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Dedham Parish Council (PC)
www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

**Minutes of the meeting of Dedham Parish Council on
Monday 6th February 2023 at 6:30pm
at the Duchy Barn.**

Attendees: Cllr Smith, Cllr Neville, Cllr Beeton, Cllr Haines, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Mole, Cllr Williams, Cllr Thorkildsen.

Present: Carol Harbach Clerk
Cllr Chapman
3 Members of the public

22/134 Welcome by the Chairman and apologies for absence received.
Cllr Smith welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

22/135 Declaration of Interests.
Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests relevant to this agenda. Note; Interests may also be declared at any point in the meeting where they become apparent.
None arose.

22/136 Minutes
Acceptance of the minutes of the meetings of 9th January 2023.
These had been circulated to all the councillors previously.
Proposed by Cllr Smith seconded by Cllr Neville. All Agreed.

22/137 Matters arising from these minutes.
Some of the potholes reported have been repaired.
Clerk has followed up with the Ward councillors regarding the meeting that used to take place with Colchester City Council (CCC) and he acknowledged they took place in the past. The Clerk has requested if they can be reinstated, a reply is still to come back from the councillor. Ongoing
Safety on the Drift in bad weather – raised under an item on agenda later.
The precept figure for next year although agreed was not previously published and it is £43.143 for 2023/2024.
Precept request sent to CCC by Clerk.
Rest of items are on the agenda.

Have Your Say and visitors reports (Colchester City Councillor (CCC) and County Councillors)

Questions may not be answered at this meeting but may go on to the next agenda.

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

A resident stated problems with a house on Box House Lane which was flooded over Christmas and main problem was that due to drainage the water went on to the road during the cold weather and caused slippery conditions. The Parish Council have contacted the enforcement officer with the concerns at the property and they felt it was strange that approval was still being given when it appeared that residents were not complying with rules. The enforcement team believed that this was not a commercial use. The time for the enforcement of the wall legislation is due to be soon. The PC reported that the enforcement officer does know that this is going on and advised the resident to contact the enforcement officer to give him the evidence that he has. The PC made it clear to the resident that this is the only way to get things done and for the resident to keep complaining and sending evidence to the enforcement officer so he can log it.

Letter to resident at Hill House re overgrown vegetation – the request letter has been sent to the resident regarding this. There is little else that can be completed in this situation.

Another resident asked about Royal Square and what is the latest position on this area.

The resident was informed that nothing has been put in to place and is ongoing at the moment, the PC are discussing this as a council and are looking at various schemes to use. These would include looking at different natural materials in the future in this area if the car park was to be replanned.

The PC have heard that some people would like this to be a pedestrian area and a public consultation will be taking place for the residents to have their say on this matter before anything is decided. Local architects will be involved with this as well to give their input as professionals and as residents as well. The area will need to be resurfaced sometime soon and is ongoing at the moment.

Any plans will be kept aesthetically pleasing as possible and in contrast to the surrounding area. Links are on the website for residents to look at what the PC have to date.

Cllr Chapman gave a report on the CCC and stated that the main topic at council is budgets and a lot of things will change in the future.

Devolution is being looked at by the Government and across Essex councils will be encouraged to make councils work together, becoming more productive and look at things that may merge and the main aim is to bring councils together.

Refuse collection could possibly be shared between councils rather than in house. This is one of the areas they are looking at to reduce costs.

Finance, Standards and Procedures Report
139.1 To approve expenditure for this month.

Cllr Harrison had circulated a report which was run through and explained in detail.

The council is £30,000 ahead of budget at the moment and also a lot of capital budget have not come to fruition at the moment eg Royal Square
 The bank balance was read out and finances are looking strong.

The expenditure for this month has been sent to the Finance group prior to this meeting. The expenditure for this month is;

Matrix Electrical Engineering Ltd –	
New light in Mill Lane	£5,104.37
Village Warden Invoice	741.00
Dedham Vale Tree Surgery Flailing hedge along stream	960.00
Clerk Salary Jan 23	471.92
DPCC – Duchy barn Hire	90.00
Dedham Senior Citizen Xmas Party Fund	1,200.00
HW Halsall – digging out of ditch	420.00
HMRC – tax and NI due for year	883.20
First Responders donation for new equipment	1,000.00
	=====
Total	£10,816.49

Proposed Cllr Harrison and seconded Cllr Neville. All agreed
 There had been some delay in payments last month as Barclays Bank online had failed and the sweep facility that is used had also failed, and therefore the payments had not gone through This was completed 3 times by councillors before the payments went through. The village warden had been spoken to regarding the situation which was explained and she was apologised to for the inconvenience.

139.2 Report on last finance and standards group meeting

It was noted that there are a lot of rules and requirements to go through to move to another bank online, some banks have been identified and will be spoken by Cllr Harrison as there needs to be discussions with them in person, as there is a need to have two signatures for payments to be made. The Clerk will ask other parish councils and feedback at the next meeting.

The PC are aware that they need to move some money for Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) requirements. This is trying to be completed by the PC by the investigations above. The amended latest working report which came via the auditor form will be sent out and the PC are about 80% through this at the moment.

22/140

Infrastructure and Asset management

140.1 Approval of quotes for Jubilee tree plaques

Quotes have been obtained and discussed for this and it was suggested to go with Green-tech.

This company can provide metal tree guards with a place for a plaque to be added and incorporated in the guard. Two tree guards are £1250 but Cllr Beeton is still waiting for further information which is due to be forthcoming shortly. The total cost of this has come in at £1600. It was thought to get some proposals to circulate from the company and put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Information will be sent round when received.

140.2 To consider whether to pursue provision of adult gym equipment on the playing fields.

This has been considered but thought the money would be better spent on new play equipment for the older children. This will be discussed within the group and suggestions from the group will be considered and brought back to the council in the future. This will be discussed at the group meeting on Thursday.

The group will investigate this further and report back.

140.3 New Salt Bins and costs approx. £500

There had been requests for a salt bin on the Drift as this can become very slippery in bad weather. The village warden had also requested a new bin for Shoebridge Hill. Some rough estimates had been obtained and it was approximately £250 for a new bin and salt. The other bins were discussed and it was proposed to replace 4 current bins with 6 new ones - estimated cost £1.025 excluding VAT this will be discussed at the group meeting.

Hedging that was placed in the recreation ground needed to be increased to bulk the area out more and there was a cost of £117.60 for extra hedging. This was proposed Cllr Mole seconded Cllr Smith All agreed for this to be purchased.

22/141

Traffic and Planning/planning applications

141.1 Planning applications and decisions from Colchester Borough Council

Cllr Neville has received the Automatic Traffic Counter (ATC) results and these had been circulated and were discussed, it did show conclusively that there is a problem with speeding in the village. There are current on-going conversations with Cllr Barber regarding this and any updates will be brought back to the council.

“20s plenty” is the speed restriction group that has been implemented and operates through the Highways department to work towards a 20mph speed limit in the villages. Clerk to reply for council to state they would like to be part of this scheme.

Entrants for a traffic signs competition from the School have come back and will be displayed in the shops to help make people aware of speeding from a child's point of view.

Local speed groups in the village were mentioned and on occasions people are being stopped, when they are not going too fast. This becomes counterproductive as this puts the speed group in a bad light when it's obvious that you are not speeding. It was thought that people may be stopped for data gathering processes.

Gateway pictures will be printed and circulated by the Clerk to the other councillors to look at for the next meeting and this will be put on the agenda,

Decisions received

222965 - 2 Victoria Cottages, Long Road West, Dedham Colchester CO7 6EJ
Single storey rear extension.

222966- Land east of, Crown Street, Dedham Colchester Erection of Tractor Shed. Approved conditional.

Planning applications

230054 - Greenhayes, Grove Hill, Dedham Colchester CO7 6DX Proposed conversion of an existing single storey attached storage barn/workshop to an ancillary annexe and study.

No objections

233160 - Rowan House, Ardleigh Road, Dedham Essex CO7 6EE To demolish an existing garage and replace it with a gazebo in approximately the same location. There was concern from 1 neighbour No objections from council.

230099 - The Rhimes, Coopers Lane, Dedham Essex CO7 6AX

Proposed partial conversion of existing outbuilding to study/office No objection

There was nothing contentious this month and Cllr Neville requested if a councillor can take this on for next month as she will be away. It is known Shelly Glebe Barn application will be in next months list – there has been a few comments in the village around this as this is an accident hotspot. Cllr Harrison will look at the planning next month.

Clerk to contact CCC planning officer for an extension on this as there will not be a meeting in time for this before the date of expiry. Action Clerk

The replies to the planning comments were proposed by Cllr Neville seconded by Cllr Harrison.

141.2 Update on Green Project

There was an information meeting at Stratford St Mary which a few councillors had attended. There is now another non statutory consultation

going to take place which is good news but the underlining tone was that this will still go ahead.

Cllr Bottwood from Langham had sent a request to Cllr Neville, to see if Dedham were interested in a joint information meeting for residents on this subject. This was discussed and felt that unless anything new comes up then will no need to go ahead with another meeting.

Clerk to inform Cllr Bottwood of decision.

22/142

Group 3 Community relations group

142.1 To agree Business Breakfast costs of approximately £250

The business breakfast meeting costs were agreed and the Invitations are being given out this week and councillors are invited to the event. Cllr Barber has agreed to come along to the meeting. The amount was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Mole. All agreed.

142.2 Royal Square update see previous comments in 22/138.

142.3 Football club update Cllr Smith had met two representatives from the club to discuss business proposals. One thing discussed was to ensure the club was used and continued as a village asset. The club will come back to the council with recommendations and proposal to the council. It was noted that the club would need to have new flooring to expand to have usage as a playgroup etc. Funding was discussed and it was recognised that the club need to have some initial plans and raise some of the funds themselves. A possibly solution suggested was for the council to subsidise rents for a period of time. Ongoing

142.3 Update to proposal of River bank

Cllr Smith had spoken to Simon Amstutz and will send him the minutes of the meetings which took place with all the councillors and other parties back in August last year. The council may need to have some plans for him to look at. This will be proposed at the next meeting and will be an agenda items to look for further ways forward.

There had also been complaints about quad bikes being used in the car park area at the river but it was stated that this had been with agreement of land owner.

There had been mixed responses to this from residents and comments are being made about the uses of this area on agricultural and an ANOB site. This will be on the next agenda for further discussion.

22/143

Kings Coronation update

Various ideas are coming in from residents and the film club are running a film on the Sunday. The PC are still in need to have ideas and suggestions from the residents as to what they would like to have.

The council will support village parties and celebrations but will not be putting a large event themselves.

It was discussed further and suggested that grants were made available to assist with the celebrations to residents. An advert for assistance with the celebrations will be placed in the newsletter and on social media. The bunting that was supplied for the Jubilee to businesses can be reused for this event.

22/144

Essex Wildlife Trust – wilder towns/wilder villages update

This will be carried forward to the infrastructure group for further discussion and comes under the Rural England Wildlife Trust and will be on the next agenda.

22/145

Parish Council support for the 2023 Dedham Christmas market

This year's Christmas market is being planned by the Primary School and they have formed a new subcommittee to oversee this event.

A few questions were raised by them such as who do they contact for road closures, this has now been answered and is being followed up by the group. Other questions were also raised about barriers etc and quotes are being obtained for this including H&S equipment such as high vis jackets. The council agreed to support something financially towards the event and the date for the event is 2nd December between 2pm and 6pm at the moment. Cllr Thorkildsen will follow up with the parking queries and asked what support can the parish council could offer. The Church will be raising funds via the Church Christmas tree decorations and the school will get the funds from the raffle and money from stall holders etc. Cllr Thorkildsen will let them know that the council is willing to support in principle if the school have some proposals to give back to the council for what the funds would be needed for. Cllr Thorkildsen will clarify the PC will support with the infrastructure materials and financially as long as the group let the PC know what they need.

22/146

Boxted Bridge request for a donation.

A request had been received from Boxted Parish Council for donations towards fighting the development for the new Boxted Bridge. The money they are trying to raise is for a planning specialist totalling £5580. Boxted Council have donated £1000 toward this and there was crowd funding of £3,285 raised by midday today. This was discussed by the council and a donation of £750 was suggested to be made. Proposed Cllr Neville seconded Cllr Harrison All agreed.

22/147

Clerks Correspondence and contact enquiry forms

Dedham was meant to take part in the BBC Essex Quest show last weekend when the BBC radio were in the area. Unfortunately, the contestants didn't quite make Dedham, which was the final destination but the BBC hope to use Dedham again in future shows.

Cllr Barber has sent information over – which has been circulated to councillors - regarding green waste and its disposal of this at the local tips there will now be a new “slot” booking system at tip from 16th March. This was discussed and the problems that could come from this. Fly tipping was the biggest worry this is a trial basis at the moment. This will be put on the agenda for next month to discuss further.

The green waste – CCC are trying to make residents pay for green waste in the future.

This will also be put this on the next agenda for further discussion.

The council has received a request from the organisers of the Fun Run on Sunday 17th September 2023. They would like to ask for permission to use the playing field to host the event, including start and finish lines and access for emergency vehicles. They will have a risk assessment carried out before the run and can make this available to the council prior to the event. This will go to the group meeting for further discussions, most councillors were in favour of this event.

Correspondence has been received from the group who deal with blue plaques –this is ongoing at moment and will be discussed by the Infrastructure and Asset group.

A letter of thanks from the first responders for supporting the donation request has been received.

A resident asked if there were going to be any new Village gateways in the village. This will be on the next agenda

There is a Tendring Garden community meeting at CCC - to be confirmed -on 27th Feb 23 if any councillors which to attend.

After a meeting with Essex Police the council have been advised to inform the residents to report any issues/crimes at the river on the police website and 101. This will enable the police to gather information so that the police have something to statistics to work with. A reminder of this will be posted on social media sites and in the newsletter.

A letter from the ANOB requesting continued financial support in the forthcoming year has been received.

Solar power together – is a scheme registered with Essex County Council were small businesses and owners can register for interest in the scheme to purchase solar panels. Information has been put on the website for residents to view.

- 22/148** **Training events**
Reports on attended events
Cllr Thorkildsen is due to go on councillor training shortly.
Nominations for new events
A representative from the council will attend the playground and certification course at Gt Dunmow in May.
- 22/149** **Items for next agenda**
Agreement of AGAR figures for a finance meeting at end of March 2023 to be confirmed.
Above and any items to be sent to the Clerk.
- 22/150** **Time and date of next meeting**
28th February 2023 Community group Royal Square only.
6th March 2023 6:30pm Duchy Barn
- 22/151** **Chairmans closure of meeting**

Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15pm