



Draft` **Minutes of the meeting of Dedham Parish Council (DPC) held on**  
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 at 6:30pm at the Duchy Barn**

**Attendees:** Cllr Bourn, Cllr McLaughlin, Cllr Andrews, Cllr Main, Cllr Halsall, Cllr Beeton.

**Present:** Clerk - Carol Harbach  
9 Members of the public  
Cllr Rowe Colchester City Council (CCC)  
PC Johnson Suffolk Police

**25/083 Welcome and apologies**

Cllr Bourn welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Cllr Sneddon and Cllr Harrison.

**25/084 Declaration of Members interests**

None were declared. Any declarations are to be brought up as they arise on the agenda.

**25/085 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)**

A representation from the Sports Club if there are any questions that the council wished to ask regarding the grant request. This will be covered later along with the notification of the damage at the sports club. The filing cabinet which holds various previous council files is being looked at by Cllr Bourn and it is planned to be collected and moved to Essex Records Office soon. **Action Cllr Bourn**

There are also some chairs that were part of the old parish council office and looked at and will be looked at and decided on. Cllr Main will look at this. **Action Cllr Main.**

An update on Munnings was requested and there are no further updates at the moment regarding the dog park.

Fish and chip vans owners have recently had issues with the residents at the current site and have requested to relocate the pitch to the High Street. This was not popular with the residents in the High Street but it may be possible to have this at the sports club if they change the day to Friday.

The safety issues with regarding the business who have tables on the pavement was raised by a resident.

The tables and chairs that were outside the premises have now been removed. Colchester City Council requested their removal following a complaint from member of the public. It also emerged the owners of the café had anyway decided to remove the tables and chairs in August.

**25/086 To approve the minutes of the last meeting (7<sup>th</sup> July 2025)**

These had been circulated and were agreed to be a true and accurate account of events. Proposed Cllr Andrews seconded Cllr Halsall. All agreed.

**25/087 Matters arising from the last meeting**

Speeding tractors – Cllr Halsall followed this up with the local farmers concerned and asked them to slow down through the village which appears to have happened.

Updated budget is on the website.

Forest school site –Cllr Bourn has had a meeting with the Headteacher regarding this and has been addressed by the school and new fencing in that area has been put up.

Speed signs with the school – Palmers are happy to support this again in the future if it goes ahead. Cllr Andrews is following this up. **Action Cllr Andrews**

**25/088 Visitors Report (CCC Thomas Rowe/ECC Lewis Barber)**

Cllr Tom Rowe – there have been videos on social media which were undertaken with himself and Cllr Darius Law updating people on the river. The pylon application has gone in yesterday and there is 28 days to comment on these. Cllr Rowe reported on a possible £40million discrepancy in the planning application.

**25/089 River update**

089.1 Information up date from meeting.

Cllr Bourn gave a general update on activities regarding the river, use of the meadows, parking by the river and anti-social behaviour. Two meetings were held over the summer period, one with police and Stratford St Mary council and a larger one, online, with 35 people representing all relevant bodies including Babergh Council, 3 different departments, Suffolk County Council, Environment Agency, River Stour Trust, Dedham Vale national Landscapes and other relevant bodies. Also in attendance at both meetings was representative from the Boat Yard who reported on the impact of the activity by the river on their business and their anti-social behaviour of visitors.

From the meetings the following are being considered by relevant bodies:  
-extending double yellow lines so that there can be no parking on the side of the road. There has been agreement with Suffolk County Council to have double yellow lines down the Stratford Road from the bridge. There has been a budget amount given today for this work and there will be consultation

soon on moving the 30mph sign further down the road. Cllr Bourn will speak to the Chair at Stratford St Mary Council. **Action Cllr Bourn**

- Public Space Protection Orders and whether feasible
- Closer monitoring of behaviour by the river
- Addressing the jumping off the bridge by young people.

A major issue was the level of trading by companies on the meadows and the evidence that it was exceeding the 28-day rule. This is being pursued by Babergh Council and a formal notice of investigation has been given to the landowner. Parking on the meadows and the road were discussed. The trading on the river site and the planning permission information was updated.

PC Johnson gave a report of his findings when he had visited the area over the past few weeks. There were approx 400 people on the field at his visit but there were no major problems. A police member from the Rural Enforcement Team had also visited. PC Johnson reported he had spoken to and stopped some youth who were going to jump off the bridge. There will be police interaction with the local High School regarding this over the next few weeks.

Peter Watson from Barbergh Council safety team was present at the meeting and reported that the bridge is a behaviour problem not the bridge itself.

Signage will help and there needs to be discussion around this.

Regarding the PSPO it was noted that both sides need to work on this together to make it work.

The 28 days planning application has been exceeded and enforcement will be informed of this.

There are a lot of people that want to visit Dedham and we want to try to educate the visitors that do come. It was mentioned at the last meeting that there may be a way of having something that comes up on your phone in the future what is available in Dedham and how people are expected to behave. Most people enjoy their time here but there is a small group of people that spoil it for the others.

A resident who has a business in the village stated that they do not bring a lot of income to the area and the regular visitors are staying away, so the river is having a detrimental effect on the village.

#### 089.2 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) update

Peter Watson stated that the PSPO is a long process (possible 6 months) to get through the courts and then it is needed to see if it will work for Dedham. This can cover behaviour, litter, and alcohol and if approved then this is published and then it is authorised officer from the police or member of Babergh Council who would monitor this. It warns that if they do not comply with this they can be fined at court (approx £3k) A warden would help if it could be financed by both councils.

Another meeting for all stake holders will be organised in the future.

Cllr Rowe will talk to Peter Watson and will follow this up and keep the parish council informed.

The water quality was questioned and there is a possibility of obtaining a QR code on the bridge to show the quality of water. There is Manningtree group that cover this, Dedham is always the lowest and poorest quality on the survey.

Progress has been made in this area and conversations are still taking place with the land owners.

There are suggestions that this only affected a small number of the village. At the parish meeting drop in event the questionnaire shows that it effected 80% of the people who attended and they were in a wide area not just Dedham but also Stratford St Mary, and 50% stated that this would be the main area to work on for improvement for locals.

The rubbish was mentioned and Cllr Rowe has spoken to Babergh Council to see if both councils can pick up the other bins if they are full and he has asked for the both councils to work together to keep the area clear around the bins. The headteacher of the primary school has informed the council that the children in the village are now afraid to go down to the river as they are frightened of what is going on. The school will be following this up and working with the children on this.

**25/090**

#### **Parish Plan**

##### **090.1 Information update of plan**

The parish drop-in session in July was well attended and the questions were posted. There were 40 to 50 responses to the questions answered. The most prominent complaint after the river was the language of the football teams. There were suggestions on how to rectify this as well. The results have been circulated to the council and it was proposed to explore the views of more people including various bodies such as businesses, local groups, sports club, school. A draft letter will be produced and also sent to groups such as the National Landscapes, National Trust.

A business drop-in day hasn't happened as yet and could be used during the business breakfast and is hoped to be organised soon to cover this area.

A standard letter will be drafted and once responses back the website will be collated to show the results. All councillors agreed with this and Andrew will take this on. **Action Cllr McLaughlin**

**25/091**

#### **Vacancy for Parish Councillor**

Cllr Martlew has resigned and the Monitoring Officer has been informed. The vacancy notices for a new councillor are posted and the cut-off date is the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025. If a request for an election is not required by the electorate before this date, then the parish council can co-opt this vacancy.

**25/092**

**Power of Competence update**

Due to the fact that Cllr Martlew resigned it was questioned as to whether the council still had the power of competence. This has been checked out with Andrew Weavers the monitoring officer for CCC and he has agreed that the council does still have this power.

**25/093**

**Approval of Proposed Terms of Reference – discussed and agreed at Group Meetings – for approval by DPC**

As not all councillors are present this evening we will defer this item to the next agenda.

**25/094**

**Finance, Standards and Procedures**

094.1 Information update from last meeting

As Cllr Harrison was unable to attend tonight's meeting, he has sent a report which was read out.

094.2 To approve payments in accordance with the Budget Payments for Aug 2025 (July payments agreed by email due to no meeting in August– will be reported below).

Payments made and approved via email for July as the council do not meet in August.

Grants paid to DPCC for repairs to clock	£600.00
Grant paid to Dedham School for "Faces of Dedham"	809.00
Village Warden Invoice with materials (Invoice £994.50 materials £157.22)	1,151.72
Colchester City Council repainting of Double yellow lines	2,310.00
Moser Groundcare Inv 0179	612.00
M. Rich playground inspections	250.00
Clerk Salary	594.80
HMRC Employers NI	592.97
Clerk Mileage	30.08
Tendring Tree Surgery Works on trees over pavilion and Car park	1,170.00
FFC Freeman – footpath cutting	3,410.64
	=====
	£11,531.21

Payments for approval tonight

Village Warden invoice (Invoice for £789.75 Materials £4.50)	£804.25
Moser Groundcare Inv 0189	612.00
M. Rich playground inspections	200.00
Clerk Salary	594.80
HMRC Employers NI	148.80
Clerk Mileage	20.80
FFC Freeman – footpath cutting	226.80

Social Bay Ltd – final website fee	900.00
Playequip repairs to playground	441.60
Richard Kimberley Service – new handle for vandalised Pump in High Street	72.00
	=====
Total	£4.021.05

Proposed Cllr Helen seconded Cllr Andrew All agreed.

094.3 School PTA request towards Christmas Fair £2,875 update  
Cllr McLaughlin had followed this up and was agreed in principle at the last meeting and increase of fees was due to extra marshalling for the event. Cllr McLaughlin attended one of the PTA meetings and the various options were discussed. The Christmas Fair is a significant event in the village and benefits the school and local business. Cllr McLaughlin suggested that this is supported by the council and this is a traditional Christmas event. It was recommended and agreed that this is grant is approved.

The PTA chair was at the meeting and the Dickensian market had been discussed previously but the stalls have already been invited for this year. Morris dancers are going to be there and the children will be singing from the school. The increase of the amount is due to requiring 20 marshalls for the event so we can cover the safety issues relating to this. The risk assessment will be undertaken by a professional and a private firm and will have traffic marshalls for the day. Dedham Vale business park is used for the stall hirers parking and the Malborough are also opening their car par for the event. Cllr Rowe also offered his locality grant towards this.

School speed signs update -Cllr Andrews see above.

Double yellow lines have been reinstated and paid for.

25/095

## **Report and Recommendations from Planning Group Meeting**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 6pm

### **095.1 Planning Applications –since last meeting.**

251399 and at Copart, Gun Hill, Ipswich Road, Dedham Colchester CO7 6HR  
Application for prior notification of proposed development by telecommunications code systems operators - The installation of a 20metre high monopole supporting 9 no. antennas, 2 no. transmission dishes and 2 no. GPS nodes with a wraparound cabinet

DPC Comment: Cllr Bourn updated the council on this and will find out more and update. **Action Cllr Bourn**

251621 Land east of, Ardleigh Road, Dedham Colchester (see 251205 below)  
Erection of an agricultural shed

Previously withdrawn and resubmitted.

DPC Comment: **Action: Cllr Bourn to seek clarification on the status of this shed and whether part of something much larger being planned.**

251643 - Dedham Sports Club, Southfields, Dedham Colchester CO7 6AH

T1 - Lime - Remove Deadwood, remove epicormic growth, remove mistletoe

in upper crown. T2 - Silver Birch - Remove to ground level due to tree being dead. T3/T4 - Sycamore - Remove deadwood. T5 - Lime - Remove epicormic growth. T7 - Norway Maple

DPC Comment: No comment

251674 - Monks Farm, Coles Oak Lane, Dedham Essex CO7 6DR

Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 6 of approved application 241466

DPC Comment: No comment

**Old School House application is being followed up by Cllr Bourn with the planning department.**

## **095.2 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting**

251106 - 1 Cross Cottages, Dedham Road, Boxted Essex CO4 5SH

Retrospective application for replacement of EWI spar render (90mm) with EWI smooth coat render (90mm) painted - colour to match neighbouring property (cream)

CCC decision: Approve Conditional

251205 - Land off of, Ardleigh Road, Dedham Colchester

Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - A wooden shed with concrete base. Apex roof, felted.

Application withdrawn

253319 Ipswich Road, Dedham, Colchester, CO7 6HR

Application for prior notification of proposed development

CCC Decision: Refuse

Appeal decision: Great House High Street Dedham

Planning Inspectorate Decision: Agreed conditional

251728 - Old School House, School Lane, Dedham Colchester CO7 6HF

Revised window elevation to South Facade of New extension to match north elevation and provide more natural light into ground floor space. Addition of 9-inch soft red brick to face of existing ground floor chimney stack to provide support to existing brick.

251737/8 - Old School House, School Lane, Dedham Colchester CO7 6HF

Proposed New First floor extension over existing lean-to, to provide a family bathroom to the property.

251399 - land at Copart, Gun Hill, Ipswich Road, Dedham Colchester CO7 6HR

Application for prior notification of proposed development by telecommunications code systems operators - The installation of a 20metre high monopole supporting 9 no. antennas, 2 no. transmission dishes and 2 no. GPS nodes with a wraparound cabinet

CCC Decision: Refuse

**25/096**

## **Infrastructure and Community areas**

### **0.96.1 Parking and NEPP information update**

Cllr Beeton updated the council and stated that there is a meeting planned for mid-September regarding maintenance of car park. The double yellow

lines have been agreed with Babergh council are going to go ahead in Stratford Road and this may impact Dedham car park. There is additional space available in the car park which is being looked into. There are still conversations going on regarding parking in the High Street to make the parking an hour and not two this was noted. Cllr Rowe has spoken to the representative NEPP on this and the council will keep him informed.

#### 0.96.2 Sports Club/Trees and other community activities

Cllr Main reported that the tree works and pavilion works have been completed.

Tendring Tree Surgery will be in tomorrow to complete works on the area.

Fun Run 14<sup>th</sup> September- youth club running a sweet tuck shop and a BBQ.

The sports club is open the bar from early July every Friday. Evening.

Sports pavilion repairs – quotes on the work needed will be obtained.

Cllr Beeton reported her concerns over the Insurance for the Sports Pavilion which did not appear to have listed the Sports Pavilion and referred instead to the Flemish Cottages which were not the responsibility of the Council. She will pursue this with some urgency given the discovery of a building defect on the pavilion **Action Cllr Beeton**

#### 0.96.3 Update on reports from Village Warden

The village warden has given the group a report on the street light in Mill Road which has been removed by contractors without the knowledge of the council. This is being followed up by this group to get this light reinstated.

UK Power network has been chased on this and the Parish Council are waiting for them to come back to us. Cllr Beeton will follow this up. **Action Cllr Beeton**

**25/097**

### **Communications**

#### 097.1 Information Update on website and emails

The work on the new website is currently ongoing and it is hoped to be up and running soon.

#### 097.2 Noted comments from groups

Various groups had comments on the new email system were made and discussed. There have been a few issues with the transfer of the new emails system.

It was agreed that it would be valuable to have an audit of all councillors current IT hardware and also whether they needed specific training and support. **Action: Chair to discuss with colleagues**



**25/097**

**Grant Application request from Dedham Sports Centre for £6,000.**

A grant application had been received from the sports centre and had been circulated to the councillors prior to this meeting. The grant was requested for new lights, a pool table and a dart board to use this as a social club for the village.

The representative from the sports club gave some background on events. There are many clubs that use this and are they are currently running at a loss. They are trying to make best use of the facilities and obtain some additional income for the club. This club is a social club and the demand is there for this, just for a drink and meeting people.

This was discussed further and the location being where it is, is close to that end of the village. A proper business plan is something to be considered for this in the future.

There is a cross section of people who use it and a cross section of ages and people enjoy taking their dogs there. The sport fixtures are also shown such as football and cricket. This is meant for the families and local residents not just for youths and but for all ages.

This grant was not in the original planned budget for the year and the amount was questioned. There is no funding from the sports centre as they made a loss of £5k last year. This grant would also keep the club up and running.

There is support in principle for the social club and there is a financial side that needs to be considered. The council would like to defer this until the finance group have had a time to look at this and talk further on this grant. Projects on requirements and fundings will be forwarded on to the council and a discussion will be had between the finance group and the club.

**Action: Finance Group**

**25/098**

**Training/Events**

098.1 Report on attended events

None at present.

098.2 Nominations for new events

Any requirements to be given to the clerk.

**25/099**

**Clerks Report**

The Clerk had received notification of the Dedham Fun run and this will be taking place on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Maps of the area and details are on the website. The roads will be closed from 10:30am to 12:30am for this to be completed.

Now that CCC have returned after the summer break the clerk will claim the S106 contribution for p/a 210875 – previously agreed by the council from the S106 Community services for £1,140.34. **Action Clerk**

The Clerk is still chasing the PRoW reimbursement that is due from Essex County Council and will be following this up again.

The money that had been a double payment which was made to CCC 18 months ago by Barclays has been chased by the clerk for the last 12 months, this has now been refunded and is back in the Parish Accounts (£2,075.70).

A reminder that the government will be carrying out a national test of the UK Emergency Alert system on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 3pm. The test alert will be sent to all 4G and 5G mobile phones and compatible tablets across the UK.

Past records of parish council will be sorted through and the relevant papers taken to the Essex Records Office for storage and public access.

The Parish Council have received over the weekend notice that the National Grid has submitted its application for a Development Consent Order (i.e. like planning permission) to the Planning Inspectorate for its Norwich to Tilbury pylon project.

The Planning Inspectorate now has 28 days (from 29th August) to decide whether to accept the application. This will be discussed in the groups and information brought back to the council for the next meeting.

**25/100**

**Items for next agenda**

See above  
Playpark update  
School Christmas Fair  
Sports Pavillion update  
Sports Club grant  
Training

**25/101**

**To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 6:30pm Duchy Barn.  
Clerk has sent her apologies for this meeting.

**25/102**

**Chairmans closure of meeting.**

The chairman closed the meeting at

Meeting finished on 20:12pm

Signed .....

Cllr Bourn

Date .....