

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7 th . May 2025 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall	ACTION
<p>Present: Cllrs D. Henson, R. Griffiths, L. Brown, A. Snowdon and Kelly Andrews (Parish Clerk). County Councillor W. Stamp and 5 members of the public were also present.</p> <p>064/2025 Apologies for Absence Cllr. S Russell (Unwell) – Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>065/2025 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 073/2025, planning applications ESS/36/25/MAL/SPO and 25/00406/VAR Cllr L. Brown declared an interest in item 073/2025, planning application ESS/36/25/MAL/SPO.</p> <p>066/2025 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 7th. April 2025 All Agreed</p> <p>067/2025 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 resident questioned if the planning application ESS/36/25/MAL/SPO was part of the existing approved application. Cllr R. Griffiths advised that the application was part of the existing timeline but not part of the approved application. The resident commented that the applicant is trying to squeeze more planning applications in, over and above the approved extraction which has already been approved. He was expecting the project to be finished and put back to its original state as per the original application and the area is going to be compromised in some form or another and imagine that they will be able to just roll on if this application is allowed to proceed. The resident asked how does the area benefit from these extensions. He also just sees that it will mean an increase in extra heavy goods vehicles. Another resident commented that they thought that the applicants were ahead of schedule and the extension would be completed before 2029 but just sees that the applicant is now using that time to increase the extension. They further commented that, if they knew that the heavy traffic would come to an end in 2029 you could deal with the situation, but it would be unbearable to live in Asheldham if the heavy vehicles passing through the village continued for another 15 years. The vehicles are getting increasingly larger. A resident commented that the local highways are just not suitable or safe for the heavy lorries and you can see by the condition of the roads that it is taking its toll. Cllr W. Stamp asked would the residents like her to comment against the application as the Essex County Councillor. Cllr W. Stamp added that she has received complaints from Latchingdon residents regarding the vehicles that travel through Latchingdon.</p> <p>068/2025 Parish Clerk Vacancy – update Selection interviews had been held on 10th and 11th April. The successful candidate had been selected and Kelly Andrews joins Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council as Clerk & RFO. The Chairperson thanked Mr K. Money for his hard work and time as the previous Clerk.</p> <p>069/2025 ARG Report – Colin Cooper The tree sapling project at Silverlake has now taken place. The clearance of the ground from ivy is still not fully completed. A watering rota has been established for the planters opposite Sandlings. Sharon Thick continues to supply the water. Rik Pond and Colin tidied the approach to the village between the field gate opposite the animal sanctuary and the bridleway.</p>	<p>Cllr R. Griffiths</p>

<p>070/2025 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull Plans for the extension of the village hall are in progress. The plans will be given to Rik Pond for approval once they are drawn up. The trees have still not been collected from the Substation. The Dengie sign, which was installed on the Dengie Straight, was knocked down after only two weeks of being sited. VE Day cream tea will be held on Sunday 11th May.</p>	Clerk
<p>071/2025 Locality Funding – Cllr S. Russell Cllr W. Stamp advised that she has a locality fund meeting on Wednesday 14th May and suggested writing to her with a proposal once she advises the amount awarded.</p>	Clerk/All Cllrs
<p>072/2025 Dengie Marshes Wind Farm Project Cllr A. Snowdon advised that the next date for the consultation is very close before the planning proposal is submitted. It is feared that Asheldham will be used as a route to bring in the heavy aggregate and would advise that transport by sea would be far suitable option. Cllr A. Snowdon reported that residents are placing their homes up for sale due to the proposed project. Cllr W. Stamp suggested attending the consultation and find out about community benefits. Cllr W. Stamp has asked them if a bus service could be considered for funding by the project. She also added that there is a wildlife concern. Cllr A. Snowdon suggested that a public consultation could be held at Dengie Village Hall.</p>	Clerk/Cllr A. Snowdon
<p>073/2025 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park Cllr R. Griffiths advised that she had not received a response from her application for funding and will continue to chase. Cllr A. Snowdon reported that a response had been received from BSR Limited to the letter compiled by Cllr. A Snowdon and sent by the Clerk. Cllr A. Snowdon will still visit the site and introduce himself to the site manager on behalf of the parish council. Cllr R. Griffiths added that BSR Limited had confirmed that they can provide additional signage. Cllr A. Snowdon confirmed that BSR Limited will need to apply for permission from Highways to move the location of the signs and that the signs need to be within 20 yards of the existing signs. Therefore, suggested that one sign is placed near to the bridleway. Cllr W. Stamp asked if BSR Limited had supplied signs. Cllr A. Snowdon advised that they did provide the signs but that the signs were placed directly near the existing Caution Horses, Pedestrians and No Footpath signage already installed. Cllr W. Stamp advised that she could contact Highways if the Parish Council wishes her to.</p>	Clerk / A. Snowden
<p>074/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response</p> <p>1) MDC Planning department – Cllr A. Snowden Cllr A. Snowden raised concerns that the decisions regarding recent planning applications was incorrect and a letter is required to be written to Maldon District Council planning department to ask for the reasoning behind the decision and how a conclusion was made that the building was still agricultural when the site had existing permission for equestrian use. Cllr W. Stamp asked what did the officers report said. Cllr A. Snowden advised that the report stated that the application was approved under Schedule Q, although there were numerous local objections against the application and that the site had not been used as agricultural and clearly has equestrian facilities. Cllr W. Stamp suggested contacting District Councillor Matthew Neall and ask him to arrange a Teams meeting with the planning officer who made the recommendation for explanations of the decision. RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact District Councillor Matthew Neall and request that a Teams meeting is arranged. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>2) Dengie Manor application MDC Ref. 25/00012. The Parish Council to raise concerns with MDC Planning as to how this application was past when it seems to the Parish Council that it did Not satisfy Section Q. RESOLVED: That this agenda item was covered in agenda item 074/2025 1). Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk / Cllr A. Snowden

<p>3) ESS/36/25/MAL/SPO – Asheldham Quarry, Tillingham Road, Asheldham declared a Proposed southern extension to Asheldham Quarry for the extraction, processing, sale and distribution of sand and gravel and subsequent restoration using inert materials. RESOLVED: Cllr D. Henson declared an interest in this agenda item and therefore the meeting was not quorate to make a decision regarding this application. The application will be brought forward to the next meeting. However, the concerns raised by residents will be noted and recognised but Cllr. R Griffiths a decision cannot be made on a speculative basis on possible future applications.</p>	Clerk
<p>4) 25/00406/VAR – Land To The South of Keelings Road, Dengie Variation of conditions 2 (plans), 15 (visibility splays), 16 (construction traffic management plan, 17 (route mitigation plan) and 18 (Arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan) from approved planning permission 23/01236/FULM (Erection of a 19 MW Solar PV Array, comprising ground mounted solar PV panels, with co-located 5 MW battery energy storage system (BESS), vehicular access from Keelings Road, internal access tracks, landscaping and associated infrastructure including security fencing, CCTV cameras, and grid connection infrastructure including transformers, substation compound buildings and cabling route to the point of connection) - Revisions to the surface material of the access track. RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council supported this application but with the conditions that the highway of Keelings Road is swept by road sweepers daily, in addition to the current sweeping, to mitigate the impact of the loose unbound surface on Keelings Road. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>5) 25/00416/NMA – Land To The South of Keelings Road, Dengie Application for non-material amendment following grant of Planning Permission 23/01236/FULM (Erection of a 19 MW Solar PV Array, comprising ground mounted solar PV panels, with co-located 5 MW battery energy storage system (BESS), vehicular access from Keelings Road, internal access tracks, landscaping and associated infrastructure including security fencing, CCTV cameras, and grid connection infrastructure including transformers, substation compound buildings and cabling route to the point of connection) Amendment sought: Alter the wording of condition 3 to reference an updated Soft Landscape Works Plan and Landscape General Arrangement Plan. RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council supported this application. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>6) 25/05028/DET - Land To The South of Keelings Road, Dengie Variation of conditions 2 (plans), 15 (visibility splays), 16 (construction traffic management plan, 17 (route mitigation plan) and 18 (arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan) from approved planning permission 23/01236/FULM (Erection of a 19 MW Solar PV Array, comprising ground mounted solar PV panels, with co-located 5 MW battery energy storage system (BESS), vehicular access from Keelings Road, internal access tracks, landscaping and associated infrastructure including security fencing, CCTV cameras, and grid connection infrastructure including transformers, substation compound buildings and cabling route to the point of connection) - Revisions to the surface material of the access track. RESOLVED: As per planning application 25/00406/VAR, Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council supported this application but with the conditions that the highway of Keelings Road is swept by road sweepers daily, in addition to the current sweeping, to mitigate the impact of the loose unbound surface on Keelings Road. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>075/2025 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie 25/00012/PACUAR - Agricultural Building At Dengie Manor Manor Road Dengie Application for prior approval for the change of use of an agricultural building to one dwellinghouse. PA Required & Granted</p>	
<p>076/2025 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.</p>	

A resident asked, thinking about the future, what the parish councils' position would be on the possible next phase of extension to Asheldham Quarry.

Cllr R. Griffiths explained that a full response was submitted at the time of the consultation and the councillors objected to the inclusion in the Essex mineral plans. And as far as Cllr R. Griffiths is aware, the application is still in the review stage and the final strategy has not been published. Once the strategy has been published, the parish council will then know if the Asheldham site has been included in the future mineral plan. However, we are long way off from any potential development of that site as, even if the site is included in the Essex Mineral Plan, a viability of the site will be required to be carried out.

Cllr A. Snowdon advised that the grounds for Asheldham and Dengie Parish Council's objection to the previous application was the excessive amount of traffic continuing beyond the extraction deadline.

Cllr R. Griffiths advised that the planning will be considered as and when the application is submitted.

077/2025 Finance

- 1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2025
RESOLVED: Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 30th. April 2025 **Agreed. Unanimous decision.**
- 2) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2025/26
RESOLVED: Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget 2025/2026 **Agreed. Unanimous decision.**
- 3) To approve the payment of Accounts for May 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements.
RESOLVED: Councillors agreed the transfer of funds to meet the financial requirements.
All agreed.
 The Clerk advised that the submission forms to change the access to the bank account had been completed and sent to Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk will now wait for approval for access from Unity Trust Bank.

Clerk

078/2025 To receive reports from external meetings, outside bodies and future meetings
 It was suggested that the Clerk writes to Linda Gemmill and register the offer of Dengie Village Hall as a meeting venue.

Clerk

079/2025 Items for Next Agenda

MDC Planning department – Teams meeting
 Locality Funding – Rolling agenda item until resolved
 EALC training for Clerk & Councillors
 Dengie Marshes Wind Farm consultation

080/2025 Date of Next Full Council meeting – Wednesday 2nd. June at 6.30pm

081/2025 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairperson then closed the meeting at 8.25pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

Rebecca Giffiths
Chairperson

2nd. June 2025