

Dedham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 6th July 2020 at 7.00pm

Attendance: Cllr Kevin Taylor (chair), Cllr Nicola Baker (vice-chair), Cllr Sheila Beeton, Cllr Ann Follows, Cllr Christine Frost, Cllr Jeffrey Herbert, Cllr Jane Meakin, Cllr Jonathan Smith
Emma Cansdale- Clerk

20.058. Apologies for absence

None

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

Cllr Follows and Cllr Herbert non-pecuniary interest Long Road West
Cllr Frost and Cllr Beeton non-pecuniary interest lime tree

20.060. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 01.06.2020 were accepted as a correct record.

20.061. Have Your Say.

Report from Cllr Nigel Chapman. Ward Councillor.

Cllr Chapman reported that there was not much to add from CBC at this time.

Report from Cllr Anne Brown. Essex County Councillor.

Not much news from county hall due to the Covid situation.

A village business owner raised an issue with the Coffee Van that has parked adjacent to Royal Square, alongside the bike racks. The Old Bakery Café, who are situated on the corner of Princel Lane enquired with the DPC business group how to go about seeking permission to park a mobile barista van on Royal Square or the High Street, as they were unable to open the premises due to available space and covid distancing measures. Enquires were made with CBC and NEPP, and an initial 2 week trial period via NEPP was granted to ensure the position didn't cause traffic issues.

Another local café owner expressed anger at a coffee business being allowed to open closer to his premises, as 'it will take away his business'. It was noted by some councillors, that it is not an additional coffee vendor in the village, but an existing high street business that is unable to open due to the restrictions.

The cafe owner suggested they should be parked outside their own business, not in the centre of the High Street. Most councillors felt that this was not a safe or practical option in terms of traffic, and social distancing.

Concerns were raised by a business owner and one councillor regarding the involvement of the parish council, as no formal decision had been taken, and that the parish council were favouring one business over another. The business group advised that the decision was taken by NEPP to grant the trial, and that every business in the High Street was contacted by group, to offer support where it could.

20.062. Impact of the increase in visitors to Dedham-discussion

Discussion and report on the actions taken, and being taken regarding the increase of visitors to Dedham, in particular the antisocial behaviour that is occurring along the river.

- Report from Cllr Taylor

Cllr Taylor gave a report on the situation, particular the issues regarding the county boarder. DPC are working in partnership with others responsible for the area. Unfortunately the location makes taking action and influencing decisions difficult, as the issues occur on the Suffolk side, and are therefore under the remit, of Suffolk County Council (SCC), Babergh District Council (BDC), Stratford St Mary Parish Council (SsMPC) and Suffolk Police. .

Litter- Colchester Borough Council (CBC) are working hard to support us, and are collecting as much as possible. Babergh DC will increase litter picking on that stretch of road. However, the volunteer litter pickers are doing a fantastic job- including educating visitors.

Traffic- The parking restrictions on one side worked last year. However, the behaviour pattern has changed this year, with an increase in visitors, carrying a greater amount of equipment, which has significantly increased the problems. A farmer has opened up a field and is charging visitors to park, so is not a payment issue.

It was agreed that we need to look at car park signage for the village. Ipswich parking have taken over parking enforcement in the area and following today's meeting, we are hoping they will visit more frequently.

DPC feel SCC should carry out a full review of the B1029.

Behaviour –The level of issues since lockdown is unprecedented. DPC are working with Community Engagement Officers, at Suffolk and Essex Police. Even the police are limited to what they can do- ie, drugs, litter etc, they cannot act on behaviours such as sitting down in the field or having bbqs.

All craft inc inflatables must be licensed. However, the EA have limited resources to enforce it.

- Councillors comments

David Druitt- The Dedham Educational Foundation own the land. As landowner, they have to pay for maintenance on the land, trees etc. The Trust are worried about the individual and collective liabilities.

- Open discussion with public

Sally Buchanan- Sally has set up a group on volunteers, who litter pick, hand out bin bags to visitors, and try to educate those visiting the river. They have around 15 litter pickers, less 'educators', and are looking for more.

They would like somewhere to store the box of equipment. Boat House or Therapy Farm. Cllr Taylor will speak to the Boathouse.

CBC have agreed an appropriate bin collection point for the litter they collect.

Cllr Taylor thanked the group for their support on this issue.

Emma Black from the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project spoke of the Constable Rangers Scheme, who are happy to support the volunteers.

Other issues raised included the poor treatment of the livestock in the field, and the fact the farmer has had to move the cows for their own safety; and the view that the additional visitors were not coming into the High street and supporting the local economy.

- Conclusion and suggested actions

Groups will meet off line to discuss the issues going forward.

20.063. Update on items from last meeting, not reported separately and other updates and reports.

- **The Drift Improvement Project-** Cllr Smith reported that this has started in earnest. DPC have placed the three orders. The topographical survey is complete, and the arboricultural survey is starting this week. We will then will engage with the landscape architect.
- **Highways report-** The clerk gave a report on the meeting with Essex Highways regarding the issues on Long Road East and West* see website. Councillors and residents questioned the criteria in the ECC Speed Management Strategy, and it was agreed to investigate that further. Residents and councillors further reiterated the problem along those stretches on road, with volume of traffic, speeding traffic, and lack of safe pedestrian passage.

It was agreed to progress with the LHP projects in the report, which would all start with a speed and traffic count, at various locations.

Cllr Brown stated that is was good that we have a Community Speedwatch team in Dedham. She would like to see their figures to show the LHP. However, these don't cover morning traffic. Concerned about children using the school bus. Must get the police out as much as possible. Must push the police to take action on these stretches.

- **High Street businesses- opening plans.** On the website Cllr Frost will contact Craft Centre Café again.

20.064. Accounts.

To receive accounts and agree payments **

Proposed: Cllr Herbert

Seconded: Cllr Baker

Agreed by all

20.065. Planning Advisory Group. Cllr Jonathan Smith.

a) To receive and agree recommendations on the following planning applications:

[201230 1](#) Mill Cottages, Mill Lane , Dedham

T1 Small spruce tree in front garden of property. Fell to ground level due to proximity to house and excessive shading. T2 Ash tree in front garden of property. Fell to ground level due to dieback in crown and signs of Chalara.
Recommendation: No comment

201168 Oakbank, Ardleigh Road Dedham

Proposed single storey rear addition to existing annexe

Recommendation: Dedham Parish Council generally have no objection to this application.

We understand however that the original granny annex received conditional approval in 1995 for single family occupancy and could not be occupied as a separate or independent unit .

We would like this condition to remain if it is still planning policy for new dwellings in the countryside as it was in 1995

201088 - 5 and 6 Kiln Cottages, Crown Street, Dedham

Combined part single, part two storey rear extensions with the addition of front porches and front dormers along with two storey side extension to number 6.

Recommendation: There is a large flat roof area on the first floor to the rear of both properties outside the main bedrooms which could potentially be used as an outside terrace and potentially result in loss of privacy of adjoining properties. It is not clear what the intention is for these areas.

We would suggest that a restriction be imposed if necessary on the use of these areas as an outside terrace.

2. A previous application in 2017 for a porch extension to No 5 was approved with additional conditions , one being that the external facing and roofing materials to be used shall match colour, texture and form used on existing building . Reason being that it is publicly visible building where matching materials are a visually essential requirement .

We have concerns that the vertical timber cladding proposed for both porches is not matching the existing building and is out of character.

Subject to the above we are prepared to support this application

201267- Land west of, Coggeshall Road, Dedham

Use of land for the siting of 6 no. holiday pods including new access

Recommendation: To be decided after the planning group have looked at it in more detail.

To note 1992693 - Long Road West, Dedham.

Outline Application for up to 6 No. Dwellings and provision of Village Green.

Appeal Pending after planning Refusal by CBC

Objection response submitted to CBC and the Planning Inspectorate.

The full response is available on the CBC planning website.

20.066. Playing field issues

To discuss and agree any actions relating to the playing field

- Condition of the lime tree in the corner of the playing field, near Brook Street.

Cllr Frost raised concern about the lime tree on the corner of the playing field. Report- quotes from other contractors. EC to speak to Liam McKarry- give us advice on a way forward. Advise him of the report from 2017 and the recent one.

Carried.

- Antisocial behaviour

A resident has drawn attention to the anti-social behaviour on The Drift. Prior to official football training starting again this week, some unofficial games/training seems to have taken place. There have been balls in the garden, climbing

over the fence to retrieve it. The players told him they played for the Dedham Old Boys (unconfirmed). These unofficial sessions have been loud and raucous, and on one occasion lasted until midnight, and involved music and a bbq. Groups are generally meeting, being loud and leaving litter.

Cllr Baker stated that she was sorry for the difficulties, but there are other areas that are experiencing exactly the same thing, particularly around football. Hopefully this is covid related.

Andy Bell (Dedham Old Boys football club) commented that he doesn't think it is the club, but cannot guarantee it. Some members asked to use the mobile goals on one occasion in June. He has asked the club to ensure when using the public area, they do so respectfully.

To note there is no Dedham Old Boys junior team.

DPC and the football club will keep the situation under review.

Agreed to suspend standing orders in order to continue with the meeting- 22.30hrs

- Application to contribute to the football clubs proposed pitch treatment.
The Football Club have requested funding to treat the pitch. It was agreed to have a formal item on the next agenda.

- Playground opening plans

Cllr Baker attended a webinar on reopening last week, and the following key points were raised.

You can open if you feel it is safe to do so, provided you complete a risk assessment.

There is little point in trying to maintain a cleaning schedule unless you can clean after every single person.

Hand sanitisers- provide them if you can, but must be topped up.

Any actions taken to mitigate the risk are done so where 'reasonably practicable'.

The risk assessment could include actions limiting time on the equipment, the number of users at any one time, in the area, and on specific pieces of equipment. Appropriate signage should be displayed.

Following a discussion, the majority of councillors did not feel comfortable opening the play area yet.

The play area will be padlocked and chained, and its opening sha; be reviewed monthly.

20.067. Correspondence. Clerk

The Cheese and Pie man asked for a slot on Royal Square.

DPC have received a letter from The Dedham Vale Society solicitor regarding the bollard lighting in Royal square.

This will be addressed in due course.

20.068 Matters of continuing reference

Cllr Meakin met with Rev Antony Wilson and Ardleigh PC and the covid community group will continue until September.

Date and Time of the next meeting.

3rd August 2020, 7pm.

Forthcoming events

** reports available on the website or from the clerk