

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7 th . April 2025 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall	ACTION
<p>Present: Cllrs D. Henson, R. Griffiths, L. Brown, S. Russell, A. Snowdon and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 4 members of the public present</p> <p>039/2025 Apologies for Absence No apologies were received a) To accept the resignation of the Parish Clerk The Councillors accepted the resignation of the Parish Clerk</p> <p>040/2025 Declaration of Interest To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr D. Henson declared an interest in item 048/2025: Cllr A. Snowden declared an interest in item 049/2025</p> <p>041/2025 To approve the Minutes of the last Council meeting of Asheldham & Dengie PC To receive and agree the minutes of the last A&DPC meeting held on 3rd. March 2025 All Agreed</p> <p>042/2025 Questions from the Press and Public – (This session will not exceed 15 minutes – unless otherwise directed by the Chair - no individual to speak for longer than 3 minutes on any one issue) An opportunity for members of the public and press to speak about items on the agenda and to raise other issues. A tree was replaced and asked if the Parish Council could contribute to the cost £49.99p. Cllr D. Henson proposed accepting this cost. Cllr L. Brown seconded. All Agreed Can Asheldham Bridge issue be placed on the agenda? A response from ECC has confirmed that this issue will not be taken any further forward. So, Councillors agreed not to have this item on the agenda. The gullies in the area are scheduled for jetting regularly. Rubbish outside the sub-station is still there. Can this be addressed and removed?</p> <p>043/2025 Parish Clerk vacancy – update The Clerk informed the meeting that 2 people have applied for the vacancy and an interview date will set up after this meeting.</p> <p>044/2025 ARG Report – Colin Cooper By the time this report is formally presented to the PC Meeting, we will have had a Spring Litter Pick organised by ARG and local resident and Southminster Parish Councillor Adrian Fluker. An oral feedback report will be presented to the PC on the night.</p> <p>ARG has arranged for the long outstanding project to clear the ground ivy on the land opposite Sandlings. This will be on the morning of Saturday 12th April (time to be announced nearer the date) ARG member Graham Chandler of 2 The Orchards, Hall Road and myself did make an attempt at clearing the ivy the other day, Graham taking along his rotary push mower and a strimmer fitted with a spinning metal disc. However, as Graham's mower was in danger of being damaged by the numerous hidden wooden stumps of bushes concealed by the ground ivy, the project was abandoned after a short while. A&D Parish Cllr. Andrew Snowdon, even though of course not an Asheldham resident, has kindly volunteered to take along on the 12th a more heavy-duty machine which he believes will cut off the presently concealed stumps and anything else above soil level. If successful then future mowing by ARG between the larger stumps should be possible. The mowing contractors have said they cannot do this with their very large mower.</p> <p>A date has still to be set for sapling planting at Silver Lake.</p> <p>Mrs. Joanne Griffiths our local tree warden has replaced the tree which she planted last year near the bridle path as it died. The other tree she planted on the green near the Village Sign has flourished. Both trees had generously been paid for by the PC. Joanne has paid for the replacement tree out of her own pocket. If she is minded to approach the PC for reimbursement of her outlay, ARG would fully support such an approach.</p>	<p>Clerk to report to Highways</p>

ARG Treasurer Rik Pond has recently been in communication with Carol Love of MDC concerning the frequency or otherwise its contractors Appletons perform litter picks in the parish and ARG has resolved to inform her when a locally organised litter pick has taken place to get a better idea of the efficacy of Appletons own efforts. Carol will also be letting the PC and ARG know when Appletons are due to carry out their three-monthly litter picks in order that we can monitor.

045/2025 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull

VE Day cream Tea on 11th. May: Plans for the extension of the village hall have been produced. The measurement is 21' x 21.5'. Once approved a builder will be sought out. Tiles have been bought for the kitchen. Village Hall outside requires a new clean. Can volunteers be organised to undertake the works whilst the weather is good?

046/2025 Locality Funding – Cllr S. Russell

Residents and Councillors were asked to send the Clerk any projects with costings ASAP.

047/2025 Dengie Marshes wind Farm Project

No further update but the 2nd stage of the project is imminent

048/2025 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park

The Parish Council discussions concluded that there are concerns over the speed of delivery vehicles on Hall Road and Keelings Road, with residents making complaint. Debris on the road has been reported in proximity to the site entrance, and it is felt that the horse warning signs would benefit from being moved. The signs are currently placed in the same location as Essex Highways warning signs. It is felt that one sign should be moved to approx. 150m West of the Green Lane / Southminster Road junction. This would serve warning to drivers heading to the site of the horse risk at the end of the bridleway on Green Lane. Concerns were also raised regarding the lack of response to the issue of the promised Community Funding.

It is proposed that the Parish Council write to BSR Ltd raising these concerns, with copies to the head office and to the site manager, and that Cllr Snowden will take a copy to the site in person and discuss matters with the site manager

Clerk to send letter to Andrew who will take it to the owners regarding moving the "Horse" signs

Clerk / A. Snowden

049/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

25/00163/HOUSE - Three Oaks Southminster Road Asheldham Southminster

Proposal: Erection of single storey detached garage.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds of potential sensitive archaeology within this site.

We are also concerned by the prominent visual impact the proposed building would have. The view from the road would present a solid brick wall in place of the existing open view of the rural landscape. It is considered that this would be far less intrusive if the north facing wall was of weatherboard, in keeping with small rural farm buildings.

The consent for the existing dwelling was supported by the Parish Council because the residence sat on an existing building footprint (the old water tower) and was totally screened by existing building to the north. It would be more sympathetic to the rural scene if the applicant was to propose the garage be built to the East of the dwelling.

050/2025 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie

No planning decisions have been made by MDC affecting either Asheldham or Dengie villages

051/2025 Questions from the Press and Public – Second Session

(This session should not exceed 15 minutes – unless otherwise directed by the Chair - no individual to speak for longer than 3 minutes on any one issue) An opportunity for members of the public to speak and raise issues. Code of Conduct consistent with "Nolan Principles" set out in Appendix 1 and the provisions of S29(1) Localism Act 2011.

No questions were asked

052/2025 Annual Return 2024/2025

1) To receive the 2024/2025 signed Internal Audit Report

Councillors noted the 2024/2025 Internal Audit Report

2) To receive and sign the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/2025 part 2

Cllr D. Henson proposed accepting and signing the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/2025 part 2. Cllr R. Griffiths seconded. **All Agreed**

The Chairman and Clerk then signed the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/25 part 2

3) To receive and sign the Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025

Cllr D. Henson proposed accepting and signing Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 Cllr R. Griffiths seconded. **All Agreed**

The Chairman and Clerk then signed the Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025

4) To receive and sign the Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2024/2025

Cllr D. Henson proposed accepting and signing Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2024/2025.

Cllr R. Griffiths seconded. **All Agreed**

The Chairman and RFO then signed Section 2 of the Accounting Statements 2024/25

053/2025 Finance

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. March 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. March 2025

2) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2025/26

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget 2025/26

3) To approve the payment of Accounts for April 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. **All Agreed**

054/2025 To receive reports from External meetings, outside bodies and future meetings

Nothing to report

Contact Essex Highways to report damage to the 30mph sign. What3words Drum.life.exclusive

As well as the Dengie sign What3words "Caked.boards.slimy

Can the advertisement in the Parish magazine be reduced and continuing supporting the magazine?

055/2025 Items for Next Agenda

MDC Planning department – Cllr A. Snowden

056/2025 Date of Next Full Council meeting – Wednesday 7th. May at 6.30pm Annual Parish Assembly followed by Full Council AGM

057/2025 Closure of the Meeting

To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

David Henson
Chair

7th. May 2025