

DRAFT

Dedham Parish Council (PC)
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**Minutes of the meeting of Dedham Parish Council on
Monday 9th January 2023 at 6:30pm
at the Duchy Barn.**

- Present:** Cllr Smith, Cllr Neville, Cllr Beeton, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Williams,
Cllr Thorkildsen.
2 Members of the public
- 22/114** **Welcome by the Chairman and apologies for absence received.**
Cllr Smith welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mole and Cllr Haines.
- 22/115** **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.
- 22/116** **Minutes**
Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 5th December 2022.
These were both agreed to be an accurate and a true copy.
Proposed Cllr Neville seconded Cllr Harrison All agreed.
- 22/117** **Matters arising from these minutes.**
The Therapy Bridge has been now been replaced. Completed and discharged.
A letter regarding trimming of hedges was sent to the resident. Completed
and discharged.
Various potholes and drains have also been reported to Highways.
The rest of the items are on the agenda.
- 22/118** **Have Your Say and visitors reports (Colchester City Council (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 minute.
No CCC or County Councillor present.
- A resident asked about various planning issues with a property in Boxhouse
Lane as he had not been heard about any checks regarding this to date.
There were various issues that the resident mentioned including

abuse and anti-social behaviour.

One of the councillors stated that in the past there used to be a meeting for councillors who could attend the county council but these had stopped during covid. The council will try and find out when these are going to take place.
Action Clerk.

The resident was advised to contact the enforcement officer to follow these things up.

A resident also mentioned the pothole at Lamb corner which is now getting bad as traffic is swerving on to the other side of the road on a blind corner. This will be followed up with Cllr Barber and Essex County Council by Cllr Neville. The pothole will also be reported again in the usual way.

Another resident mentioned that the Drift was bad to walk on during the cold spell and requested if this could be salted. A new salt bin/s was suggested and this will be brought up under the Group 2 agenda for discussion.

22/119

Finance, Standards and Procedures Report

119.1 To approve expenditure for this month.

Income

Colchester City Council (CCC) S106 unilateral money	£292.13
Dedham Sports Club – standing order	50.00

Total	£342,13

Expenditure

The following payments were made in December 2022.

Danny Furlow Landscapes – Therapy Bridge	£6,102.24
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To approve expenditure for this month

Moser Groundcare Inv 1404	£1,200.00
Clerk Salary	£417.92
Village Warden – Salary	£906.75
Village Warden – Materials	£32.03

Total	£ 2,561.70
Added after agreement of 119.2	
River Stour Trust – lock gates in budget	£10,000.00
	=====
Total	£12,561.70

Currently balance;	
Current account	£1,050.00
Savings account	£278,350.02
	=====
Total	£279,400.02

Income and expenditure to date;
Income £65,192.82
Expenditure £47,550.49

These were proposed by Cllr Harrison seconded by Cllr Thorkildsen agreed by all.

Christmas tree- this was discussed and will be put on the agenda earlier for discussion next year. Unfortunately, due to the builders skip in Royal Square the Christmas tree was not in the prominent position it was hoped it would be. This will be looked at again next year and also the wreaths for the business' were thought to be good for next year.

119.2 To approve payment to River Stour Trust £10,000 payment towards new lock gates.

The River Stour Trust have approached the Parish Council regarding a donation towards the new lock gates on the river. This was already in the approved budget for this year. This was then proposed for payment by Cllr Neville seconded by Cllr Harrison all agreed.

This will be added to the list of expenditure to be made this month.

119.3 To approve the budget and precept figures for 2023.

These figures had been looked at by the Finance and Standards Group and the papers had been circulated to all councillors before this meeting.

The play area was discussed and a meeting in the spring with the residents at the playground was suggested and this will go to group 2 to move forward.

Cllr Harrison explained the budget in more detail and answered questions on this.

Cllr Harrison was thanked by the council for his work on this and the new cashbook that he had produced.

These documents were then proposed by Cllr Neville seconded by Cllr Smith all agreed.

Clerk to send the agreed precept figure to CCC by the 25th January 2023.

The new cashbook report given to councillors monthly, also now has a Budget column on this so is to kept up to date.

119.4 To approve donation to the First Responders

The council had been contacted by the First Responders who cover the village, with regard for a donation towards setting up another group for more emergency cover in the area. For this to happen the group need to raise funds for an extra kit. The First Responders are also contacting the other nearby Parish Councils that they cover for donations to raise the £3000 needed for the kit. Proposed to donate £1000 towards the fund.

A volunteer from the First Responders currently looks after and maintains the defibrillator at the Arts Centre for the village.

A donation of £1000 was proposed by Cllr Smith seconded by Cllr Williams All agreed.

Clerk to contact the First Responders for payment information.

22/120

Infrastructure and Asset management

120.1 Approval of quotes for Jubilee tree plaques

Cllr Beeton had looked at obtaining Jubilee tree plaque quotes for the trees on the field. These were hard to obtain and will be ongoing at the moment. This will be on the agenda for next month.

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

This was discussed by the council and the Clerk had contacted Ardleigh and Boxted Parish councils regarding the gym equipment that they had. The councils informed us that after an interest for a few weeks they were hardly used now and wished they had spent the money on other play equipment instead.

The council discussed this further and decided to take this to the Community group for further discussion.

A review of the play equipment will be completed and to ascertain what is used. and then to look at the space available for any new equipment.

This will be looked at by group 2 who will come back to the committee with its findings.

It was thought to look at equipment for older children in particular and take this back to the full council for discussion.

22/121

Traffic and Planning/planning applications

121.1 Planning applications and decisions from Colchester Borough Council Decisions received

222613 - Scandia House, Long Road East, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6BW

Extension of existing first floor element to provide a new 'home office' and link between both existing first floor areas.

Approved Conditional

222243/44 - Shermans House, High Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6DE

Like for like repairs to section of boundary wall.

Approved Conditional

Planning applications

222965 - 2 Victoria Cottages, Long Road West, Dedham Colchester CO7 6EJ
Single storey rear extension. No objection Pro Cllr Neville Cllr Smith All agreed.

222966 - Land east of, Crown Street, Dedham Colchester
Erection of a replacement tractor shed. 5m x 2.75 x 4.3 high
This was discussed by the council and although it was agreed there was no objections in principle, the council would suggest something more aesthetically pleasing due to the environment. Cllr Smith will produce a comment to go to CCC.

121.2 Update on Green Project – update

Nothing to date.

Sir Bernard Jenkin letter was sent to the council and a copy was put on the website.

121.3 Approve funding for Automatic Traffic Counters (ATC) around village

Grove Hill according to Essex Highways criteria must now be classified as an accident black spot. Clearly the current 40mph limit is far too high (this is further backed up by the ATC results) and needs to be changed to 30 mph asap along with appropriate traffic calming measures.

A further car crashed into the fence outside what was Cottee's Garage 18/11//22 also damaging the pavement.

All the accidents involved vehicles leaving the village on the B1029 in a southerly direction. We hope you will be able to use this to promote the Traffic Management Scheme. For Dedham

New ATC have been put down around the village and the PC is waiting for reports. The invoice is still to come in for the last ATC's. Fundings had already been approved for this.

The cost of the ATC around the village had previously been agreed but no invoice received to date. Extra funding for more ATC Proposed Cllr Neville seconded Cllr Smith. All agreed.

22/122

Group 3 community relations group

122.1 Approval of final figures for drawings of Royal Square update

This will be taken back to the group and deferred until next meeting.

Local architects are happy to look at the drawings and help with suggestions, they are happy to come along to the next group discussion in the future.

122.2 Approval of final figures for drawings of River update

A Schedule of all the meetings, for all the group meetings was suggested and will be discussed by all groups.

On the Stratford side of River there was a discussion regarding producing drawings of what the river may look like if there was a bar and post fence put in to run alongside the footpath which runs along the river to stop the visitors

using the whole field in the summer. These quotes were read out. These were discussed and it was thought best to speak to the land owner to see if this was going to be possible or a viable option before going ahead with the drawings. It was thought to meeting with Simon Amstutz (ANOB) and a member of the River Trust. Cllr Smith will write/talk to Simon Amstutz and would like to spend an amount of money to have drawings to visualise what it could look like and to discuss this further. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

There have been reports of bins (unknown supplier) on the Suffolk side of the river which have been overflowing these have been reported by residents to Stratford St Mary Council. The Clerk was asked also to report these to Babergh council. Action Clerk.

22/123

Councillors' roles and responsibilities.

The main roles of the councillors had been agreed at the October 2022 meeting but as we now have a new Cllr, Cllr Thorkildsen he was asked what group/committee he would like to join. After a discussion Cllr Thorkildsen will be part of the Community group and one other to be agreed. These will then be put on the website.

The groups and the membership were also discussed and the members are now;

Finance and Standards group

Cllr Harrison (Chair), Cllr Haines, Cllr Mole, Cllr Smith and Cllr Neville.

Infrastructure and Asset group

Cllr Mole (Chair), Cllr Beeton, Cllr Williams, Cllr Haines, Cllr Thorkildsen

Community group

To be decided at the next meeting then reported at the next meeting and on the website.

Planning/Traffic committee

Cllr Neville, Cllr Smith, Cllr Mole, Cllr Haines, Cllr Beeton

Personnel Committee

Cllr Haines (Chair), Cllr Smith, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Mole, Cllr Neville

Planning meeting are dealt with in the public meeting monthly and if a planning application comes up in between meetings which needs to be discussed due to the closure date then a meeting will be called.

Clerk to let John Goldborough know what the group members are to update the website.

Cllr Williams, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Thorkildsen do not want to be on the Planning committee.

- 22/124** **Proposal to instruct landscape architects to produce a plan and visualisation of potential fencing and hedging along the footpath next to the river for discussion purposes with interested parties. Budget = £ 2000**
See above
- 22/125** **Formal response to CCC regarding toilets**
The council have received a letter from CCC to state that they would and would not be doing regarding these toilets, it was noted they would still be cleaned regularly. It was thought to observe how things progress with this situation.
- 22/126** **To discuss response to football club who have requested additional funding for football pitch maintenance and creation of a formal agreement for their continued use the football pitch.**
A response had gone back to the club and the council did not support extra funding for;
Additional funding for Pitch restoration
An agreement for use of the football pitch – this was wanted to keep on an informal basis as is now.
Reinstatement of junior goals – ongoing

The above needs to be formally agreed after this had been agreed at a meeting.
This was proposed by Cllr Neville and seconded Cllr Thorkildsen. All agreed.
This was agreed to be the response to the email from the club of the 16th Nov 22.
- 22/127** **Essex Wildlife Trust – wilder towns/wilder villages**
Cllr Harrison spoke on this, this covers many groups e.g., RSPB/ANOB and Flatford Mill. Cllr Harrison had visited the area at Flatford and wanted to get more involved in villages and restating the wildlife areas locally. There were some sides of how to re wild areas locally. The council thought that this was a good idea and Cllr Harrison will speak to them directly and bring back ideas to a meeting. Permission was given by the council to take this forward.
- 22/128** **To discuss whether to organise a coronation event in the Duchy fields for a £25000 budget.**
It had been proposed to put aside a budget of £25,000 to celebrate the King's coronation in May 2023. As this seems to be more low-key event it was thought to offer people grants for bunting etc for street parties and similar ideas. The budget for this will be reduced and a piece will be put in the parish magazine for ideas to celebrate this from residents. The parish council are looking for suggestions and celebration ideas. The parish council will support individual groups after submissions have taken place.
- 22/129** **Clerks Correspondence and contact enquiry forms**

The Clerk had received communication back from the owners of Ivy House where the blue plaque was suggested to be placed in recognition of Alice Lee. Unfortunately, they do not wish the plaque to be placed on their property and this will be taken to the Community Group to look at this again for another venue.

A submission form was received from a resident who had been walking down the Drift and had managed to get passed the Drift lights, when they went out, she went in a pot hole and fell over. The lady as not hurt but shook up, her husband was with her and helped picked her up. The Clerk was requested to contact the lady to see which end of the Drift she had stumbled so it can be followed up with the correct authority. A sensory Light on a resident's wall had been offered and this will be followed up by Cllr Smith. Action Cllr Smith The council has been awarded certificates in the Essex Playing Fields annual competition, unfortunately we do not currently know what they were in as Cllr Mole collected these and he is absent tonight. When the information is known it will be passed on.

There has been reports of more dog fouling from The Drift up to Crown Street.

More signs have been requested and the Clerk has checked with CCC and they do not provide these anymore, so this will be taken to the Community group to purchase more signs for this area.

There was a request from the Dedham Community Dinner organisers for a donation towards this year's event. As this meal has taken place before tonight's meeting the councillors were contacted before Christmas where they agreed to donate money to this so the event could go ahead for the villagers. The figures for this will be reported at the next meeting as this is not known to date.

A resident has contacted the council regarding the hedges at a residence on the corner of Coggeshall Road. A letter has previously been sent to the address. The person who reported this has spoken to the tenants who are currently renting the property and they do remember receiving a letter from the council, but have not passed this on to the Owner of the property. The resident requested that another letter be sent asking this to be forwarded to the Owner of the property to see if the hedge can be cut. This was agreed by the council. Action Clerk

22/130

Training events

Reports on attended events

Nominations for new events

Cllr Thorkildsen is going to attend councillor training shortly and Cllr Harrison will be joining him on the second day to complete his training in February.

22/131

Items for next agenda

See above.

Any new items to be given to the Clerk.

22/132

Time and date of next meeting

Monday February 6th 6:30pm Duchy Barn.

22/133

Chairmans closure of meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm

Signed

Cllr Smith

Date