

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 September 2022 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs J Armstrong, S Berlyn, A Chapman, G Chapman, B Hallett, A Keeler and N Orange

In attendance: Ms M Harper (Clerk). Essex County Councillor J Spence and two members of the public

22/23.42 To mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth and the accession to the throne of King Charles III

The Chairman proposed a two minutes silence to mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the accession to the throne of King Charles III

22/23.43 Apologies for absence

Cllr P Sutton – Cllr Sutton attended the meeting via Zoom but was unable to participate in the voting

22/23.44 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.

There were no declarations of interest

22/23.45 County Cllr John Spence

Cllr Spence provided the following update:

- As Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex Cllr Spence had supported the Lord Lieutenant in the huge amount of work as a result of duties relating to the recent passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II.
- There were costing concerns relating to adult care needs and longer hospital stays
- Covid vaccination roll out continues
- The housing of migrants was difficult
- The demand levels across health services were large
- The A414 Route based Strategy was being undertaken and he was waiting for a completion date; however, funding would still be needed once the remedial works identified as there a lot of conflicting demands
- Parking inspectors will be reviewing Penny Royal Lane
- The 4000+ proposed homes at Hammonds Farm are causing concerns to Danbury and Little Baddow regarding the potential congestion/impact on the roads
- Cllr Spence was happy to support the Mens Shed and Sustainable Danbury through the Locality Fund

There was some discussion regarding the Hammonds Farm proposal and the issues relating to housing and schooling for migrants, in particular with language and cultural issues. Cllr Spence noted that Bradwell B had been given approval to continue planning initial consultations and that national Grid were looking at pylons partially across Essex which as a national priority may be pass planning

22/23.46 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.

There were no comments

22/23.47 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held 27 July 2022

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 July 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record

22/23.48 Reports from Committees

22/23.48.1 Community Engagement and Health & Well-being Committee

22/23.48.1.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted

22/23.48.1.2 The Chairman provided an update on the Christmas Event on 3 December – craft fayre/market, children entertainer, reindeer, Santa, carols around the tree and the evening disco

23/23.48.1.3 It was noted that the next meeting of the committee will be held on 3 October

22/23.48.2 Environment Committee

22/23.48.2.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted and the Chairman advised that she had been trying to contact the Diocese regarding potential sites for a beacon

22/23.48.2.2 It was noted that the next meeting of the committee will be held on 12 October

22/23.48.3 Leisure, Activities & Facilities Committee

22/23.48.3.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted

22/23.48.3.2 It was noted that the next meetings of the committee will be 1 November and 21 November

22/23.48.3.3 It was agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk to make any necessary decision regarding the installation of emergency lighting at the Ground Store in conjunction with the Chairman of the Committee based on feedback from the Committee

RESOLVED: to delegate authority to the Clerk to make any necessary decision regarding the installation of emergency lighting at the Ground Store in conjunction with the Chairman of the Committee based on feedback from the Committee, proposed by Cllr G Chapman and seconded by Cllr Berlyn, all agreed

22/23.48.3.4 It was agreed that the request from the Bowling Club for a sign to be erected along the hedge line on Dawson Memorial Field facing Main would be deferred until a decision regarding the signage for the Leisure Centre had been agreed

RESOLVED: to defer the request from the Bowling Club for a sign to be erected along the hedge line on Dawson Memorial Field facing Main until a decision regarding the signage for the Leisure Centre had been agreed, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr G Chapman, agreed

22/23.48.3.5 It was noted that the works on the Zip Wire were still to be completed by Chelmsford City Council Parks Department

22/23.48.3.6 It was noted that the name of the Sports Centre would be changed to Danbury Leisure Centre

22/23.48.4 Planning Committee

22/23.48.4.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. The Chairman advised that a response to the Hammond Farm application would be made at the next meeting

22/23.48.4.2 It was noted that the next meeting of the committee will be held on 17 October

22/23.48.4.3 There was some discussion regarding the recommendation that the following By Pass Policy be reviewed and it was agreed that Cllr A Chapman would provide wording for a revised policy which would be circulated by the Clerk:

A local Danbury By-Pass is not achievable due to the environment in which we live. The Parish Council supports a Maldon-Langford-Hatfield Peverel to A12 link, with a view to the current A414 being downgraded to B Status as recommended by the Ministry of Transport Inquiry at Danbury Palace in 1995." (adopted 27 July 2005 at the Parish Council Meeting, Minute 38)

22/23.48.5 Resources Committee

22/23.48.5.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted

22/23.48.5.2 It was noted that the next meeting of the committee will be held on 26 October

22/23.49 External Audit for 2021-2022

It was noted that the external audit for 2021 -2022 was completed and an unqualified audit was returned by the external auditor. The Conclusion of Audit notification has been made publicly available. The Chairman of Council congratulated the Clerk and noted that it was a good achievement.

22/23.50 External Audit arrangements for 2022-2023

Following discussion, it was agreed that Danbury Parish Council would not opt out of the national arrangement for the appointment of an external auditor

RESOLVED: that it would not opt out of the national arrangement for the appointment of an external auditor, proposed by Cllr Hessing and seconded by Cllr Keeler, all agreed

22/23.51 Code of Conduct

Following discussion, it was agreed the Parish Council would adopt the revised model Code of Conduct which has been adopted by Chelmsford City Council and amended to be relevant to parish councils

RESOLVED: to adopt the revised model Code of Conduct, proposed by Cllr Chaney and seconded by Cllr Hessing, all agreed

22/23.52 Neighbourhood Draft Plan for Regulation 14

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate dates for the Parish Council to consider the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman of Council noted that it had taken five years of hard work by the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

22/23.53 Appointment to Committees

It was agreed that Cllr Chaney would join the Leisure Centre Sub Committee and Cllr Armstrong would join the Planning Committee

22/23.54 Councillor Surgeries

To confirm attendance at the following Farmer Markets held at the Sports & Social Centre:

- 1 October – Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Berlyn
- 5 November – Cllrs A Chapman and G Chapman
- 3 December – to be advised -

22/23.55 Reports from Village Organisations

There were no reports

22/23.56 Community Engagement

There were no issues raised

22/23.57 Matters for Report (for information only)

Cllr G Chapman advised that there had been damage to the tree whips along the back of Pitch 2 where people were cutting through from Penny Royal Road and the access point may need to be reconsidered

22/23.58 Dates of next meeting

Wednesday 30 November 2022 at 7.30pm

22/23.59 Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with S.1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to resolve that in view of the nature of the business to be discussed it is in the opinion of the Committee advisable that the Public and Press be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr G Chapman, all agreed

22/23.60 Sports and Social Centre

The Chairman of Council thanked the Clerk and staff for the hard work that had gone into managing the Leisure Centre so far and advised that a restructuring process was currently being undertaken.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.26pm.

Chairman

Date