as he saw it and it was agreed that the matter would be aired further at a meeting which Cllr. Garnett has arranged with Hills, councillors and residents in the Duchy Barn on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, at 2.30 p.m. All interested are welcome to attend.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Duchy Barn Shed At the present time we are £3,000 short of the total amount required but it is hoped that this shortfall can be improved upon following approaches to the sports club, cricket club, residents and businesses. It was unanimously agreed that an approach be made for 106 funding to bridge any gap. Work is due to start in October. As grants awarded are not paid until work is completed the Chairman kindly agreed to stand as surety for the money until grant funding is

received..

(b) Broadband Service Cllr. Hindley gave an update on the situation within the Colchester area and will continue to take the matter forward with a view to improving the service in Dedham.

(c) High Street – Smells Veolia are still trying to determine where the offensive odours are coming from, and the odour loggers have been re-sited. Cllr. White does not expect any results to be forthcoming for some time.

(d) Other items The offending hedge around the street light in Mill Lane has been cut back. Cllr. Dempsey reported that he now has a key for the public toilets and it was agreed that following the Dedham Run it will be kept by Cllr. Mrs. Cannon along with those for the barrier and post.

5. HAVE YOUR SAY The footpath in Mill Lane is worsening and giving cause for concern, particularly in view of the numbers using it and the close proximity of traffic to pedestrians should anyone trip.. The state of Princel Lane is also worrying. The Chairman said that ECC Highways were aware of both these areas and a reminder will be given. The seat at The Heath crossroads is in need of attention. Cllr. Stock agreed to look at the problem.

6. PARISH PLAN In view of the already lengthy meeting Cllr. Stock proposed that councillors should give their progress reports at the October meeting.

#### 7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Cllr. Dempsey had received five group letters from Dedham Primary School children who last term had carried out surveys within the village on parking, air pollution, smoking, litter and dog fouling as part of their school project. These were all very interesting and the Clerk has replied to the individual groups.

(b) Salt Bag Scheme This scheme will again be implement during the coming winter. No new bins will be provided but all existing salt bins will be filled and this year salt will be delivered in smaller bags of 20 kilos. Cllr. Laverick will deal with this matter.

(c) Travellers In view of the ongoing problems at Dale Farm some information regarding illegal parking on council land by travellers has been provided.

(d) Revenue Grant Funding Since the last meeting the proposals outlined then will not be pursued, but it is still evident that Parish and Town Councils will cease to receive Revenue Grant Funding after 2012/13. It is hoped that funding on the same basis as last year will be available next year but a working party will be set up by CBC to plan the way forward for Town/Parish Councils after that time.

8. FOOTPATHS/PLAY AREA/ /SPORTS FIELD The new bench/table in the play area is proving popular. Following approval by CBC Cllr. Mrs. Cannon has instructed Mr Bland to carry out the work on the dead tree.

9. ACCOUNTS It was agreed that the following accounts be paid:

	£
Mr. A.P. Hodson – work carried out in August	Maintenance
187.50	
	PPP 452.41
Mrs. O.M..Ruff – Litter	168.00
Clerk – Qtrly. Account July/September	
900.76	
Friends of Historic Essex	
10.00	
Assembly Rooms Hire	
140.00	
<b>Income:</b> Duchy Barn Fund – Mrs C. Merriam	£100.00
Mrs. A. Brown	20.00

10. PLANNING The Planning sub-Committee has dealt with the following applications:

- COL/1450 Twigs, Ardleigh Road, Dedham.
- Replacement garage. Amendment to 110779
- Comments: Recommend approval with condition attached.
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- COL/1533 Bemerton, Coggeshall Road, Dedham.
- Rear and front extensions and new double garage.
- Comments: Recommend refusal.

COL/1554 27 Forge Street, Dedham.

Single storey rear and front extensions.

Comments: Recommend refusal.

COL/1440 The Sun Inn (LB), High Street, Dedham.

1439

Partial re-build of boundary wall.

Comments: Recommend approval.

COL/1615 Gun Hill Garage site, Gun Hill, Dedham.

New site building and access.

Comments: Recommend approval with conditions attached.

CBC has **approved** the following application:

COL/1263 Lavender Cottage, Coles Oak Lane, Dedham.

Single storey rear extension (amended Plans).

CBC has **refused** the following applications:

COL/0983 Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham.

Outline permission for 13 dwellings.

COL/1198 Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham.

Demolition of Farm Building in Conservation Area.

Land to rear Limetree House Persons camping on this land have lodged an appeal against their eviction. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Cannon should write to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Parish Council.

Changes are to be made to the current Code of Conduct following the introduction of the Localism Bill in April 2012. All councils, including Boroughs, Police and Fire Services are signed up to the same **Code of Conduct** and when the Localism Bill is enacted councils will have the option to sign up to a voluntary Code of Conduct. If a council does not adopt a Code of Conduct it still has to have a Register of Interests but has no means of managing misbehaviour except through the police. More information on the matter will be provided.

A complaint had been received from a coach driver that the coach park had been full of cars on Bank Holiday Monday. Normally coach companies do not visit during a Bank Holiday and it is understandable that motorists looking for a place to park will use the empty space. Mrs. Brown explained that a local highways panel has been created within CBC which will deal with parking, signage and yellow lines but the fabric of the road is still the responsibility of ECC.

Mrs. Brown has arranged for the Environmental Agency to look at the **Blackbrook** on 26<sup>th</sup> September at 9 a.m. Cllr. Laverick will attend.

13. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, at 7.30 p.m. in The Assembly Rooms, Dedham.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

[Return to Minutes Page](#)