

Danbury Parish Council
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2022 7.30pm at Danbury Parish Council Office,
The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury, CM3 4NQ**

Present: Cllr Mrs A Chapman (Chairman), Cllr Mrs B Hallett (Vice Chairman), Cllr G Chapman,
Cllr N Orange

In Attendance: Mrs M Dyer (Assistant Clerk)
Two Members of the Public

22/23.35a Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Berlyn and Cllr Keeler

22/23.35b Declarations of Interest

Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they know they may have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They are reminded that they will need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest is a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time. Members have dispensation to discuss and vote in respect of matters relating to the Precept and the DCA.

There were no declarations at this point.

22/23.36 Public Question Time

Members of the public are invited to address the Council, give their views and question the Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration (at the discretion of the Chairman). Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself. At the close of this item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 5 minutes. Members of the public should address their representation through the Chairman of the meeting.

The two Members of the Public both spoke during this time, the first spoke in relation to the agenda item relating to Dial Common/Twitty Fee and the second spoke in relation to vegetation from Pedlars Path impacting on properties in The Hawthorns.

The Members of the Public then both left.

22/23.37 Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 13th July 2022

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 13th July 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Orange, seconded Cllr Chapman and all agreed.

22/23.38 Actions

Actions from the minutes were noted.

22/23.39 Grass Cutting

Locations agreed for reduced grass cutting to address climate change were noted.

22/23.40 Chelmsford City Council (CCC) Policy for Managing Grassland

Members noted correspondence between CCC and Sustainable Danbury plus CCC Policy re Managing Grassland and that Cllr Mrs Chapman is planning to write an article regarding grassland management.

22/23.41 Land Management Budget

With regards to the hedgehog tunnels, as the Parish Council is unable to directly purchase and offer them for sale, it was agreed that the organisation be given details of the monthly Farmers Market at which they may take a stall and the website details be included in these minutes for interested residents to learn about the project: <https://hedgehogsrus.co.uk/hedgehog-highway-project>

22/23.42 P3 Sub-committee

Members noted the report from Cllr G Chapman relating to the installation of way marker posts at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre (FP5, FP7 and FP8) and in Lingwood common (FP56 and BR13)

22/23.43 Potholes

Members noted that as agreed Cllr Spence has been requested to submit for consideration to the pothole fund the Cherry Garden Lane issues and other issues reported by Members.

22/23.44 Trees

Members noted the tree survey and recommended works.

Members noted the report relating to Frettons Lodge and the nearby recent fire and were all in agreement that only the overhanging branches be removed.

Members then considered quotes for the tree survey works and the works at Frettons Lodge plus miscellaneous works at Elm Green, New Bowers Common Land and Pedlars Path behind properties in The Hawthorns. Cllr Chapman then proposed that JCM Services be appointed to carry out the recommended tree survey works at a cost of £1,690 and subject to confirmation of cost for reduced works at Elm Green and Frettons Lodge to carry out the works at Frettons Lodge, Elm Green, Pedlars Path and New Bowers Common Lane. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Hallett; all Members were in agreement.

RESOLVED: that JCM Services be appointed to carry out the recommended tree survey works at a cost of £1,690 and subject to confirmation of cost for reduced works at Elm Green and Frettons Lodge to carry out the works at Frettons Lodge, Elm Green, Pedlars Path and New Bowers Common Lane.

Members noted that UK Power Network had advised that works are required to a TPO Tree at Moorsbridge Lane/Lingwood Common; further details are awaited.

Members noted details of two provisional Tree Preservation Orders to properties in Green Meadows and Hyde Lane.

Members discussed a request from Danbury & Villages Rotary Club to plant a tree in memory of the late Queen. Members were in agreement that this would be acceptable, Assistant Clerk to advise Rotary Club the species and locations suggested by the Members.

Members considered a request from Danbury & Villages Rotary Club to plant crocuses at the War Memorial at Elm Green. Members had no objections.

RESOLVED: that Danbury & Villages Rotary Club may plant crocuses at the War Memorial at Elm Green.

22/23.45 Community Woodland

Members discussed a proposal from Cllr Armstrong to supply some new trees to replace those damaged in the fire in the woodland. The Committee wanted their thanks passed to Cllr Armstrong and to defer his very kind offer to 2023 once the extent of the damage is known, if any clearing is then needed, the 4 dead mature trees have been replaced by Chelmsford City Council and a 'survey' had been undertaken to establish requirements. The Members agreed that a working group would be needed to help with works to counteract the effects of the dry summer and the fire - volunteers for 'Friends of the Community Woodland' to be advertised for.

22/23.46 Walkable Verge – Penny Royal Road

Members noted the issues with parking and proposed action by the Local Highway Panel (LHP)

22/23.47 ECC Winter Salt Scheme

Members noted that the salt had been delivered and that current salt team members were being contacted to ascertain availability.

22/23.48 Pond Clearance

Members noted report of pond clearance works that were undertaken at Runsell Green (no water in pond) on Wednesday 31st August and that the first session at Eves Corner took place on 14th September (concentrating on clearing reeds/road inlet channel); second session at Eves Corner has been rescheduled for Wednesday 26th October as with no water in pond at present, crassula cannot be 'seen' and therefore difficult to be removed.

22/23.49 Dial Common/Twitty Fee

Members considered the request from owner of barn at Twitty Fee and the advice from Common Land Casework at The Planning Inspectorate and were in agreement that utilities (water and electricity) may access Dial Common/Twitty Fee to facilitate these services to the barn at Twitty Fee. The owner will advise when works will be undertaken and ensure that tree roots are not disturbed.

22/23.50 Allotments

It was agreed that a meeting could be held for plot holders. Cllr Chapman and Assistant Clerk to host.

22/23.51 Well Lane School Crossing

Members noted update advising that the criteria for a school crossing had been met and that the LHP are currently undertaking a safety audit check; ECC are advertising for a School Crossing Patrol Officer for this location.

22/23.52 Environment Committee Strategic Plan

Members considered items included in the Environment Committee Strategic Plan, to be updated as discussed. Cllr Mrs Hallett reported to Members re the recent Sustainable Danbury Talks advising that the carbon footprint of Danbury is above the national average. The highest attendance was at the talk majoring on electric cars. Cllr Mrs Hallett will circulate information/leaflets to Members for discussion at the next meeting and for Members to select some elements for the Parish Council to promote.

22/23.53 Matters for Report (for information only)

Matters reported:

- Heritage light at Eves Corner: lantern head will be removed for an electrician to see if it can be rebuilt
- Instance of fly posting for a children’s group referred to CCC
- Parking at Pedlars Path, Cherry Garden Lane end, being monitored
- Living Landscapes Project: it is hoped this will be resurrected

22/23.54 Matters for Communication

Matters identified from the meeting for communication to residents:

- Friends of Community Woodland (Assistant Clerk)
- Grass verges (Cllr Mrs Chapman)
- Hedgehog Tunnels (Assistant Clerk)

22/23.55 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 November 2022

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.48pm

Signed: Chairman..... Date: