



Dedham Parish Council
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 5th June 2017, at 7.30pm

Attendance: Cllr Sheila Beeton (chair), Cllr Nicola Baker (vice-chair), Cllr Kevin Taylor, Cllr Chris Clark, Cllr Ann Follows,
Emma Cansdale- Clerk, Brian Hindley- Asst-Clerk.

96/17. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Christine Frost, Cllr Jeffrey Herbert, Cllr Jane Meakin.

97/17. Declaration of Interest. Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests, and non-pecuniary interests not already declared.

Cllr Chris Clark- Chairman of Dedham Sports Club

98/17. Minutes

The minutes of 8th May 2017 were accepted as a correct record and were duly signed by the chair.

99/17. Update on items from last meeting. Not reported separately.

- Sports Club refurbishment. Cllr Baker reported that this is progressing and they are about to submit the formal planning application and application for the second round of Football Foundation grant funding. Current issue: the ramp incline should comply with DDA, but will fall just short. The site does not allow full compliance with the DDA. However, CBC Planning does not have a problem with this. All councillors were happy with this as DPC would be able to demonstrate all reasonable actions have been taken.
- Monks Lane Byway. No update at this stage.
- Email Changeover. DPC has not been able to establish contact with Parishcouncil.net to arrange the changeover. Will have to change entirely. New ones will cost approx. £15 per year + VAT. Email package £180 +VAT, register a new domain name and have new email addresses.
- Hedges & Ditches. Hedges – Letters will be going out towards the end of the nesting season. Ditches- Cllrs Beeton and Follows will have a site visit to Sturmer, and then meet with the EFWMT, to discuss the ‘Where Does Water Go?’ project.
- Footpath maintenance. Need a stronger note on the website, stating we had an agreement with ECC for DPC to pay them for the extra cut, however, they pulled out at the last minute. Cllr Baker to put the detailed figures in the next parish magazine. Link on DPC website, with a request for residents to let the PC know when they complain (and the reference number)
- Extra waste bin Long Road West. This is with CBC for consideration.

- Village of the Year. Awaiting response.
- Parking restrictions – High Street. The recent collision on Crown St supports the application for double yellow lines in that area, to ensure safety.
Parking restrictions extended to Sunday: DPC have requested feedback via the parish magazine.

100/17. Have Your Say

Reports: Ward Councillor Nigel Chapman. County Councillor Anne Brown. Not present

- A resident asked who had cut the verges on Manningtree Rd. This was most likely ECC Highways.
- A resident asked if DPC can raise the money to cover the cost of grass cutting through the precept? Cllr Beeton replied that we could, and have used the precept to raise some of the funds, however, as this is the statutory responsibility of ECC there has to be a clear agreement as to what any additional funds are for and how they are managed. Cllr Baker also highlighted the fact that there are legal issues in taking responsibility for something that is another body's statutory responsibility.
- A resident asked if DPC gets volunteers to adopt a footpath?
- A resident suggested involving the imminent Stour Valley Forum through the ward councillor. It was agreed that Cllr Beeton would write to Cllr. Chapman and ask him to raise it. Cllr Frost should also be copied in, as it is believed she will also be attending.
- A resident asked if numbered markers could be placed on PRow. This would have to be done by ECC.

Finance:

101/17. Accounts, Internal Audit report and Annual Return.

- a) It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statements, which were duly signed off by the Chair.
- b) The internal audit report was received, and any actions arising will be discussed by the Finance working group. 2 key points were raised. The first regarding estimate and tender levels in the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. The clerk is waiting for confirmation of the figures from the EALC. The second point was around internal controls, particularly ensuring all signatories also sign the supporting documents (invoices) when signing cheques.
- c) It was resolved to approve the accounts ending 31st March 2017, which were duly signed off by the chair

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Seconded: Cllr Clark

Agreed by all

102/17. Payments

- a) The monthly finance report and list of cheques for payments were approved. Total £ see attached list.

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Seconded: Cllr Follows

Agreed by all

- b) It was resolved to make quarterly payments for the Duchy Barn, rather than monthly.

Proposed: Cllr Beeton

Seconded: Cllr Follows

Agreed by all

103/17. Planning Advisory Group: Cllr Kevin Taylor.

- a) It was resolved to make the following recommendations to Colchester Borough Council on the planning applications listed below:

Gun Hill scrapyard - Kevin to go to enforcement with several issues, including the 'temporary' portacabin.

Article 4 protection- can't do anything on it, without getting permission. However, there has been a digger gone through the hedge, and have scraped the surface of one of the plots. Enforcement have been out and posted notices

171172 West End Garage, High Street Demolition of the existing car repair garage and its replacement with a new two storey dwelling house. Proposed change of use to C3.
Recommendation: Objection.

This application is totally out of keeping with the architecture and materials used within the immediate street scene and within the village generally. The site is within the village conservation area and the AONB, its design does not respect that fact. The view from the Essex Way footpath, as it approaches Dedham would also be dominated by this development.

The street scene itself is one of single storey bungalows except for the telephone exchange which was strongly objected to at the time, but being a utility building, was not subject to the normal planning restrictions. It is also important to point out that the drawing "Existing & proposed site plan" describes the exchange as "brick 2 storey flats" and "Single storey brick dwelling" this is not the case, it is a utility building.

There is very strong local objection to this development, which the Parish Council supports. Dedham Parish Council objects to this application and recommends that neither change of use or planning be granted until such times as a more considered and sympathetic proposal is put forward. This would need to demonstrate a far less dominant back fill of the plot and less overdevelopment of the site.

Should the planning officer be minded to approve the application then the Parish will work with our Borough Councillor to effect a call in.

171221. Shepherds Lodge, Coles Oak Lane, Application for removal of Condition 3 of planning permission 100735

Recommendation: DPC object to the principle of the removal of Condition 3.

171232. Dalebrook House, Brook Street. Yew tree in immediate back garden behind brick built garden storage reduce and shape. Maximum branch length reduction 4 metres.
Already been granted.

[171264](#). Bloom House, The Heath, Construction of an in-ground swimming pool, and outbuildings including, pool house, shed and pergola, and associated landscape.

Recommendation: Objection. There is a considerable objection from a neighbour, raising a number of concerns. DPC also feel the associated buildings almost create another dwelling in the garden.

Proposed: Cllr Taylor

Agreed by all

b) Saunders Field. Nothing to report

104/17. Tree Survey. Clerk.

To discuss the recommendations in the report, additional work requested by David Druitt, and other work identified by the parish council, to agree a programme of works, and to resolve to seek quotes

Cllr Beeton summarised the report, and the following recommendations were made:

- To complete the high priority work
- To quote for the work requested by David Druitt

- Cllr Baker asked whether there would be any detriment to reducing this hedge, The tree surgeon advice was that there would not be, and recommended reducing by 50%.
- Cllr Baker raised the point that parish Councils are precluded from spending funds that benefit an individual. However, given that the trees have not been adequately managed over the years and there are BT cables overhead nearby it was agreed the work was justified.
- Cllr Taylor advised planning consent would be required as the trees are in a conservation area.

It was resolved to seek quotes for the high priority work, and the trees requested by David Druitt. (2 separate packages) To involve CBC planning/tree officer at an early stage.

Proposed: Cllr Beeton
Seconded: Cllr Follows
Agreed by all

105/17. Tennis Lease. Cllr Baker

To resolve to enter into a twenty-year lease with Dedham Lawn Tennis Club, backdated to 25 March 2014 and ending on 24 March 2034

Cllr Baker reported the following.

DPC and DLTC had reached an agreement on the outstanding points. The remaining outstanding item is the survey, which will set out the extent of the land. DPC are awaiting a second quote. Following a recommendation made by DPC at the May meeting DLTC were asked to contribute to survey. They have said it is unusual for the lessee to be asked to contribute, but they will put it to the committee.

Following a discussion, it was resolved to agree a new 20-year lease, backdated to 5th March 2014.

Proposed: Cllr Baker
Seconded: Cllr Beeton
Agreed by all.

106/17. Parsons field Play Area.

- a) To receive a feasibility study from CBC on the Parsons Field play area parking and to note only 9 spaces could be accommodated on the site.

Considering this information, it was resolved to no longer pursue this site as a parking area.

- b) To resolve return to CBC/CBH and request they remove the redundant play equipment, return the area to open space, and to make a contribution to DPC for the potential increased use on the Playing Field play equipment, as originally suggested.

Proposed: Cllr Beeton
Seconded: Cllr Follows
Agreed by all

Check they will maintain it.

107/17. War memorial flower tubs.

To discuss and resolve to remove the tubs from the war memorial for 2017/18

Cllr Beeton proposed DPC remove the tubs for this year, to protect the memorial from water marking. This was not supported.

Cllr Baker made the following amendment- to leave the tubs and ask Craft Nurseries to fill tubs to an approximate cost of £250.00.

Proposed: Cllr Baker
Agreed by all

108/17. Handyman- Car park notice board repair.

It was resolved to request Alison O'Reilly to repair the Mill Lane car park notice board, at a cost of £193.98

Proposed: Cllr Baker
Seconded: Cllr Follows
Agreed 4, abstained 1. Carried

109/17. Local Crime: Report Asst – Clerk.
Double oven stolen from a property
House break-in and property stolen on Brook St
Damage has been done to the car park machines

110/17. Correspondence.

- Footpath cutting. This was covered under item 199/17
- ECC- LHP request for Manningtree Rd, speed limit location change. The clerk reported that this has been refused by ECC.
- Salt bag partnership- to resolve to take part in the scheme. It was agreed to identify a site for storage and bring back to next meeting.

111/17. Matters of Continuing Reference:
Village Lighting. No update.

Cllr Beeton reported that there had been some progress made regarding finding a potential site for a small parish office/meeting room, and tourist information. This will be a substantive item on the next agenda, to discuss using the Craft Centre. Councillors agreed for Cllr Beeton to pursue this avenue, and bring back to the next meeting.

111/17. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 3 July 2017 @7.30