

# Dedham

Parish Council

## Minutes of meeting held on 10th December 2012

### DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2012,

In The Duchy Barn

Present: Chair: Cllr. Mrs. S. Beeton

Councillors: Mrs. N. Baker, C. Clark, P. Gibbins, Mrs. J. Hughes,

A. Regan, K. Taylor, Mrs. S. Vinter.

Parish Clerk: Mrs. J. Flewin

Public: 11

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR AND CLERK The Chairman introduced Cllr. Mrs. Baker who has been appointed to fill the casual vacancy and the new Parish Clerk, Mrs. Emma Cansdale, who will take up her appointment on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. Mrs. Flewin resigns on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012, and Mrs. Cansdale will commence her official duties on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2013. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr. Mrs. Baker.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr. Flack has tendered his resignation for personal reasons. The Clerk will advise CBC. and ascertain what procedure must be followed to fill this casual vacancy. It was agreed that in the event that the Council was able to co-opt to our new vacancy it would wish to offer the post to the second of the two applicants who had applied for the recent vacancy following public advertisement. Apologies also received from C.Cllr. Mrs. Brown and PCSO Mark Hibben.

3. COUNCILLORS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST Cllr. Clark declared an interest as Chair of Sports Club. There were no other declarations.

4. NURTURE DOGS Mr, Dave De'ath thanked the Parish Council for

allowing him to speak on the subject of Nurture Dogs which is a small Community Interest Company run mostly by volunteers. Mr. De'ath, an Occupational Therapist, said that Nurture Dogs aim to bring the pleasure and therapeutic value of the human/animal bond to as many people as possible by combining animal contact and activities with the therapeutic philosophy of Occupational Therapy. The use of a redundant site in Dedham near the old Rare Breeds Centre has been offered to Nurture Dogs and they are at present looking at ways to use it. The wooden structure on the land has been smartened up and painted and they hope to use it as a therapy room. Eventually a few other animals may be added (such as goats) and a few chickens, but the dogs would not be kept on the land overnight. At the moment they are looking to obtain the Parish Council's view on this venture and Mr. De'ath handed out small leaflets with website and contact details. Following a query regarding traffic Mr. De'ath gave an assurance that the number of cars parked would amount to no more than 2 or 3 at any one time.

On the information received members had no objection in principle to the matter being taken forward and members were asked to look at the literature and contact Mark Cable with any concerns they may have. Mr. De'ath thanked the councillors for their interest.

#### 5. COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP STRUCTURES AND COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES See attached notes.

#### 6. DECLARATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

A resident asked for further information on the resignation of Cllr. Flack. SB stated that this matter would be discussed in private and she was unable to comment at present.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING having been circulated were approved subject to the following amendment. Item 10 (a) should advise that information was passed to Cllr. Taylor and not to Cllr. Flack.

#### 8. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Traffic Calming – Jupes Hill/Long Road East KT was endeavouring to make contact with the resident who had raised this with the PCSO.

(b) Stones on the grass verge KT has visited the site and agrees that the obstructions in some instances are rather large. Mr. Ruff has contacted CCllr. Mrs. Brown and there is some discussion with residents about the degree of change and what can be done. It was felt that any policy agreed by ECC should be published and SB passed draft policy to KT.

(c) Royal Square Remedial work has been carried out on the potholes which were filled in for the Dickensian Market. PG is still waiting for

Highways to look at the drains in the High street. The situation is on-going. A resident had reported that the bar to The Drift was not closing properly. This was due to overgrown vegetation. The problem has been rectified.

## 9. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

CALC (JH) SB had attended the recent meeting in the absence of JH. Notes on various matters discussed are attached.

NAP (SV) Next meeting in January. It was disappointing to report that there had been no response to the parish magazine article calling for volunteers to form a Dedham community safety group which would include crime prevention, help for the housebound, speed watch, etc. Mr. Ray Medlar had taken on Neighbourhood Watch and was looking for help in this direction. SB suggested that a brief summary of co-ordinators' responsibilities should be made public to encourage residents to take on these roles.. Contact with Farm Watch will be made to see if they are willing to advise or participate.

SB has studied the PCSO contract which terminates in March 2013. The clerk will contact Essex Police with a view to arranging for negotiations in the new year. In the meantime SV will monitor the situation.

Dedham Primary School – Nothing to report.

Emergency Co-ordinator (CC) Up-dating the Emergency Plan details is on-going. The recent small amount of snow had prompted a review of procedures and responsibilities so far as snow clearance was concerned. There had been some criticism of the Parish Council and it was felt that the position should be made quite clear to the public. On this occasion some gritting of footpaths in the High Street did take place, but the Parish Council insurers have warned against creating a perception that it is the duty of the Parish Council to undertake this action on a regular basis. This is not the case. After much discussion it was agreed that CC will keep a close eye on weather reports in the event of snow being forecast and will decide the appropriate action. It was pointed out that the amount of salt available is limited and should only be used in the most extreme circumstances. West Bergholt PC have drawn up and issued "guidance" notes and SB suggested that Dedham should consider this as well.

Transport/Communications (KT) Matters were moving forward and KT hoped that the new website would eventually prove to be of benefit to other agencies within the village itself. Broadband will be discussed at the next meeting.

Footpaths (SB) The Footpath Group have agreed to monitor footpaths in the parish during their regular walks and this commitment will be taken forward. The Parish Council has submitted its request for grant aid from PPP for the year 2013.

Sports Field & Play Area (JH/PG) Permission to raise the canopy of the trees along The Drift has been received from CBC. Quotes for the proposed new tree have been received and JH will discuss these with

Mark Cable. Swearing on the football pitch is still being monitored and the situation has improved. Monitoring will continue until Christmas after which JH will report. The hedge along Brook Street has been cut.

Media/Communications/Publicity This slot will be filled by JH - See item 5.

10. ADOPTION OF LOGO FOR COUNCIL The question of a logo for the Parish Council was discussed and a specimen logo for a “contact” card was tabled. This featured the Dedham village sign and listed names of all councillors. The cost of 500 cards would be £25/30. It was proposed by SB, seconded by CC, with all in favour, that the village sign be adopted as the Dedham Parish Council logo and that 500 cards be purchased. KT was commended for his work on this and was asked to progress it with the clerk.

11 CAR PARKING IN THE VILLAGE In the absence of Cllr. Flack this matter will be dealt with under item 19.

12. PARISH PLAN Alan Stock had provided an update to JF and further progress will be discussed at the January meeting.

13. INCOME GENERATION NB gave a brief outline of the necessary requirements under the Localism Act in order to generate funding and arrangements to comply are in hand.

14. ACCOUNTS The following accounts were payable this month.

£

A.P. Hodson – Hours worked in November  
202.50

Mrs. I. Hindley – Litter  
168.00

Clerk’s Qtr. Account October/December  
855.62

R. Laverick – Website costs  
23.20

Hire of Duchy Barn  
45.00

Jane Hughes – Collection for Clerk  
540.00

Income: Collection for Clerk - £540.00

A new signatory will be required following the resignation of John Flack. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

15. FINANCE TR said that although the CBC timetable is unsure at the present time he proposed carrying on with discussions re the parish precept and will be dealing with this in January. A proposal to contract with Ladywell Agency for handling of payroll function for the Council was approved.

16. PLANNING No planning applications received.

CBC has approved the following applications:

COL/121154 33 Dedham Meade, Dedham.

Single storey front extension

COL/121647 Millstream, Mill Lane, Dedham.

Single storey rear extension

Toad Hall, Heath Road, Dedham. Borough Cllr. Mark Cable received a complaint that a new outbuilding was not a permitted development. At his request CBC sent an enforcement officer to the site who reported that the outbuilding complied with planning conditions and therefore the investigation was closed.

The Planning Committee, together with the Chair, attended a planning training session at Colchester on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

A copy of the Tendring District Council plans has been received by the Chair for preliminary views which it was agreed should be conveyed to Tendring DC. A copy of our response is attached to these minutes.

17. CORRESPONDENCE SB had received information about a business support week organised by Ground Works East of England which involves providing funding for eco friendly local business projects. At the present time it was difficult to see how this could be handled as no lists of businesses in the village are available. Chair agreed to forward details to councillors and flagged up the need to establish a relationships with businesses in the parish.

18. REPORT OF PCSO In his absence a written report was read to the meeting.

There has been one attempted burglary in Brook Street, theft from a vehicle in Mill Lane and theft from a vehicle in Gun Hill. PCSO

Hibben again stressed that all valuables and bags should be removed or kept from view. A successful meeting was held with Council community members and Essex Police to discuss the formation of a recognised emergency group to act in local emergencies triggered by established criteria. Furthermore plans to refresh the actions of Community Speed Watch and Neighbourhood Watch were discussed. Further meetings are to take place. It was decided that Neighbourhood Watch would be an excellent conduit for the distribution of crime prevention material available from Essex Police.

19. REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Cllr. Mark Cable sought the Parish Council's view on the use of a piece of land within the village which had been offered for car parking. A fee would be charged, and members felt that this might affect the CBC's decision in respect of charging in the Mill Lane car park. Cllrs. Beeton and Gibbins will discuss the matter further with Cllr. Cable for the next meeting. So far as the bad odours in the High Street are concerned Anglian Water have identified a problem with the pump and will also be talking with the Talbooth regarding fat in the pipes. CBC has won an award for cleanliness and Dedham was one of the outstanding villages highlighted. The Chair acknowledged the hard work of Mrs. Hindley, the village "litter picker".

20. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR None.

21. HAVE YOUR SAY On the subject of fund raising a resident suggested that this was not only achieved by grants but should be pursued from within the village. NB gave an assurance that all avenues would be explored. SB asked for a feedback on the timing for future monthly meetings and it was agreed that 7.30 p.m. was the preferred starting time.

22. FAREWELL AND VOTE OF THANKS TO PARISH CLERK SB gave a vote of thanks to the retiring Clerk and presented her with a signed card and plant. An earlier function to celebrate her 25 years of service had been well attended and enjoyed by all.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS ECC will be implementing a 40 mph. speed limited for Gun Hill.

24. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, at 7.30 p.m. in The Duchy Barn

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