

Dedham

Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 12th November 2012

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 12th November, 2012

In The Duchy Barn

Present: In the Chair: Cllr. Mrs. S. Beeton

Councillors: C. Clark, J. Flack, P. Gibbins, Mrs. J. Hughes,
A. Regan, K. Taylor, Mrs. S. Vinter.

Parish Clerk: Mrs. J. Flewin

Public: 14

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John O'Mara, member of The Border League Committee, who was in attendance to speak about the problem of swearing on the football pitch. Mr. O'Mara had recently attended the F.A. Football Conference when bad language was discussed. This was a problem across the country and was very difficult to deal with. A meeting had also been held with Chairmen, Managers and Referees from clubs which were all members of the Border League and a further meeting was planned for December. The responsibility for the conduct of the game rested with the referee who had the authority to remove from the field any player acting in an inappropriate manner and this included foul language. Unfortunately the standard of referees varied considerably and tolerance levels differed. Clubs could not pick and choose who was to referee their games but they could ask that they abide strictly by the rules. Referees themselves were "marked out of 100" on each occasion by the football club manager and could be called to account if their score was low, but this in itself did not solve the problem of inadequate monitoring of players on the field.

The Border League were very aware of the situation and deplored the lack of control by some referees. Mr. O'Mara pointed out that Dedham Football Club had received a Sportsmanship Award and £100 for being the best behaved team in the League. The League itself was investigating finance for an "award scheme" of £500 from which cash would be deducted from a club if their behaviour was deemed below standard. There were also T-shirts and posters available and Cllr. Clark will look into the possibility and cost of obtaining these. Mr. O'Mara explained that whereas players came under the control of the League, the Essex F.A. were responsible for the referees. He felt that should the Parish Council wish to make further complaints they should contact the

County F.A direct.

Councillors who had attended matches felt that the message was getting through and matters had improved. The Chairman thanked Mr. O'Mara for his support and informative talk. The matter will continue to be closely monitored.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None.

2. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST Cllr. Clark declared his role of Chair of Sports Club. There were no other declarations.

3. DECLARATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

Residents registered an interest in items 9, 11, 13.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October, 2012, having been previously circulated were approved subject to the following amendment. Page 9. Item 15 2nd para. should read "...a defibrillator for the village" not "...for the Sports Club".

5. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Dickensian Evening A request from the Parents Group of Dedham Primary School for financial help towards the cost of safety barriers along the stalls in the High Street was discussed. Last year the sum of £100 was given for this purpose and Cllr. Flack proposed that a similar amount be awarded this year. This was unanimously approved but Cllr. Taylor warned that in the current economic climate and the Council's own budget restraints any future requests for grants which may be received should be carefully considered.

(b) Microlites Cllr. Flack has prepared a report on this subject for circulation to councillors. A copy was available from the clerk.

6. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

CALC (JH) Next meeting in December.

Neighbourhood Action Panel (SV) There has been no response to a request for information or photographs of the parking problem at the junction of Southfields with Brook Street. Until more information is available to justify parking restrictions this matter will remain on the list with no action for the time being. On the question of dog fouling there

is a problem with contractors for emptying dog bins and NAP is trying to progress this problem as a Health & Safety issue. The problem of swearing on the football pitch is not unique to Dedham and NAP considered that any action plan should follow SMART principles – i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time – and the ultimate deterrent could be stopping the use of the football pitch. It was hoped that the improvement in the situation continues.

Dedham Primary School (JF) Nothing new to report. Plans are being made by the school to celebrate their bi-centenary in March 2013.

Emergency Co-ordinator (CC) The up-date of information is continuing.

Transport/Communications (KT/JF) KT reported that Roy Laverick has kindly agreed to continue to maintain the present website until a new set-up is agreed and the Parish Council is very grateful for this. See Item 12.

Mr. Laverick had passed to KT information regarding bus transport and this will be discussed at a later date.

Following a meeting with C.Cllr. Ann Brown and Cllr. Mark Cable on the possibility of charges being imposed in the Mill Lane car park JF reported that it appeared this was a misunderstanding and CBC had no plans at the moment to implement such a scheme.

JF was meeting with Brian Hindley to discuss ways and means of progressing Broadband within the village. The question of a Dedham Parish Council logo is ongoing.

Footpaths (SB) A meeting had been held with Andrew Hodson to discuss proposals for the coming year. Following discussions with Essex CC it was hoped that the PPP Service Level Agreement for 2013/14 will continue on the same basis as the current year.

Sports Field & Play Area (JH/PG) JH reported that a request for permission to raise the canopy of the trees along The Drift to 10 ft. is with CBC. This will make grass cutting easier. The large tree by the play area needs cutting back to enable the CCTV camera to operate efficiently. Enquiries regarding a Lime tree to replace the Horse Chestnut which died are ongoing and it was hoped that this could be financed from the CBC Diamond Jubilee Commemorative fund.

At the recent Sports Club Committee a proposal for a grass strip behind the pavilion to be made a green parking area with new bollards was discussed. There is some concern that the Horse Chestnut tree in this area is dying and its possible removal could interfere with any work carried out. Further investigation might be necessary.

PG has made enquiries regarding the replacement or repair of the crawl tube in the children's play area which in its present state is not fit for purpose. The cost of a new replacement section would be £460. This was included in the ROSPA report and needs early attention. This area is well used and it was unanimously agreed that the repair should go ahead. PG reported that the whole area has been tidied with the bark

raked and the hedge cut back The broken rail on the outdoor gym equipment has been removed.

Dedham sports field has received four merit awards in various sections from the Essex Playing Fields Association. John Hills had attended the presentation with the Chairman and the Parish Council commended him for his hard work which had helped achieve this recognition. CC advised that John was looking to cut back on his grass cutting responsibilities and although willing to continue cutting the football pitch he hoped that someone would come forward to maintain the cricket field.

Press & Publicity tba

7. ACCOUNTS The following accounts were payable this month

A.P. Hodson	Maintenance	194.09
	PPP	149.21
Mrs. I. Hindley – Litter		168.00
Essex Police Authority		4,029.75
Audit Commission		342.00
Assembly Rooms hire April/September		129.50
CBC – Street lighting		88.18
Duchy Barn hire		30.00
Parents Group – Dedham Primary School		100.00

8. FINANCE COMMITTEE The Finance Committee met on 5th November when Cllr. Regan was elected to the Chair. Cllr. Regan had prepared a projection of the financial situation through to the end of this financial year in preparation for discussion on the precept for 2013/14. He asked that all members gave thought to any expenditure requirements envisaged for the forthcoming financial year and to let him have this information for the next Finance Committee meeting on 6th January, 2013.

9. PLANNING TR reported on a very informative meeting with Andy Tyrell, CBC, and said it had been extremely helpful to get an over-view of practice and procedures in respect of planning applications. He had

also met with the Langham Parish Council planning representatives. CBC are shortly to hold a training session aimed at Borough Councillors but Dedham Planning sub-Committee have been invited to attend.

In response to queries on planning procedures raised by resident Robert Cannon TR felt confident that following the constructive meetings with CBC future applications would be dealt with correctly.

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

COL/121647 Millstream, Mill Lane, Dedham.

Single storey rear extension.

Comments: No objection

COL/121777 Loom House, Royal Square, Dedham.

Railings to front curtilage.

Comments: No objection

COL/121871 1 & 2 Rose Cottage, Ardleigh Road, Dedham.

Comments: No objection, but request for re-design of the pediments to the doors and bay windows to the ground floor which are inappropriate to the size of the dwellings and out of sympathy with the first floor windows.

CBC has **approved** the following applications:

COL/121581 Upper Park, Coles Oak Lane, Dedham.

121582

New access and extended wall.

COL/121591 6 Dedham Meade, Dedham.

Extensions and alterations.

COL/121633 Stour House, Long Road East, Dedham.

Construction of 3-bay cartlodge.

COL/121632 Gun Hill Garage, Ipswich Road, Dedham.

Erection of vehicle dismantling building.

Mr. Cannon queried the action of the planning committee in respect of the Gun Hill site application and asked why his e-mails had been unanswered. TR explained the history of the site and how much it had improved over the years. The planning committee felt that the proposed new building would be a further improvement.

CBC has **refused** the following applications:

COL/121579 Spring Cottage, Bargate Lane, Dedham.

Two storey extension.

COL/121591 Sunnyside, Long Road West, Dedham.

Two storey extension.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Speed restrictions – Gun Hill Information regarding a proposed speed restrictions were passed to Cllr. Flack for information.

(b) Affinity Water A letter suggesting plans for future water distribution in general invited comment. This was passed to Cllr. Flack.

11. ROYAL SQUARE PG is making progress with this project and has had consultations with a contractor. He felt that the problem with drainage in the main stems from the fact that water from the High Street is not being carried away by a drain which is blocked and therefore collects in Royal Square on its way to another drain. This has caused the potholes behind the war memorial. He is at present waiting to hear from Essex Highways. PG kindly agreed to fill the potholes as a temporary measure before the Dickensian Evening on 1st December.

12. PROPOSALS FOR NEW WEBSITE . A comprehensive report was circulated to all councillors by KT who explained the options for an

up-date and the benefits which would be received from a new website. After lengthy discussion on the various merits of new providers it was unanimously agreed to replace the current website and proceed with **Parishcouncil.net** which provides a highly tailored solution for Parish Councils, with specific “feature” pages.

13. PARISH PLAN Cllr. Flack has agreed to take on the responsibility for reviewing the situation in respect of the Parish Plan and has already spoken with Alan Stock.

He has received previous background papers from Mr. Stock and will report back following further meetings with him.

14. REPORT OF PCSO SB stated that she had met with representatives of the police and other interested agencies in order to fully understand the function of rural policing and the role of the PCSO. The very helpful discussion included shift patterns and the use of The Duchy Barn by the PCSO, means of re-invigorating Neighbourhood Watch and the possible creation of a Dedham community support group. Cllr.Mrs.Vinter had agreed to be the responsible contact for the PCSO and Neighbourhood Watch.

PCSO Mark Hibben said October was a quiet month involving shoplifting and the theft of items from a shed in Long Road West. He stressed the need for outbuildings to be securely locked and valuables not left visible in cars. With the prospect of bad weather this winter he supported the idea for a community volunteer force for snow clearance, etc. CC agreed to look into this. It was agreed that a call for volunteers should be made through the parish magazine. PCSO Hibben has produced a November update which will be circulated.

15. REPORT OF WARD COUNCILLOR Cllr. Mark Cable reported that CBC was carrying out various home improvements in Parson’s Field. Yellow lines will shortly be placed around the war memorial which will be as laid down for AONB. i.e. primrose yellow and narrow. He confirmed that he was happy with the idea of a Diamond Jubilee commemorative tree with a plaque in the sports field but suggested waiting until the overall cost was known before making any further plans. He asked to be notified of any Ash trees showing signs of if die back. The branches of the cherry tree overhanging the Dedham sign have been cut back.

16. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR In the absence of C.Cllr. Mrs. Brown there was nothing to report.

17. HAVE YOUR SAY Following a request from residents, PCSO Hibben raised the subject of traffic calming for Jupes Hill/Long Road East. SV will look into this.

Mr. Alan Ruff, a resident from East Lane, had received a letter from ECC requesting the removal of stones from the grass verge. Other residents in East Lane had also been instructed to remove concrete blocks from the verge but seemingly others round the village had not. Residents were angry and felt that they had been unfairly treated and that such a request should apply to the village as a whole and not involved in just one area. SB assured Mr. Ruff that the Parish Council

had made no request for this action but would investigate the policy which ECC are implementing. KT will obtain details from Mr. Ruff and contact ECC.

Mr. Robert Cannon stated that the vandalised letterbox on The Heath had been restored but there was no information regarding postage times, etc. CC agreed to make enquiries.

A resident asked if any progress had been made with ideas for fund raising in the village. With this in mind Mr. Cannon suggested that now the Duchy Barn shed had been upgraded the Sports and Social Club should be asked to pay a rent for the storage of their materials, on-going expenses and insurance which at the present time are met from parish funds. The Chairman agreed that an item on "fund raising" would be included on the agenda for discussion at the December meeting.

Having established a need for a dog bin where Bridges Farm footpath joins the High Street residents hoped that Cllr. Cable can arrange for a bin to be installed.

Mr. Fabig suggested that if shop keepers are to be asked to remove snow and ice from their frontages an official letter should be sent to them stating their legal position in the event of an accident.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS None

19. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held on **Monday, 10th December, 2012, at 8 p.m. in The Duchy Barn, Dedham.**

The meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

[Return to Minutes Page](#)