

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th. July 2025 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall	ACTION
<p>Present: Cllrs R. Griffiths, L. Brown, S. Russell, A. Snowdon and Kelly Andrews (Parish Clerk). 3 members of the public were also present.</p> <p>101/2025 Apologies for Absence None.</p> <p>102/2025 Declaration of Interest None.</p> <p>103/2025 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 2nd. June 2025 Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>104/2025 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.</p> <p>Colin Cooper, ARG representative and resident, reported that the parish council noticeboard needed replacing and he would like this to be considered as an option for the locality funding. Mr Cooper advised that a new noticeboard would cost £1547 plus VAT.</p> <p>Lyn Moull, resident and Village Hall Chairperson also advised that the brush cutter, that was suggested to be purchased for the groundsman through the locality funding, was £491.58 plus VAT. As a separate consideration, Mrs Moull asked if guttering repairs to the Dengie Church could be included in the locality funding. The Clerk advised that the parish council were unable to donate to a church and that St. James' would have to apply separately.</p> <p>105/2025 District Councillors Report District Councillor, Matthew Neall was not present at this meeting.</p> <p>106/2025 ARG Report – Colin Cooper Colin reported that the ground ivy clearance, on the land opposite Sandlings, continues to be an unresolved problem. And although he was not present at the last parish council meeting, he understood that feedback from the June parish council meeting was to the effect that perhaps a site meeting should be convened. This has never taken place as far as he is aware.</p> <p>Colin continued his report by saying that after Asheldham & Dengie Councillor, Andrew Snowdon, kindly reduced the height of the then residual bush stumps to ground level several weeks ago with a specialise strimmer (this was on the same day as the sapling planting exercise at Silver Lake) the idea was for a work party to clear the remaining ground ivy completely, by hand if necessary. This never happened. The result is that the ground ivy has now sprouted considerably and needs some urgent attention. It is understood that a robust lawn mower would be needed as a first step to cut the sprouting ivy down to ground level again, the resulting debris cleared away and then the remaining ground ivy removed by hand once and for all.</p> <p>Colin asks that if anyone has a lawn mower man enough to undertake step one of the project, please come forward.</p> <p>Colin also advised that ARG has strimmed under the hedge at the Animal Sanctuary where the daffodils were in the Spring and the owner of the Sanctuary, Martin, has cleared away the debris away.</p> <p>Cllr R. Griffiths added that she had viewed the site at Sandlings with the Tree Warden, who had advised that the ground ivy and saplings are allowed to grow until the autumn. This will create hight for a screening along the fence line and any growth which is encroaching too far forward will be cut back.</p>	

<p>Colin responded by saying that he can understand the advice provided by the tree warden, but he has reservations that the area should be left to grow as this may mean a larger task to clear in the future.</p> <p>Cllr L. Brown advised that it depends on what outcome would like to be achieved and perhaps to speak with the resident at Sandlings. If the saplings and ground ivy is allowed to grow, could MSJ Garwood & Son then manage this area as a hedge. This would be an alternative to the maintenance and clearance always falling on the same volunteers.</p> <p>Cllr A. Snowden suggested that the growth growing out of the tree stumps, which are getting quite long, should be tackled now but leave a 3ft band in front of the fence and keep the outer fringe cut back.</p> <p>Cllr R. Griffiths summarised that an additional strip needs to be mowed and pictures of the work will be emailed to MSJ Garwood & Son showing them what work has been carried out and asking if they can now take over the maintenance of the area. If MSJ Garwood & Son are then unable to carry out this work, then councillors will reconsider their options.</p> <p>107/2025 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull</p> <p>Lyn Moull reported that the planning application for the village hall extension had been submitted to Maldon District Council.</p> <p>108/2025 Councillor Vacancy</p> <p>Following the recent resignation of Cllr D. Henson, Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council are awaiting to fill the casual vacancy by co-option process.</p> <p>The Clerk updated the council that she was waiting for confirmation from Maldon District Council who advise if there have been any requests for a by- election and for them to advise of the next steps.</p> <p>Cllr R. Griffiths wished to thank Cllr D. Henson for his time and commitment to the Parish Council during his time as councillor.</p> <p>The Clerk will advertise the position in the Parish Paper.</p> <p>109/2025 Locality Funding – Cllr S. Russell</p> <p>Cllr S. Russell has been obtaining quotations for Village Gateway Signs, to act as a traffic calming measure and advised that depending on which style was preferred, the signs can be very expensive.</p> <p>Cllr L. Brown added that both her and the Clerk had also researched the price of the signs and had found them cheaper. However, having listened to the requests made by the residents for a brush cutter and new noticeboard she felt that the signs could wait until the next available funding.</p> <p>The Clerk will write to the County Councillor, Wendy Stamp, with the locality funding application for both the brush cutter and noticeboard. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>110/2025 Dog Waste Bin – Brook Lane</p> <p>Following a request from a resident that a dog waste bin is installed in Brook Lane, the Clerk has contacted Maldon District Council to obtain a quotation of the purchase and confirm suggested location of a dog waste bin.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To purchase the dog waste bin for Brook Lane at a cost of £115.68 plus VAT, plus an installation fee of £100 plus VAT and a first year of emptying the waste bin of £56.86 plus VAT. A total cost of £272.54 plus VAT.</p> <p>Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>111/2025 Dengie Marshes Wind Farm Project</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllr R. Griffiths advised that the public consultation for the Dengie Marshes Wind Farm Project will take place on Thursday 10th July. Cllr R. Griffiths will advertise the consultation on social media.</p> <p>112/2025 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) RESOLVED: The Clerk advised that the additional 'Slow Down for Horses' signage would be delivered and installed on Tuesday 8th July.2) RESOLVED: The Clerk had written to BSR Dengie Solar Park requesting that the four councillors are considered as majority representatives to sit on the panel of the Community Benefit Fund. BSR had requested that one councillor is nominated as a representative for the panel.3) RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to BSR Dengie Solar Park notifying them that the councillors would like the current four councillors to all be representatives and to sit on the panel of the Community Benefit ambassador fund of the BSR.	<p>Cllr R. Griffiths</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr R. Griffiths</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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113/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

- 1) 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: The Clerk had written to Cllr M. Neall requesting a Teams meeting between members of Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council and Maldon District Councils Planning officers.

Cllr M. Neall advised that he has forwarded the details to the relevant department at Maldon District Council. The Clerk is waiting on an update from Cllr M. Neall regarding this.

- 1) **25/00564/FUL** – Single storey rear extension to form changing room and WC

Parish Hall, Manor Road, Dengie

RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council supported this application.

Unanimous decision.

Clerk

114/2025 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie**Appeals**

23/00070/OUT (Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/24/3354388)

Proposal: Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for the erection of a 3 bed bungalow

Address: Land at Silver Lake, Southminster Road, Asheldham

Appeal Dismissed – 13/06/2025

115/2025 HIGHWAYS

Reporting matters to Essex County Council (ECC) Highways.

Members of the public and Asheldham & Dengie Parish councillors are encouraged to report Highway defects online at www.essex.gov.uk.

For up-to-date local road closures see www.roadworks.org or [Causeway one.network](http://Causeway.one.network)

116/2025 Questions from the Press and Public – Second Session

(This session should not exceed 15 minutes – unless otherwise directed by the Chairperson - no individual to speak for longer than 3 minutes on any one issue)

A resident advised that she had received a leaflet, through her door, regarding the Dengie Wind Farm consultation. This leaflet included information regarding the flicker from the blades of the wind turbines and the resident has requested further information on this.

The resident also reported that, further to the request for scoping opinions for the proposed extension to Asheldham Quarry, there were quite a few responses from consultees and one included a response from Highways, in which they requested a full survey of the local road network due to the damage caused by heavy goods vehicles.

Lyn Moull reported that the debris outside the UK Power Network was still there. The Clerk advised that she had filed an online report notifying UK Power Network of the vegetation that requires collecting.

Colin Cooper advised that the highway reflector posts on Asheldham Brook bridge was hardly visible due to overgrown vegetation. The Clerk will report this to ECC Highways.

Clerk

117/2025 Finance

- 1) **RESOLVED:** To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th June 2025
- 2) **RESOLVED:** To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2025/26
- 3) **RESOLVED:** To approve the payment of Accounts for June 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

118/2025 To receive reports from External meetings, outside bodies and future meetings

Asheldham & Dengie parish Council will host the next Dengie Group of Parish Councils meeting, to be held at the Dengie Village Hall on Wednesday 9th July at 7pm.

This meeting was cancelled.

119/2025 Items for Next Agenda

- Village Gateway Signs Community Project
- Exterior Cleaning of the Village Hall

120/2025	Date of Next Full Council meeting – Monday 1st. September 2025 at 6.30pm	
121/2025	Closure of the Meeting To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business The Chairperson then closed the meeting at 7.32pm and thanked everyone for attending Signed <div>Rebecca Giffiths Chairperson</div>	4th. August 2025