



Dedham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 9th January 2017

Attendance: Cllr Sheila Beeton (Chair), Cllr Nicola Baker (Vice-chair), Cllr Kevin Taylor, Cllr Chris Clark, Cllr Ann Follows, Cllr Christine Frost, Cllr Jeffery Herbert, Cllr Jane Meakin

Cllr Beeton wishes all a Happy New Year.

1/17. Apologies for absence.

None

2/17. Declaration of Interest. Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests, and non-pecuniary interests not already declared.

Cllr Clark- chairman of DSC

Cllr Beeton- non-pecuniary interest on item 19/17

Cllr Taylor- non-pecuniary interest as a resident of Monks Lane, item 4/17

Cllr Baker- non-pecuniary interest as a resident of Monks Lane, item 4/17

3/17. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2016 were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the chair.

4/17. Update on items from last meeting. Not reported separately.

- Lighting Duchy Barn. It was reported that this is working correctly. It is not turning off as it should do; clerk to investigate.
- Flower tubs in High Street. The spring planting is now complete.
- On line banking. The movement to online banking is in progress
- Extra signatory (Cllr Follows) for bank. In progress
- Monks Lane footpath- County Cllr Anne Brown reported that she was concerned about what ECC PRow are planning to do on this site. Along with Cllrs' Taylor and Baker she will meet with PRow and fully explain the implications. There will be a full update next month.
- Training session for Cllr's & Clerks. 15th February- venue required.
- Parson's Field play area. No further update at this stage.
- Tennis club footpath & Lease- Cllr Baker reported that the Tennis Club will be meeting soon to go over the terms of the lease and will get back to DPC following their discussion. They also wish to extend their thanks to DPC, for agreeing in principle to the new footpath and for moving the play equipment.

- Re-siting of adult fitness equipment on playing field. This has been completed.
- Barrier and fence repair. A revised quote for the barrier replacement has been received.
- Environmental Forum. Cllr Beeton reported that she has agreed a date with the Environment Agency for a session covering drainage, flooding and other water issues in Dedham. In attendance, should be the Environment Agency, ECC Flood and Water Management Team, CBC and Anglian Water. Whilst the format has not yet been confirmed it is likely to be a drop-in session from around 3-6, followed by an hour's meeting to consider common issues and agree an action plan. It will be held in the Assembly Rooms on Thursday 16th February, 3-8pm
- Website update. Cllr Taylor reported that from December the site was fully up and running and is receiving a large number of visitors. Thanks were raised to John Goldsbrough for the work in producing and maintaining the website, and the investigation work he is doing on email addresses.

5/17. Have your say

Report from Cllr Nigel Chapman. Ward Councillor

Cllr Chapman reported that in the latest version of the Local Plan no development is planned for Dedham.

Report from Anne Brown Essex County Councillor.

Cllr Brown gave thanks to Nigel and Christopher on their hard work in representing the ward on the new plan.

Cllr Brown reported that a house along Long Rd East has lost several trees, due to cars hitting them. She asked DPC for a view on speeding and large vehicles in this area, which she indicated she would be happy to forward to LHP. It was agreed that Cllr Follows and the Clerk will investigate possible solutions if required, and bring them back to DPC and Cllr Brown.

There is an ongoing issue with Gun Hill garage and the hedging that should be planted as part of their planning consent. Cllr Chapman reported that the developers have again reassured the planning officer that it will be done by the end of March.

Following the lighting issues raised at the Business meeting in Dedham, Cllr Brown approached ECC for information on street lighting, and their view. She reported that "ECC will not support DPC financially with a street lighting scheme. Street lighting costs approximately £2000 per light for installation, and £40 per year running costs and that ECC was against it due to 'dark skies' being excellent in Dedham".

Charles Clover raised the following points:

- He was not happy with the content of the last parish magazine, in relation to the views reported about keeping visitor numbers down during peak season, to protect the environment and wanted a right of reply. Mr Clover felt this was a misrepresentation of the position. DPC agreed to take this on board; however, some Cllr's felt it was an accurate reflection of what was reported by CBC at that meeting. Mr Clover stated that details should be checked for accuracy with other organisations before publishing their views

Street lighting. Mr Clover was not content with lighting issues just being raised at events such as the business breakfast, where a small minority of people are in attendance. Cllr Beeton advised that this was just one forum, where lighting in the village has been raised by residents

Mr Clover made detailed comments regarding the importance of 'dark skies', including that The Dedham Vale AONB has been tested by the British Astronomical Association who report these as a business asset. Skies in the Dedham Vale are the closest 'dark skies' to London, and this has been

reported on positively in the media, encouraging visitors to visit the area during the off-peak season, to view the skies. There is also a movement to get Dedham registered as a dark sky reserve. He also commented that the Village Design Statement has a number of street lighting issues detailed, including a programme for replacing unsuitable existing street lights in some parts of the village with LED lights. The clerk reported this has been requested by the parish council, and that the Mill Lane lights have also now been replaced. Mr Clover also raised concerns over the new lights on the Duchy Barn, stating they are on too long, are too bright, and may need planning permission. The clerk had reported earlier on this issue and will check further regarding planning permission.

Other residents commented that we cannot overestimate the importance of Dark skies, and raised concerns over the level of brightness on the Duchy Barn lights.

Another resident reported that he was not wholly against lighting the area around the Duchy Barn, but this should be low level and the issue of the path surface should also be considered.

The Chairman conformed that all the issues raised by Cllr Brown, Mr. Clover and others would be fully investigated by the Working Party established by DPC for this purpose and full and proper consultation will be carried out regarding any recommendations made.

Richard Brown reported that again The Drift from South Fields was completely blocked by cars on a recent Saturday. Emergency vehicles would not have been able to get through. Walking through was difficult, and there was not enough room to get a pushchair through. It was suggested the Sport Club police this when their members and visiting teams are using the facilities. Cllr Clark did point out that cars parking on South Fields were not just sports club/field users.

It was agreed that the Sports and Recreation Group should look at whether there is anything the sports club can do to prevent dangerous or illegal parking. The car parking group might also have a look at this.

A resident raised an issue with the proposed work on the TPO'd Horse Chestnut in the churchyard. This will be taken during item **8/17 a)**

A resident raised the change request on the 30mph limit on Manningtree Rd. This will be taken under item **13/17**.

6/17. Accounts:

- a) To receive and approve list of cheque payments.

The cheques were approved and signed, however the payment for the LED lights on the Duchy Barn will be held until the timing and PIR issue has been resolved.

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Agreed by all.

7/17. Precept. To discuss and resolve and to set the Precept for 2017/2018. Report attached from Cllr Herbert. **

- a) Cllr Herbert, reported on the current financial position, and budget position going forward. The budget report is available on the website. Councilors gave their thoughts on the proposed budget, and were supportive of the position recommended. It was resolved to approve the budget for 2017/18, as recommended by the Finance Advisory Group

Proposed: JH

Seconded: NB Agreed by all.

- b) It was resolved to set the 2017/18 precept at £39,258. Full details in the attached documents.

Proposed: Cllr Herbert

Seconded: Cllr Baker

Agreed by all

The clerk signed the submission form to return to CBC

8/17. Planning Advisory Group. Cllr Kevin Taylor

a) The following planning applications were received:

162956. Heathfield, Long Road East, Extensions and alterations to main house with associated landscaping including a proposed swimming pool. Conversion of out building to annex/store and erection of two bay cart lodge.

Recommendation: No objection

163053. Songsters, Mill Lane, Dedham. Cut back branches of Cherry tree in corner of garden overhanging public footpath.

Recommendation: No comment required

163064. Hegerston, Long Road West. Single storey extensions to front and rear

Recommendation: No objection

163083. Albany House, School Lane, Cherry in middle of front lawn near other fruit trees fell and grind out to allow for planting of a liquid amber. Eucalyptus deanii in the back corner fell because of fear for future damage to the wall etc. Planting of a far more suitable size tree.

Recommendation: No objection

163090. Dalebrook, High Street, G1 2 no. self-seeded Sycamore trees - coppice to allow work to stream bank. T1 Elm - remove Ivy and reshape to improve tree shape

Recommendation: No comment required

163183. 2 Castle Cottages, East Lane. Single storey rear and two storey side extensions forming kitchen, dining room, study and bedroom over.

Recommendation: No objection

Dedham Church, Horse Chestnut. Reduction and crown lift.

Recommendation: The protected horse chestnut in the church yard is the most iconic and celebrated tree in the village, the subject of many artists including John Constable. It is against this background that the Parish Council is extremely concerned that any works to the tree pose no threat whatsoever to the continued wellbeing and future health of the tree. The information provided on the application is very brief, it acknowledges that there is no disease to the tree and that it is not being proposed due to structural damage. The proposal for a crown lift goes against the advice provided by Arboricultural Association and can be seen at <http://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Public/A-brief-guide-to-tree-work-terminology-and-definit>

It states "Good practice dictates crown lifting should not normally include the removal of large branches growing directly from the trunk as this can cause large wounds which can become extensively decayed leading to further long term problems or more short term biomechanical instability. Crown lifting on older, mature trees should be avoided or restricted to secondary branches or shortening of primary branches rather than the whole removal wherever possible."

The Parish Council are not arborists, but we do have responsibility to represent resident's views. The last arboricultural consultant's report on the Oak gave it a very positive future. We believe that carrying out works to the horse chestnut on the basis of a couple of vague sentences is not appropriate for such an iconic tree and will not be supported by residents. Given the importance of this tree, a full consultant's report should be commissioned in

support of any proposed works and should include an impact assessment on the health of the horse chestnut.

It is on this basis that we would strongly object to permission being granted for this application.

A resident raised serious concerns that the type of work proposed on this tree would be likely to kill it off.

- b) Saunders Field. Update Cllr Beeton reported that she has been trying to get hold of Fiona Cass at CBC to advise on the application and outcome of agreed criteria for allocating social housing under this scheme. DPC are disgusted by the appalling communication between CBH/CHP and the Parish Council on this issue.
- c) Ardleigh Reservoir application. To agree a recommendation to submit to Tendring District Council.

Recommendation: This application has been brought to our attention and will impact upon us as a village and we wish to object to this proposal based on the increased vehicular movements on our narrow and restricted feeder roads to the site. We also have a considerable problem with the impact of school access traffic on a key route that is likely to be used by employees as a route to the site. DPC are also concerned about the potential lighting issues this development will raise. Whilst the site is not in the AONB, there could be a potential impact on its 'dark skies'.

Proposed: Cllr Taylor

Agreed by all.

9/17. Grass cutting update: Cllr Follows reported that ECC have refused to increase the costs/ cutting frequency.

Cllr Brown commented that this is a big issue in Dedham as tourism will be affected. She is happy to support an approach to the portfolio holder, and possibly seek to use some of the business rates generated in Dedham.

10/17. Dedham Youth Club. Cllr Taylor

Cllr Taylor gave a report on Dedham Youth Club following the meeting with Dedham PCC and the YMCA. The full report is available on the website.**

It was agreed to bring this issue back to the February meeting when DPC would consider the options for Parish Council involvement in this issue. In the meantime, it was agreed to find out how the YMCA work with parish councils in other areas. Cllr. Taylor/clerk

11/17. Mobile Phone Mast. Cllr Taylor

Cllr Taylor reported that DPC have learned that pre-application advice process has been started at CBC for a lattice framework mobile phone mast, 25m high, twice as high as the surrounding tree line. The proposed location is at the back of Mill House, on the old sewage works site. Whilst a better mobile signal would be beneficial, he did not believe the location and style would be acceptable for the area. This view was generally supported.

12/17. Working party re village lighting. Cllr Beeton reported that a meeting will be called in due course.

13/17. Manningtree Road speed limit. Cllr Beeton

Cllr Beeton gave a report regarding a request to move the speed limit to the other side of Pound Farm.

Following a discussion, it was resolved to request Essex County Council move the extent of the 30mph speed limit to the Manningtree side of Pound Farm.

Proposed: Cllr Beeton

Seconded: Cllr Baker

Agreed by all.

The Clerk will submit the request to the LHP.

14/17. Resitting the 2 unused benches

Following a discussion, it was resolved to allow Dedham Sports Club to site the 2 unused benches on the sports field, subject to any planning permission required.

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Agreed by all.

15/17. Local Crime Report. Asst. Clerk.

2 cars were broken into on Ipswich Road

A car was keyed.

People selling goods from house to house must have a hawkers license

16/17. Correspondence.

Cultural probe. The EALC are requesting 5 parish councils to give up 1-2 hours of their time to take part in 'fun and interesting activities aimed at capturing your thoughts and feeling about Essex', such as photography, sketches and journals.

Following a discussion, it was agreed not to volunteer as a cultural probe.

17/17. Matters of Continuing Reference.

None

18/17. Date and time of next meeting. 06.02.2017. 7.30pm. Duchy Barn.

This section of the meeting was closed to the public in accordance with the Public Bodies Admission Act 1960 due to items of a commercially sensitive nature.

19/17 To receive applications for the role of handyman contractor, review, and appoint contractor.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to appoint Alison O' Reilly as the framework contractor. Any tasks must be approved at a parish council meeting ahead of the work.

** Documents available from the Clerk.