

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 March 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Armstrong, S Berlyn, A Chapman (Chair), G Chapman, P Churchouse, M Hessing, U Rasiule and P Sutton

In attendance: Ms M Harper (Clerk), Essex County Councillor John Spence and 1 member of the public

24/25.110 Apologies for absence

Cllrs B Hallett, A Keeler, L Naggs, and N Orange

24/25.111 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.

There were no declarations of interest

24/25.112 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.

Essex County Councillor John Spence (Cllr Spence) advised that work will be carried out on potholes during the next work rotation in Beaumont Park and noted that the issue of driver behaviour on Woodhill Road and Bicknacre Road were being considered and that he had recently taken the Cabinet Ministers for Infrastructure and Highways to view local issues including Danbury. Cllr Spence will update the Parish Council regarding the future of the Local Highways Panel (LHP). It was noted that funding for the upgrading of the pedestrian crossing by the Bell Pub/Danbury Park School was in place and Cllr Spence will continue pursue the preferred Traffic Controlled Crossing. Cllr Spence also advised that an announcement was due on the future of St Peters and on the opening of Beaulieu Park Station. There was some discussion regarding the impact of potential developments on the traffic volumes in and around Danbury.

24/25.113 To approve Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting held 24 February 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 24 February 2025 be approved and signed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Hessing and seconded by Cllr Churchouse, all agreed.

24/25.114 Reports from Committees

24/25.114.1 Community Engagement

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Members were reminded that the Easter Fayre was being held on Saturday 5 April and the volunteer schedule was given out.

24/25.114.2 Environment Committee

The minutes of the last meeting were not available. Cllr A Chapman advised that the outstanding works from the last tree survey had been completed.

24/25.114.3 Facilities Committee

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr G Chapman noted that the Committee had deferred a decision regarding installing a clothing recycling bin, had agreed the locations for new noticeboards and that the implementation of the car park management scheme had gone ahead as planned. It was also noted that the cricket teams had registered Danbury to be part of the All-Stars junior cricket programme for 2025.

24/25.114.4 Health & Wellbeing Committee

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Members were reminded that the next Health & Wellbeing Fair was being held on Saturday 26 April.

24/25.114.5 *Leisure Centre Committee*

The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted.

24/25.114.6 *Planning Committee*

24/25.114.6.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr Hessing noted that the comments raised at the public meeting held in respect of the outline planning application for Tyndales Farm had been used in the council's response and that a meeting had been held with Planning Officers from CCC regarding the application and they had confirmed that officers reviewed all the comments received on planning applications.

24/25.114.6.2 Cllr Hessing noted that the objection to the Local Plan had been submitted by the Hammonds Farm Working Party and that there had been communications with Chelmsford City Council (CCC) Planning regarding the objections. It was noted that there was a conflict between the consultation closing date and decision date for the application for the industrial site on the land near the junction of the A414 and the A12 which was being raised with CCC. Cllr Hessing advised that the Working Party were potentially £40,000 short of the funding required for the continued professional support that may be needed if Hammonds Farm is submitted as part of the CCC Local Plan that goes to the Planning Inspectorate and that further fundraising was being considered. Official thanks were given to Cllrs Armstrong, A Chapman and Hessing and the Assistant Clerk for their work on the planning responses.

25/25/114.6.3 RESOLVED: that the Neighbourhood Plan website and domain would be renewed for two years at a cost of £151.12, proposed by Cllr Armstrong and seconded by Cllr Churchouse, all agreed

24/25.114.7 *Resources Committee*

24/25.114.7.1 The minutes of the last meeting as published were noted. Cllr G Chapman noted that income and expenditure was in line with expectations and that some of the monies held by the council was to be moved into accounts with higher interest rates

24/25.114.7.2 RESOLVED: that the following policies be approved, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr G Chapman, all agreed

- Statement of Internal Control
- Investment Strategy
- Adequate and Effective Systems of Internal Audit
- Reserves Policy
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Risk Management Scheme

24/25.114.7.3 RESOLVED: that the Environment and Facilities Committees would be combined and that an Administrator for 28hr per week would be recruited following a staff resignation, proposed by Cllr Berlyn and seconded by Cllr G Chapman, all agreed

24/25.115 **Donation Money Projects**

An update on the projects was given and it was noted that due to constraints on installation there would no longer be a noticeboard erected on the land opposite Tesco's along Maldon Road.

RESOLVED: that the Ancient Tree Survey be undertaken and the trees mapped at a cost of £2,150.00 by Underhill Consultancy Ltd, proposed by Cllr G Chapman and seconded by Cllr Sutton, agreed

RESOLVED: that the UV limiting dye as recommended would be added to Eves Corner Pond to help prevent re-growth of weeds at a cost of £185.00, proposed by Cllr Armstrong and seconded by Cllr Hessing, all agreed

Following discussion, it was agreed that the project to extend the car park at Mayes Lane and create a new driveway past the basketball court would be deferred. It was agreed to proceed with the project to refurbish the Leisure Centre and make repairs to the access to the rear of the Sports Hall.

RESOLVED: that a sub-committee reporting to the Leisure Centre Committee would be formed to draw up a scheme of work and confirm the consultants to create the full specification and carry out the tender up to a cost of £12,500, proposed by Cllr Armstrong and seconded by Cllr Hessing, all agreed.

Cllrs interested in joining the sub-committee were requested to contact the Clerk.

It was agreed that a decision on the Speed Indicator Device would be deferred to the next meeting as an update from the LHP regarding the crossing by The Bell/Danbury Park School had not been received.

24/25.116 Automated Traffic Count for Woodhill Road/Bicknacre Road

Following discussion with Cllr Spence earlier in the meeting it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting

24/25.117 Greater Essex Devolution Consultation

RESOLVED: that the Clerk, in conjunction with Cllrs A Chapman and Hessing, would make the response on behalf of the Parish Council, proposed by Cllr Armstrong and seconded by Cllr Berlyn, all agreed

24/25.118 Beaumont Park

It was noted that Cllr Spence has been speaking with a resident regarding issues in Beaumont Park and had asked the Parish Council to assist in reopening the lines of communication with Danbury Park School in relation to a School Travel Plan. Cllr Sutton will provide an update on any actions

24/25.119 Reports from Village Organisations

Cllr A Chapman noted she had attended the Chelmer Valley Landscape Group meeting and advised that they were applying for charitable status and have submitted objections to the Hammonds Farm development

24/25.120 Community Engagement

There were no issues to be raised for community engagement

24/25.121 Matters for Report (for information only)

Cllr Hessing noted that she had received complaints regarding parking and speed by The Cricketers and also had received concerns regarding anti-social behaviour around the Co-Op and Eves Corner. Residents have been advised to contact the police. Cllr Hessing advised that CCC Cllr Stephanie Scott had contact the Chelmsford City Public Safety Officer.

24/25.122 Dates of next meeting

Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.18pm.

Chairman

Date