

Dedham Parish Council
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Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 1st March 2021

To note the election

21.028. Apologies for absence

None

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

Cllrs Follows, Herbert and Meakin declared non-pecuniary interest on Long Road East, West and Ardleigh Road, if anything is raised.

21.030. Minutes

Minutes of meeting dated 08.02.2021 were accepted as a correct record

21.031. Have Your Say.

Maximum of 3 minutes per person/group to make representations to the Parish Council, to a total of 15mins

A number of residents in the Playing Field area of the village raised strong concerns about the placement of bongos or a glockenspiel in the play area. These concerns will be considered by councillors under item 21/036

A number of residents raised concerns regarding the requests for the pop-up deli, and the ice-cream van. Again, these concerns will be considered by councillors under items 21.040 and 21.041

A resident suggested the proposed lighting does not extend far enough along The Drift, and should go beyond the Weavers cottages

Another resident commented that the Flemish Cottages are the darkest part of The Drift, and it would be better to light that area. They raised concerns about lighting across the Drift, but did offer to help with lighting on the darkest part. They felt lighting across the Drift was not a priority.

Other residents raised concerns about the lighting across the Drift, including Mr Clover (representing the 88 DVS member addresses in the village), who has raised the issues previously mentioned and are covered in his earlier letters via the DVS solicitor.

Cllr Taylor responded that DPC would not going to go into detail due to the legal challenge- DPC will respond to that. However, the council have gone through the right process to ensure fairness to all residents.

Report from Cllr Nigel Chapman. Ward Councillor.

Cllr Chapman reported they CBC were coming into the months ahead of elections where business slows down. The Local Plan inspection will take place in April

Report from Cllr Anne Brown. Essex County Councillor.

Cllr Brown reported that ECC met at full council last week. Considering the difficulties many residents have faced during the pandemic, ECC have only increased the council tax by the amount of money needed for elderly care. Cllr Brown has also been engaging with Cllr Kevin Bentley looking at the issues caused by traffic coming in from Tendring.

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

- Flooding Shoebridge Hill area- Cllr Brown has been tenacious in following up with Essex Highways. A date for a survey, and pre-meeting has been scheduled. Hopefully it will also resolve the BT manhole cover issue.
- Reopening High Streets Safely Fund- to discuss options from CBC.

Cllr Baker reported that the funding for this comes via CBC, from the European Development fund. The clerk and Cllr Baker attended the meeting where proposals were discussed that would allow Dedham High Street to safely open again, including a social media campaign, additional signage, and hand sanitising stations. Other options are awaiting input from Essex Highways, particularly with reference to safety measures placed on Mill Lane, such as temporary traffic lights, allowing for wider pedestrian access. These types of measures will have to be discussed and agreed with Essex Highways

Cllr Beeton commented that DPC should consider the general point about urbanising the village, and doesn't like the idea of traffic lights on Mill Lane.

Cllr Herbert responded that the most important point is Mill Lane. It is a problem with people stepping off the carriageway, and some serious consideration needs to be given. He appreciates Cllr Beeton's point, but safety must be improved.

Cllr Brown commented that this time last year Cllr Chapman organised a cross border meeting. Could another one be arranged?

Cllr Chapman responded that unfortunately he would not be able to do it for this particular problem, as there is no time.

21.033. Accounts

To receive accounts and agree payments **

Proposed: Cllr Herbert

Seconded: Cllr Baker

Agreed.

21.034. Planning Advisory Group. Cllr Jonathan Smith.

- a) To make recommendations on the following applications:

210372. Upper Park, Coles Oak Lane, Dedham CO7 6DN. Installation of swimming pool and refurbishment of existing tennis court,

Recommendation: No objection

210422. Fox Farm, 91 Harwich Road, Lawford, Manningtree Essex CO11 2LS. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed agricultural storage building.

Recommendation: No comment

210289. Little Orchard, Bargate Lane, Dedham Colchester CO7 6BN. Building of a garden shed.

Recommendation: No objection

- a) Notable Planning Decisions issued by CBC this month.

210295

202823

21.035. Lighting and Drift project- Cllr Jonathan Smith

Cllr Smith gave a brief report on the Lighting and Drift resurfacing project.

We now have approval from the Tree Officer. Although James Choat said it wouldn't be a problem with bats because of the age of the tree, DPC decided to go ahead with an ecology report. The conclusion and recommendations as follows:

The site is not the subject of a conservation designation, and no mitigation is required in relation to conservation sites or priority habitats. The proposed lighting is not reasonably likely to impact habitats or species to warrant further surveys or detailed mitigation measures. Timing restrictions apply to tree work in relation to nesting birds and the avenue of retained lime trees will be protected in accordance with best practice (BS 5837 2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations) and arboricultural advice. With the above in place and all other advice in this report followed, there is no reason the lighting proposal will result in adverse effect to habitats or species. Furthermore, the Bats and Artificial Lighting 2018 Guidelines recommend the use of specialist low level bollard lighting as an appropriate specification in an environment where bats are known to be.

Regarding Royal Square, the plan has been completed by architect. This will be for future councillors to consider.

21.036. Children's play area

To resolve to remove the Simon Says equipment, and replace with a glockenspiel or bongos, to a budget of £1500. (contract to be awarded under item 21.044)

Cllr Baker reported that the play area was installed 6 years ago, with flower tubes. These had issues and were replaced with Simon Says. That has repaired a number of times. The intention is to replace one sound equipment with another, hence the proposal for these. There have been concerns raised by residents under Public Participation about musical equipment. There are other options if councillors feel strongly about it.

Option a) Noughts and crosses.
Option b) Sliding picture puzzle

Following a discussion Cllr Taylor proposed an amendment to the resolution to purchase the Noughts and Crosses

Proposed: Cllr Taylor

Agreed by all

21.037. Public Rights of way

To resolve to continue with the service level agreement with Essex County Council, for the maintenance of PRow in Dedham, and extend the contract with Mortimer Contracts for the work.

Proposed: Cllr Follows

Agreed by all.

21.038. Parking restrictions

To agree to approach NEPP regarding possible parking restrictions around Lamb Corner. There are ongoing issues with parking, and the land is unregistered, although CBC have put name plate signs on. Parking restrictions would function in the same way as Crown Street, and cover the verge as well.

Cllr Meakin asked if the restrictions could be extended round the corner?
Cllr's Taylor, Follows and Herbert have a NEPP meeting next week and will seek advice there.

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Agreed by all

21.039. Security camera near Sports Pavilion

To consider the installation of a security camera/CCTV on the Sports Pavilion.
Following a discussion, looking at the possible merits for installing CCTV (such as prevention of vandalism), the need to fully consider the legal implications, and how we use any data obtained, it was agreed not to take this forward at this time.

21.040. Request for a Deli pitch request

To receive and consider a request from the Dedham Vale Deli for permission to pitch on DPC owned land, a 3x3m gazebo (or similar), selling produce such as fresh bread, high quality fruit & veg, preserves and treats

DPC has a policy paper whereby these types of applications can be assessed. It does not permit business on Royal Square, and cannot cause detriment to other businesses in Dedham. Councillors were concerned that it could affect Birchwood Farm Shop and Hall Farm, and therefore does not meet the criteria

It was agreed not grant approval for this.

Proposed: Cllr Frost

Agreed by all

21.041. Ice cream van pitch request

To respond to CBC's request for comment on a request for an ice cream van by the river.
DPC has a policy paper whereby these types of applications can be assessed which includes a clause that additional traders cannot cause detriment to other businesses in Dedham. Councillors were concerned that it could affect The Boathouse, The Essex Rose, The Craft Centre Tearooms and the CO-OP, and therefore does not meet the criteria and they cannot recommend this.

Proposed: Cllr Frost

Agreed by all

21.042. Correspondence. Clerk

- A further letter has been received from the DVS Solicitor
- The Old Bakery have requested that their 3 month licence (agreed in January, for January, February and March), be moved to March, April and May. **Agreed.**

21.043. Matters of continuing reference

Long road West/East/Ardleigh Rd traffic issues.

BT manhole cover- water

Date and Time of the next meeting. Monday 12th April 2021, 7pm

Forthcoming events

N/A

** reports available from the clerk/online

Closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

21.044. Children's play equipment.

To review quotes and appoint a contractor to remove Simon Says, and replace with a glockenspiel/bongos.

Following the amendment, Noughts and Crosses was agreed, and Playquip were appointed to remove Simon Says, and install noughts and crosses, at £690.00