

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1 st . September 2025 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall	ACTION
<p>Present: Cllrs L. Brown, S. Russell, A. Snowdon and Kelly Andrews (Parish Clerk). 4 members of the public were also present.</p> <p>112/2025 Apologies for Absence Cllr R. Griffiths (Holiday) – Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>113/2025 Declaration of Interest None.</p> <p>114/2025 To approve the Minutes of the last Council meeting of Asheldham & Dengie PC To receive and agree the minutes of the A&DPC extraordinary meeting held on 4th. August 2025 Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>115/2025 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. RESOLVED: There were no comments made by the public present.</p> <p>116/2025 District Councillors Report District Councillor, Matthew Neall was not present at this meeting.</p> <p>117/2025 ARG Report – Colin Cooper Colin reported that at the July 2025 meeting it was decided that the parish council would contact Essex Highways about the reflector posts at Asheldham Brook Bridge being obscured by vegetation. Two months on and the situation is still the same. In addition, the hedgerows bordering the road on the Asheldham side of the bridge, especially adjacent to the Pig Field, is now overgrown. It is even touching the white line denoting the edge of the carriageway in places. Colin asked if the parish council could please contact Essex Highways about the reflector posts again and the other problem as a matter of urgency. In discussion with the Clerk, Rik Pond and Colin had decided that the ARG representative, Rik, will continue to deal with the ordering of the new noticeboard and they will provide the Clerk with the invoice in due course. Colin continued that, the up-to-date situation about the clearance of the ground ivy on the land opposite Sandlings is unfortunately not available. It will be recalled by the parish council that the general idea is for ARG is to trim some of the sprouting ground ivy and to present the result to the contractors MSJ Garwood to see if they can do the same in the future as part of the present contract. Local resident Trevor Anderson at the request of ARG has kindly smartened up the fence belonging to Essex County Council on the entrance to Rushes Lane, by clearing the overgrown branches and debris from the fence. Tony Lock of Endway is to be approached to see if he will trim the ground vegetation on his side of the entrance to Rushes Lane. Cllr L. Brown wished to thank Trevor, on behalf of Asheldham & Dengie Parish councillors, for carrying out the work to the fence so promptly. Cllr L. Brown would speak with Cllr R. Griffiths to discuss the progress of clearing the ground ivy.</p> <p>118/2025 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull Lyn Moull reported that the vegetation had still not been cleared outside of the UK Power Network substation. Lyn continued to report that the Hopes and Dreams holiday club, held at the village hall in August, went extremely well and their end performance was very good. Lyn was pleased to report that the event raised over £500 and they were able to donate to two charities. These being, Lennox Children's Cancer Fund and the Essex Air Ambulance.</p>	<p>Cllr L. Brown</p>

Lyn reported that the village hall extension has been approved but trees are required to be planted and bird and bat boxes are to be installed.

119/2025 Councillor Vacancy

Following the recent resignation of Cllr D. Henson, Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council are awaiting to fill the casual vacancy by co-option process.

The Clerk updated the council that she had received an email from a resident who was interested in the councillor vacancy. The resident was present at the meeting to view how a council meeting is run and the Clerk introduced him to the councillors.

120/2025 Locality Funding

The clerk updated the councillors and public that she was pleased to report that both applications for locality funding had been accepted. The brush cutter and noticeboard for Asheldham could now be purchased.

The groundsman, Andrew Burnett, will order the brush cutter and ARG representatives, Mr Cooper and Mr Pond will order the noticeboard.

121/2025 Village Gateway Signs

It has been requested that Village Gateway Signs are installed in Asheldham. Councillors have recognised that grant funding would be required to purchase these.

Cllr S. Russell suggested that the gateway signs could be located on the Foxhall Road and B1021 junction, just opposite the bridleway and the second would be on the Tillingham Road just after the Dengie Straight, heading towards Asheldham.

The Clerk will make enquiries to Essex County Council Highways if a licence for the gateway signs is required.

Cllr S. Russell will obtain three quotations for the village signs.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

122/2025 Dengie Marshes Wind Farm Project

RESOLVED: Cllrs L. Brown and A. Snowdon attended the public consultation on Thursday 10th July and reported that the consultation left many questions and concerns unresolved, including the negotiations of exiting from the G B Finch quarry to gain access to the wind farm site via Grange Road or Hall Road.

Cllr A. Snowdon reported that there was no commitment as to how the materials and turbines will be brought by road or sea.

Cllr A. Snowdon continued to report that the number of sites has been reduced from 17 to 15 but expects that this may increase again. The heights of the wind turbines have altered, and Southend Airport are not favourable of the larger turbines as there is significant risk to the radar system at the airport.

The Environmental Impact Assessment is yet to be carried out and an additional consultation is planned for later this year but no date has been set.

123/2025 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park

1) RESOLVED: The Clerk updated the councillors that there had been no news regarding the availability to the BSR Dengie Solar Park grant funding yet.

2) RESOLVED: The Clerk confirmed that the letter, compiled by councillors, was received by BSR and BSR have responded to say that Katie is currently on annual leave, however, they acknowledge the comments raised and will be in touch shortly.

The Clerk will write to BSR and invite them to the October council meeting.

124/2025 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 and Maldon District Councils Planning officers requesting a Teams meeting.

Cllr A. Snowdon will work with the Clerk to compile a chasing letter to send to Cllr M. Neall and the planning officers to request the Teams meeting.

125/2025 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie 25/00564/FUL

Clerk

Cllr S.
Russell

Clerk

Cllr A.
Snowdon
& Clerk

Single storey rear extension to form changing room and WC
Parish Hall Manor Road Dengie Southminster

Approved

25/00518/SOR

EIA Scoping Opinion for proposed wind farm

Land 150M North of Bridgewick Farm Cottage Bridgewick Road Dengie Essex

Dengie Marshes Wind Farm Limited

EIA Required

Appeals

None

126/2025 Asheldham Brook Bridge

1) RESOLVED: The Clerk confirmed that she had reported the overgrowth of vegetation covering the reflectors on Asheldham Brook Bridge to Essex County Council Highways and the reference number for that issue raised is 2993181. The Clerk will contact ECC Highways to request an update regarding the maintenance and keep the council updated of any progress.

Clerk

2) RESOLVED: Following councillors concerns over many months that the bridge is unsafe and that it is not suitable for the heavy traffic, the Clerk will request an update on the ECC Highways report regarding the defects found and surveys scheduled for Asheldham Brook Bridge.

Clerk

Cllr L. Brown will send the Clerk the previous correspondence between Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council and ECC Highways.

Cllr L. Brown

127/2025 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

Concerns were raised by councillors and residents that the current road closure signs are very misleading and confusing to drivers. The Clerk will write to County Councillor Wendy Stamp raising this concern and ask for guidance.

Clerk

128/2025 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)

RESOLVED: There were no comments made by the public present.

129/2025 Finance

1) RESOLVED: To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st July and 31st August 2025

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

3) RESOLVED: To approve the payment of Accounts for September 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

130/2025 To receive reports from External meetings, outside bodies and future meetings

Due to the holiday season, there had been no external meetings held to report on.

131/2025 Items for Next Agenda

- Asheldham Brook Bridge report.
- Exterior Cleaning of the Village Hall

132/2025 Date of Next Full Council meeting – Monday 6th. October 2025 at 6.30pm

133/2025 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairperson then closed the meeting at 7.19pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

6th. October 2025

**Lisa Brown
Chairperson**

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