

B DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

www.dedhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk to the Council:
Mr Brian Hindley
Tel: 01206 395579
clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.org.uk

21 Lawford Place
Lawford
Manningtree, Essex
CO11 2PT

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at The Duchy Barn on Monday 1st September 2014

Meeting open at 19.30

Present:

Chair: Cllr Sheila Beeton

Councillors: Cllr Nicola Baker, Cllr Jane Hughes, Cllr Kevin Taylor, Cllr Tony Regan, Cllr Chris Clark, Cllr Ann Follows, Cllr Peter Gibbins

Ward Councillor: Mark Cable from 8.00pm

Acting Clerk: Brian Hindley

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Kevin Taylor

Cllr Anne Follows.

Cllr S Vinter was not present and had not given any apologies (Chair Sheila Beeton will make contact)

2. Declaration of interest:

Cllr Gibbins re Hallfields application, Roundabout item 24.

3. Minutes

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6 June (with a minor amendment on Item 2, incorrect spelling of Cllr Gibbins.

4. Update on items from last meeting:

Cllr Clarke informed the meeting that the tree work near Albany House had been done by Blands but the chestnut tree along the Drift would have to be removed. He also went on to say that whilst the playing fields had been used for the Bank Holiday Country Fayre he had a report of a puncture to a tyre allegedly caused by the bollards that lay on the ground and that vehicles had driven over the newly laid seat foundation and will have to be replaced. Cllr's Clark and Gibbins will arrange to replace it.

Action Cllr's Gibbins & Clark

Cllr Baker suggested that perhaps in future conditions of use should be implemented which other Councillors supported. Cllr Clark did add that the field was left in a tidy state. Clerk was pleased to say that John Goldsborough had begun work with the Parish website to improve facilities and also added that the hedge near the Boathouse Restaurant had been cut back. The Dedham Primary School had been complimented on their actions concerning parking in Parsons Field and the Clerk had written to the Headmistress to this effect. Dedham Parish Council had advised CBC that they would participate in the salt bag scheme this coming winter

Due to Cllr Taylor being on leave, the Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr Taylor had spoken to Wheelers in respect of the signage at the end of Birchwood Road. Wheelers were appreciative of the fact that we had taken time to discuss the issue with them and would seek to relocate the sign.

Cllr Regan recalled that mention had been made of the bollards outside Hedgerows, Long Road East on the grass verge. The ECC Highways at Colchester Borough Council (CBC) has served a notice upon the house owner to remove them.

5. Have Your Say part 1

None

6. Accounts

Cheques approved and signed by Cllr Regan Cllr Beeton.

Brian Hindley Clerk's salary: August and September £346.04.

Dedham PCC- Duchy Barn Hire: August £15.00

Iris Hindley Litter Picking July & August: £378.00

Phillip Proctor (Eager Beaver): £936.68

H M Revenue & Customs: Clerks PAYE: £148.40.

CBC Electricity: £45.01.

Playsafe (ROSPA) £174.00

The following cheques had already been signed and approved prior to the meeting:

Dedham PCC hire of Duchy Barn: July. £15.00

Phillip Proctor (Eager Beaver) £395.72

R Chisnall The Drift Pavilion tar and spray: £9438.00

7. Crime report

Some concrete toadstools had been stolen along Long Road East and damage had been done to the 30mph signs in Long Road West and Ardleigh Road. These latter matters had not been reported to the Police and the Clerk will see to it.

Action: Clerk

8. Report from County Councillor – Not Present

9. Reports from representatives

Sports Field

Cllr Hughes

The condition of the chestnut tree (mentioned earlier by Cllr Clark) has been noted. David Wright (Mr Trimit) has been requested to trim the hedges in Brook Street (Clerk has spoken to him and Mr Wright says that he normally trims the hedge along Brook Street in early November and has done for the past 20 years)

Community Safety and Infrastructure Group (CSG) Cllr Vintner

In the absence of Cllr Vintner Cllr Beeton said that the Speedwatch team had been active along Ardleigh Road and Long Road West. It was noted that damage with paint spray on both the 30 mph speed signs in Ardleigh Road and Long Road West (reported to Highways) had almost obliterated the numbers. Clerk is to notify the Highways of the Ardleigh Road signs.

NB. The damage has been reported to the Police by the Clerk. The Police will contact Highways to determine the cost of damage/repair.

**Action~: Cllr Beeton
Cllr Follows
Clerk**

Communications Group Cllr Taylor

Broadband: Due to Cllr Taylor's absence on leave the Clerk said the local rollout continues and fibre has been installed along the High Street. Fine details of the progress is difficult to come by but use of the 'postcode checker via the website will update residents on availability.

Media and Public Relations. Cllr Hughes

Cllr. Hughes confirmed a regular item in the Parish Magazine for the Parish Council. The deadline for next month is the 17 September. Anyone who has a contribution could they please let her know before the closing date.

Community Safety Group and NAP (Cllr Beeton)

Cllr Beeton reported that most items discussed at a recent CSG would be dealt with under other agenda items. A survey of road signs in Dedham had been requested by ECC Highways and had been referred to Cllr. Vintner who had responsibility for Highways matters. This was still outstanding and pending contact with Cllr. Vintner to establish progress all Councillors were asked to let Councillor Beeton have any suggestions for proposed changes to signage that might benefit the village.

Action – All Cllrs

Footpath and Tree Group. Cllr Beeton:

Cllr Beeton spoke of footpath 38: ECC have been contacted about the fallen trees obstructing the footpath. Footpath 10 – the hedge along this path is overhanging the path. The landowner will be contacted to clear. Cllr Baker asked if the farmer, Martin Scott of Monks Farm could be congratulated for his clearance of the footpath between Monks Lane and Boxhouse Lane. Cllr Baker said that Monks Lane had still not been attended to and delivery lorries could not gain access - in particular oil deliveries. Cllr Beeton said that she will fix a meeting with County Cllr Ann Brown to see whether she can assist in progressing these issues.

Action: Clerk

Tree Warden

Cllr Baker. Nothing to report.

Dedham Primary School. Cllr Regan : Nothing to report.

Emergency Co-ordinator Cllr Clark:

He was still trying to settle the position of the de-fibrillator and will report when this has been finalised.

Action: Cllr Clark

Transport and Environmental Work: Cllr Ann Follows

Due to her absence for medical reason Cllr Beeton informed the meeting that the 247 'bus will continue to run, with the same timetable but with a new contractor. Fortunately the previous driver will be still employed by Stevensons (the new contractor. The nettles at the end of East Lane adjoining Brook Street will be included in the discussions with Cllr. Ann Brown.

Action: Cllr Beeton

10. Planning Group.

Cllr Regan spoke about two planning applications:

145689. Rose Cottage Stratford Road. The felling of two Spruce trees and a third dead one will be replaced by a single mulberry tree. No objection.

145181: The Nook Princel Lane. Change of use Class C3(Residential) to Use Class A2 (commercial use of relaxing treatment rooms) Cllr Regan said that this was an application by the prospective purchaser of the property and he had received several objections to this application. The two main objections were (a) that approval for changing a property from residential to commercial status in Princel Lane would be a dangerous precedent; and (b) increased vehicular access down such a narrow lane would be detrimental to other residents. For these reasons the recommendation was therefore refusal. This was endorsed by all Councillors present.

The Ward Councillor Mark Cable said that he would call in the application in if CBC were minded to approve. (The effect of the 'call in' would ensure that the planning application would go before the full CBC).

Cllr Regan drew the members attention to the fact that should a planning application amendment go before Planning at CBC it had never been the procedure of CBC to notify Parish Councils and he would be seeking an amendment to the procedures through the Colchester Association of Local Council (CALC) to rectify this anomaly.

Action : Cllr Regan

Hallfields Development.

Cllr Regan reminded Councillors of the importance of the exhibition at the Duchy Barn on the 9 September 2014 by Hills the developers. He highlighted his displeasure about the lack of contact with Colne Housing who will be present on the 9th. He felt that the developers should hear the views of the residents at Hallfields. There was much discussion by all Councillors and a strong view was expressed that there should be clear evidence of a required need in Dedham for both the affordable and private elements of this proposal. A Housing Needs Survey that was conducted by the previous Council was probably now out of date and it was considered important that the current views of residents were obtained. It was noted that being outside the Village envelope for development, the developers were required to incorporate some element of affordable housing to obtain planning approval. It was suggested all attendees to the exhibition complete a questionnaire to obtain their views (Clerk to prepare questionnaire). Cllr Beeton said she was endeavouring to arrange meetings with the developers and Colne Housing.

NB This meeting will now take place prior to the exhibition.

**Action: Cllr Beeton
Clerk**

11. Report from Ward Councillor Mark Cable

Our Ward Councillor reported he had several items to bring to the attention of the meeting.

A Planning Application appeal had been upheld in relation to Park Farm where a barn conversion has been refused by the CBC. A number of heavy conditions had been imposed.

In Bargate Lane a planning application in respect of land at the rear of Spring Cottage had been approved for stables, which was of concern to nearby residents because of its closeness to homes.

The Langham Northern Approach Road. He has documents relating to this if anyone wished to inspect them.

He had received a complaint concerning a parking ticket that was put on the car of a churchgoer who had only exceeded the restriction by 5 minutes. Cllr Cable has requested CBC to act a little more leniently in future. A resident has complained about the awful smell at the North end of the village which it was thought was due to the workings at Blackbrook House which he understood has now been resolved.

Access to the CBC website which had been a problem was now cleared.

He reported on a discussion that had taken place with Cllr Beeton about the policy and procedures deployed by CBC in respect of I06 funding. Cllr. Cable indicated that he would raise this at Council with a view to trying to establish greater transparency in both the policy and its implementation.

Action: Cllr. Cable

12. Report on Children's Play Area.

Cllr Hughes drew Councillors' attention to the report (available if required from the Clerk) she had prepared concerning the proposal of improving the facilities of equipment in the children's play area. Much debate ensued with Councillors minded that the application for the Community Initiative Funds (CIF) application had a time scale which they had to adhere to. Councillor Gibbins proposed that Dedham Parish Council apply for a grant of £20,000 from CIF, seconded by Cllr Clark. It was further proposed by Cllr Baker that an amendment to the second proposal be put "to increase the additional grant funding required from £12,000 to a maximum of up to £20,000. This amendment was seconded by Cllr Hughes and both proposals were agreed by all Councillors. The third resolution from Cllr Hughes was not debated nor proposed.

13. Repair and relocation of roundabout.

The Council received a verbal report from Cllr. Beeton about the need to undertake works to the roundabout on the Playing Field. It was reported that whilst its condition still satisfied ROSPA requirements, the surface was beginning to break up and the roundabout was in need of repair and renovation. It was suggested the opportunity of proposed works could be taken to relocate the roundabout to a different site on the Playing Field which would be more suitable. An estimate for the works required was reported to be in the order of £3,500 and it was suggested that approval be sought from CBC and Ward Councillor to utilise 106 funding for this purpose. This work was proposed by Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Baker and agreed by Councillors.

Action: Cllr. Beeton

14. Advertising Boards and 'A' Boards in the High Street

Cllr. Beeton reported that she had received several complaints about obstructions in the High Street walkways from A Boards and other items deployed on the walkway by various shops. The Clerk said that he had contacted CBC to establish guidance and was told that this was the responsibility of the ECC Highways who had instructed an Inspector to have a look at the High Street to determine whether or not any obstructions had been incurred. They will keep us informed.

Action: Clerk

15. Parking along the B1027 (past bridge over River Stour)

The Clerk had made contact with the various Suffolk Authorities (including Stratford St Mary Parish Council) and had been told that they had not been notified of any intended Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) along this stretch off road. They will let us know if the matter is raised. A member of the Stratford Parish Council has written to the Clerk, in his private capacity as a regular cyclist and he feels that the traffic parking has a positive effect on the speed of vehicles and allows pedestrians and cyclists alike to move more safely because of the reduction in speeds.

16. DPC Small Grants award

Due to Cllr Taylor not being present, the Clerk reported that this matter could not yet be finalised as one of the applicants, The Dedham Toddler Group had not yet submitted all the required documentation to assess the bid properly. It was anticipated this would be forthcoming. However the Dedham Youth Club's application would be granted for the purchase of an air hockey table costing £264.98. and was endorsed by all Councillors.

**Action: Cllr Taylor
Clerk.**

17. Neighbourhood Watch

The village survey is due to end soon with around 60 replies from residents so far and the CSG will update the Council. A Public Meeting will be arranged in due course for interested parties. Two Councillors, Cllr Clark and Baker said that they had not received the circular which should have accompanied all Parish Magazines.

Action CSG

18. Essex Fire and Rescue Parish Safety Agents

Cllr Clark spoke on this issue which had been brought up at the CALC meeting last month. He felt that genuine health and safety issues were relevant as the Agents were proposing to fit smoke alarms which required some degree of expertise. There is to be a pilot scheme trialled and he will find out whether this is successful before proposing action in Dedham.

Action: Cllr Clark

19. Correspondence

A very new important piece of legislation, Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 had come into force from the 15.08.2014. No advance warning or consultation had been forthcoming on these Regulations and they will affect the Parish Council's Standing Orders. In particular the present Standing Orders forbid the recording or photography of proceedings. This is now permitted under the Regulations. Greater openness is the order of the day, which this Council has generally adhered to. Cllr Baker agreed to examine the new Regulations in full and advise the Council on any changes that may have to be introduced in our procedures. This will be an agenda item at our next meeting.

The Clerk also raised a request from the East Anglia Children's Hospice to display a notice for a family fun day at Layer Marney Tower on the 28.09.2014 on Parish Notice Boards. This was agreed.
The Dedham Vale and AONB are holding their second Stour Valley Invasive Non- Native Species (INNS) Local Action Group (LAG) meeting on the 30.09.2014. All are invited. Cllr Baker said that she had attended the meeting last year and it was most informative and interesting.

**Action: Cllr Baker
Clerk**

20. Have Your Say Part 2

No Matters were raised.

21. Matters for Information. There were none.

22. Date and Time of next meeting:

6 October 2014 at 7.00pm

Members of the public were then asked to leave to conduct one matter in a closed session. Cllr Gibbins left the meeting.

23. Councillors debated quotes obtained for contractor(s) to refurbish and to place the Wicksteed roundabout in a new position near the present children's play area. It was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Hughes that contractors appointed would be:

- (a) PJ Gibbons Ltd as the prime contractor: contract value: £1,350.00
- (b) Playquip Ltd: for the surface only: contract value: £1,650.00

The above quotes were agreed subject to approval of I06 funding from CBC and Ward Councillor and on condition that PJ Gibbons has overall responsibility for delivery of the project to ROSPA standards and requirements.

A total cost of **£3000.00** was agreed by all present

Action: Clerk and Cllr Gibbins

Signed.....

06.10.2014