

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6 th . October 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). 10 members of the public were also present.</p> <p>112/2025 Apologies for Absence None.</p> <p>113/2025 Declaration of Interest RESOLVED: Cllr L. Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 126/25 b), planning applications 25/00845/ESS, 25/00848/ESS and 25/00849/ESS. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>116/2025 Dispensations None received.</p> <p>117/2025 To approve the Minutes of the last Council meeting of Asheldham & Dengie PC RESOLVED: To receive and agree the minutes of the last A&DPC meeting held on 1st. September 2025. Cllr L. Brown proposed to agree the minutes received. Cllr S. Russell seconded this motion, Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>118/2025 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident and ARG representative requested that the parish councillors seriously consider the planning applications 25/00845/ESS, 25/00848/ESS and 25/00849/ESS taking into account the issues of transport and that the quarry have not considered the transport documents as part of the planning application. Also, the two trees which are on the southern boundary need to be taken into consideration. The resident will make his own representation in response to the planning applications but wanted to make clear that he is not in support of another four and a half years of operating in addition to the existing operations. • A resident, who lives in a neighbouring property to the quarry processing plant, disagreed with the air and sound quality reports and explained that her experiences of the extreme amount of dust and noise, especially during the summer months. The resident reported that there is a continuous noise all day, Monday to Friday and they have to keep their windows and doors closed. The resident raised further concerns regarding the poor quality of the roads without the increased amount of heavy traffic that the increased operation will bring. • A resident reported that he had been unable to gain access to the information through the Maldon District Council planning portal to view the drawings and therefore is unsure where the quarry extension would be located. Another resident advised him that the documents can be viewed through Essex County Council. Cllr R. Griffiths informed the resident that the proposed quarry extension will be opposite the Dengie Crop Dries on Hall Road. • A resident and representative of ARG raised concern that the local roads are unfit for purpose to carry the large lorries and passing is extremely difficult on the roads through Asheldham. He hopes that the applicant will be put in a position to produce a transport assessment as it presently stands as part of the environmental report. The road system is inadequate. The resident explained that a qualified surveyors should be appointed to carry out a proper consultation regarding the number of lorry movements before a decision is made. <p>119/2025 District Councillor Report - Matthew Neall District Councillor, Matthew Neall reported that the local government reorganisation plans had been submitted to the UK government, and four different plans have been proposed for greater Essex.</p>	

Essex County Council has proposed three different unitary authorities and Thurrock, along with Rochford, has proposed four unitary authorities. Maldon District Council has proposed five unitary authorities and has been backed by twelve councils.

District Councillor Matthew Neall explained that we now have to wait until we are advised of the outcome by the UK government, but it looks like Maldon will be linked with Chelmsford and Brentwood as a base as the three unitary authorities.

District Councillor Matthew Neall also reported that the Dengie Wind Farm project continues to be proposed and that a meeting was held recently to look at the revised plans and that they have reduced the wind turbines. They propose to bring these turbines in by sea.

District Councillor Matthew Neall addressed the topic of agenda item 126/2025 1) regarding the Dengie Manor application MDC Ref. 25/00012 and advised that he had been chasing one of the planning officers for a report but has not received a response yet. However, he advised councillors to be aware of section 5 of the officers' report before sending the proposed letter.

Regarding the Dengie Wind Farm project, Cllr S. Russell asked District Councillor Neall how the radar system at Southend airport will be affected by the wind turbines.

District Councillor Matthew Neall advised that the proposed plan is only at the consultation stage and until the plan is at planning stage, Southend airport would then be invited to respond. The planning application is expected to be made in November or December.

Cllr A. Snowdon asked if the proposers have confirmed if the aggregate for the project will be brought in by marine transport.

District Matthew Neall advised that as the planning is only at consultation stage there is no confirmation.

Cllr R. Griffiths asked that when the planning application for the Dengie Wind Farm comes to council for consideration, would District Councillor Matthew Neall attend the parish council meeting. District Councillor Neall advised that he will although the application will go to a District Council meeting.

120/2025 ARG Report – Colin Cooper

Colin Cooper reported that the Tree Warden, Jo and family, have recently kindly planted up the planters opposite Sandlings with spring flowers so it is important for all on the watering rota to continue their work during the winter months.

Colin also reported that it appears that the mowing contractors Garwood's have not taken the hint provided by Jo mowing a little further into the ground ivy and following her lead. The PC may consider it appropriate for it to specifically request Garwood's to do so otherwise the burden of doing this will continue to fall on Jo or other ARG volunteers.

Colin also advised that at the time of writing, Friday 3rd October, the overgrown vegetation concealing the reflector posts at Asheldham Brook Bridge continues to be ignored by Essex Highways (EH) despite the PC bringing the matter to its attention 3 months ago. The same goes for the overgrown hedgerows and verges in the area particularly on the pig field side of the road.

Colin reported that ARG continues to await the long outstanding Essex Highways report on the integrity of the bridge and any plans for replacement.

Colin continued that, recently the Bridle Path running north from the Asheldham end was seen to be completely blocked in a couple of places by fallen tree trunks and branches. In liaison with Linzie, ARG member, Tim Parker has kindly cleared the first blockage sufficient to allow horses to pass and it is understood the same further north with the other blockage. The bulk of the tree trunk in respect of the first blockage remains across the bridleway and is partly caught up in nearby trees. The responsibility for keeping bridlepaths and public footpaths clear is understood to be that of Essex Highways and the Parish Council may consider it appropriate to bring the matter to their attention as they might well be unaware at present.

Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that the Clerk requests that MSJ Garwood & Son cut back the ground ivy further. Cllr L. Brown seconded this motion. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that the Clerk reports the blocked bridle way to Essex Highways. Cllr S. Russell seconded this motion. Agreed Unanimous decision.

121/2025 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull

Dengie Village Hall representative, Lyn Moull, reported that the hall hire to the Caravan Club had now come to an end due to it being the end of the season. Deansbrook will continue to book

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throughout the year, and the Dengie Pantomime Group is about to begin their rehearsals, therefore they will have frequent bookings of two bookings per week for a period of three months and a half months.

Lyn continued her report by advising that she had contacted the builder regarding the village hall extension but unfortunately, he is unable to work with the wooden frame building. However, Lyn is contacting another builder for a quotation.

122/2025 Councillor Vacancy

RESOLVED: An applicant had been invited to attend the meeting to take part in a formal transparent interview to co-opt as a councillor.

- Cllr R. Griffiths asked the applicant why they think they would be successful in the role as councillor and what skills they can bring to the parish council.

The applicant responded that having lived in the area for five years they really care for and like the community and has joined ARG. They continued that they have had a lot of involvement with caretaking for schools and has enjoyed a career in operations, which meant organising people.

- Cllr R. Griffiths further asked what inspired the applicant to apply for the vacancy.

The applicant informed the councillors that he had shown interest in a previous vacancy however, that position was filled. They explained that they are retired and have more time to help within the local community.

- Cllr A. Snowdon asked the candidate if they were aware of the local authority requirement of commitment to attend regular monthly parish council meetings throughout the year.

The applicant replied that they already have responsibilities during the year to assist with community work and would arrange their holidays around the dates of the meetings.

The councillors all voted by private ballot and the Clerk informed the room that the councillors had voted unanimously that the applicant should be accepted for the vacant councillor position.

Graham Chandler was invited to join the councillors and take part in the remainder of the meeting as a councillor. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

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123/2025 Locality Funding

RESOLVED: The Clerk updated the councillors that the strimmer and noticeboard was still to be purchased.

Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that the Clerk contacts the groundsman to encourage that they purchase the strimmer soon. Cllr L. Brown seconded this motion. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

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124/2025 Village Gateway Signs

RESOLVED: Cllr S. Russell reported that she had obtained quotations from Village Sign suppliers and there were some considerations to be made before purchasing the signs with regards to location and who the land belongs to of the proposed locations.

Cllr S. Russell suggested that the village sign could be located at the junction of Foxhall Road and Tillingham Road so that the sign is visible from both directions approaching Asheldham.

Cllr S. Russell advised that for the location of the second sign, when approaching Asheldham from Tillingham the road is not a 30-mph road until G B Finch quarry receive an update regarding the installation of Village Gateway Signs in Asheldham.

Cllr A. Snowdon suggested that he would look at the proposed site with the landowner to see if it is suitable.

The location of the Gateway Village Sign will be deferred for decision until the next meeting. The Clerk will request guidance from Essex Highways.

Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that at this stage the councillors could decide on a design of the Village Sign for the purpose of the Essex County Council or Solar Park grant funding to fund the project.

Cllr L. Brown seconded this motion. The white, sloping picket fence design was favourable. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Cllr A.
Snowdon

Clerk

125/2025 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park

- 1) To resolve to receive an update on the BSR Dengie Solar Park project.

RESOLVED: This item will be addressed in section 2).

- 2) To resolve to receive an update from the Clerk regarding the Community Benefit Fund set up with the Essex Community Foundation for Dengie Solar Park and the response received from the letter sent by councillors.

RESOLVED: BSR had sent a response to the letter regarding the Community Benefit Fund and requesting that the increase in the amount of funding be considered.

Cllr R. Griffiths advised that BSR had responded that they will consider the request and required information regarding the proposed community projects that they could fund.

<p>BSR had declined the request that all councillors could be on the Community Benefit Fund board.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllr A. Snowdon will represent the parish council on the Essex Community Foundation board. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Clerk will send a list of meeting dates to BSR to invite them to future meetings and suggest that if they are unable to attend a meeting then a private meeting between BSR and the Parish Councillors is held.</p> <p>The councillors will compile a letter regarding the expenditure of the Community Benefit Fund and the suggested projects.</p> <p>Cllr R. Griffiths proposed this motion. This motion was seconded by Cllr L. Brown. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>126/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response</p> <p>1) Dengie Manor application MDC Ref. 25/00012. The Parish Council to raise concerns with MDC</p> <p>Planning as to how this application was past when it seems to the Parish Council that it did not satisfy section Q.</p> <p>Resolve to receive an update regarding the Teams meeting requested with Maldon District Council Planning Officers.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The clerk will send a reminder that Asheldham & Dengie parish councillors still request a meeting between the planning officers and councillors. The councillors will review section 5 of the planning response as advised by District Councillor Matthew Neall. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>2) Applications received from Maldon District Council. To respond as a consultee.</p>	<p>All Cllrs</p>
<p>25/00845/ESS</p> <p>Formal observations for the continuation of use without compliance with Conditions 2 (Cessation); 4 (Approved Details) and 5 (Phasing) of planning permission ESS/78/23/MAL (Continuation of Mineral Extraction and ancillary use of planning permission ref: ESS/16/14/MAL which itself was a Variation of Condition permission providing for an extended timescale and importation of inert materials), to now enable the continuation of operations and an amendment to the approved phasing in line with proposals for the working and restoration of a southern extension to Asheldham.</p> <p>G And B Finch Limited Asheldham Quarry Tillingham Road Asheldham</p> <p>RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council did not support this decision. Majority decision.</p> <p>Cllr G. Chandler did not take part in the voting of this planning application.</p> <p>Cllr L. Brown did not take part in the discussion of this planning application.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>25/00848/ESS</p> <p>Formal observations on a southern extension to Asheldham Quarry for the extraction, processing, sale and distribution of sand and gravel with subsequent restoration using inert materials</p> <p>G And B Finch Limited Asheldham Quarry Tillingham Road Asheldham</p> <p>RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council did not support this application. Agreed.</p> <p>Unanimous decision.</p> <p>Cllr L. Brown did not take part in the discussion of this planning application.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>25/00849/ESS</p> <p>Formal observations on the continuation of use without compliance with Condition 1 (Duration) of planning permission ESS/125/22/MAL (Installation of a mixed construction and demolition soils wash plant with associated infrastructure) to now extend the time period in line with proposals for the working and restoration of a southern extension to Asheldham Quarry.</p> <p>G And B Finch Limited Asheldham Quarry Tillingham Road Asheldham</p> <p>RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council did not support this application. Agreed.</p> <p>Unanimous decision.</p> <p>Cllr L. Brown did not take part in the discussion of this planning application.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>25/00706/OUTM</p> <p>Outline planning application for residential development of up to 36 dwellings (Use Class C3) with new vehicular and pedestrian access and associated open space, parking and landscaping with all matters reserved except access</p> <p>Land East Of Birch Road Tillingham</p>	

<p>RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council did not support this application. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>127/2025 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie None</p>	
<p>Appeals 23/00487/LDE (Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/X/24/3348898) Proposal: Claim for a lawful development certificate for the existing use of the site to recycle scrap materials Scrap Metal Yard, The Brambles, Southminster Road, Asheldham APPEAL DISMISSED – 22.09.2025</p>	
<p>128/2025 Asheldham Brook Bridge 1) Resolve to receive an update on the Asheldham Brook Bridge report from Essex County Council Highways. RESOLVED: Cllr L. Brown had sent the Clerk an email trail of the correspondence between Essex Highways and the previous Clerk regarding the obtaining of the full report and Freedom of Information. The Clerk will continue to chase. Agreed. Unanimous decision. 2) To resolve to receive an update regarding the necessary actions agreed at the 1st September Council meeting to maintain and make Asheldham Brook Bridge safer. RESOLVED: The Clerk had reported the overgrown vegetation and poor visibility of the reflector signs. The Clerk will continue to chase. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk Clerk
<p>129/2025 HIGHWAYS 1) 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 2) It has been reported numerous times that there is poor visibility on the Hall Road/B1021 junction which raises a concern for safety. RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Essex Highways and Cllr Stamp regarding the concerns raised regarding the poor visibility at the Hall Road/B1021 junction. Raising concerns also about pending planning applications and the impact that this would have on the local road network, including the Dengie Wind Farm application. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>130/2025 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident queried that the deadline for responses relating to the planning application 25/00706/OUTM had already passed, therefore does the parish council have an influence on this decision. Cllr A. Snowdon advised that the council had received a statement from Maldon District Council planning authority that decisions and responses are still accepted up to the point where the application is sent to the planning committee for consideration. - Lyn Moull wished to confirm if the grant funding from BSR would go to Essex Community Foundation for agreement. Cllr R. Griffiths confirmed that the grant funding is ring fenced for the Asheldham and Dengie community but the applications need to be sent to Essex Community Foundation and BSR will send £19,000 to ECF but the parish council are trying to enter into negotiation to increase this funding. - A resident informed the parish council that there is no internet connection in Asheldham and perhaps this could be a suggestion for the grant funding. He also advised that the environment report for the scoping project, regarding the quarry applications, recommended a transport document. However, the applicant scoped this out and the environment application stated that ‘no trees are effected by the southern boundary extension’. The resident’s letter of objection will highlight this issue and similar concerns that he has. 	

- Colin Cooper reported that the wooden finger posts on the junction of Foxhall Road/Southminster Road/Tillingham Road require repair and the giveaway sign is shorter than it should be.
- A resident enquired who they report the flooding to on the junction of Southminster Road/Hall Road.
Cllr A. Snowdon advised that all highway defects should be reported to Essex Highways.
Cllr G. Chandler reported that the new repair on Foxhall Road is already showing signs of deterioration.

131/2025 Finance

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

132/2025 To receive reports from External meetings, outside bodies and future meetings
Parish Clerks Informal Networking - Thursday 6th November - 1pm till 2pm - Maldon Town Hall – Clerk to attend

Parish Council Forum – Thursday 6th November - 2pm till 4pm - Maldon Town Hall - Clerk to attend
Chair Training Days 1 & 2 – Saturday 13th & 20th September – Cllr R. Griffiths reported that she had found the training very informative and had valuable. Cllr R. Griffiths wishes to incorporate some changes especially the way that councillors vote during meetings.

133/2025 Items for the Next Agenda

- Councillor and Clerk Training courses
- Manor Road sewerage system
- Finger post signs
- Dengie Group of Parish Councils and Dengie Wind Farm Meeting

Clerk

134/2025 Date of Next Full Council Meeting – Monday 3rd. November 2025 at 6.30pm

135/2025 Closure of the Meeting

The Chairperson then closed the meeting at 8.32pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed

3rd. November 2025

Cllr Rebecca Griffiths
Chairperson

