

J Danbury Parish Council
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2025 7.30pm at
Danbury Parish Council Office, The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury, CM3 4NQ

Present: Cllr S Berlyn, Cllr A Chapman (Chairman), Cllr G Chapman,
Cllr B Hallett (Vice Chairman) and Cllr M Hensing

In Attendance: Mrs M Dyer Assistant Clerk
Mr G Underhill, Underhill Tree Consultancy Ltd
Mr S Bird, Sustainable Danbury & Chelmer Valley Landscape Group
Two Members of the Public

24/25.85 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

24/25.86 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 at this point.

24/25.87 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 present spoke about their concerns regarding opening/closing and access through the recently installed gate on Footpath 16.

The Chairman thanked the Members of the Public for attending and advised that the latch would be looked at and that the issues raised would be discussed at a future meeting, taking into account other viewpoints.

24/25.88 Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 13 November 2024

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 13 November 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr B Hallett, seconded Cllr G Chapman; four Members were in agreement, one Member abstained.

24/25.89 Actions – Appendix 1

Actions from the minutes were noted.

24/25.90 Environment Committee Strategic Plan

RESOLVED: that the Environment Committee Action Plan for 2025/26 was agreed.

Proposed: Cllr M Hessing; seconded: Cllr B Hallett and all agreed.

Members noted the article regarding planting of hedges instead of installing fences that had been published in the February 2025 issue of FOCUS

24/25.91 P3 Group

Members noted that of the four footpath works approved by the PRoW Officer in 2024, one task has been completed (way marker post on BR13 – Lingwood Common); other tasks still to be scheduled.

Members noted that the proposed new gate behind the Church, which could not be installed by P3 had now been installed and the contractor costs had been covered by the donation monies. Cllr G Chapman advised that these works had been approved by the Diocese.

Members noted that the issue with a garden fence encroaching on FP15 had been resolved.

24/25.92 Community Woodland

Members noted that 47 x saplings were purchased by the Parish Council and 100 x whips were supplied FOC by Essex County Council (ECC). During two sessions on 12th and 19th February all 47 x saplings and some of the whips were planted; a further day has been booked with the TCV for 5th March 2025 to complete the planting of the whips and to undertake mulching and removal of scrub etc.

Costs for regular maintenance at the site were outlined to Members; detailed breakdown of costs for maintenance and watering were requested for consideration at the next meeting, plus dates for watering.

24/25.93 Highways Matters

No updates for matters reported to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways were available.

24/25.94 A414 Review

Members noted that ECC has advised that a traffic light-controlled crossing may not be installed to replace the Zebra crossing near The Bell, but that discussions are ongoing.

24/25.95 Ponds

Members noted that extensive clearance works at both ponds will be undertaken, with costs being covered by the donation monies. Timing for works to be advised.

24.25/96 Sustainable Danbury

Stuart Bird updated Members regarding the above, advising that the Group had been successful in obtaining a National Lottery grant which allows the group to employ three people part time and appoint more directors, which will enable the group to expand what they can undertake. One project will be looking at more sites for solar panels, either on buildings or at ground level. Mr Bird advised that as their ECO Event last October had been well attended, the group would like to do joint events with the Parish Council.

24/25.97 Chelmer Valley Landscape Group (CVLG)

Members noted minutes from the meetings held on 5th November 2024 and on 14th January 2025.

Stuart Bird updated Members from the last CVLG meeting held on 19th February 2025, advising that the next major tasks are the Charitable Incorporated Organisation application and the vision for the whole valley.

24/25.98 Trees

Members noted that the remaining works from the Tree Survey had now all been completed. Members noted the information supplied relating to the Oak Tree felled in Little Baddow Road. In relation to undertaking a survey of Ancient Trees, Mr Graham Underhill from Underhill Tree Consultancy Ltd. Members expanded on the proposal and costs. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr Underhill would requote as discussed for consideration at the Parish Council meeting on 26th March 2025.

Cllr Hessing left the meeting to attend another Parish related meeting.
Stuart Bird and Graham Underhill also left the meeting at this point.

24/25.99 Passenger Transport

Members noted notes from the December 2024 Passenger Transport Meeting. One Member pointed out that bus time tables on line for First Bus were incorrect; First Bus to be contacted.

24/25. 100 Lithium Batteries

Having agreed in July 2024 to support Lord Foster's proposed bill regarding the safe use and disposal of Lithium Batteries, Members considered a request to ask the local MP to speak in the 2nd Reading Debate relating to the safe use of Lithium Batteries. All Members were in agreement to contact Sir John Whittingdale MP, Assistant Clerk to write accordingly.

24/25.101 Matters for Report (for information only)

Assistant Clerk advised that as a request had been received for an additional dog waste bin at the east end of the village and Cllr Hessing had been approached by residents for a bin at the west end of the village, an enquiry had been sent to Chelmsford City Council regarding feasibility and costs.

24/25.102 Matters for Communication

No matters from the meeting were identified for communication to residents

24/25.103 Meetings in 2025

Wednesdays 16 April, 18 June, 22 October and 10 December

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

Signed: Chairman..... Date: