Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3 rd . November 2025 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall Present: Clirs R. Griffiths, S. Russell, A. Snowdon, G. Chandler and Kelly Andrews (Parish Clerk).	ACTION	
Two members of the public were also present.		
136/2025 Apologies for Absence Cllr L. Brown (Holiday) – Agreed. Unanimous decision. Colin Cooper		
137/2025 Declaration of Interest None.		
138/2025 Dispensations None received.		
139/2025 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 6 th . October 2025. Cllr S. Russell proposed to agree the minutes received. Cllr G. Chandler seconded this motion. Agreed. Unanimous decision.		
140/2025 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. There were no questions or comments raised from the public.		
141/2025 District Councillor Report - Matthew Neall District Councillor, Matthew Neall was not in attendance at this meeting but had reported that he did not have anything to report due the focus being on the local government reorganisation plans.		
142/2025 ARG Report – Colin Cooper Colin Cooper was unable to produce a report this month due to his wife being unwell. Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council wished to send Colin and his wife, Bernadette, their get well wishes.	Clerk	
143/2025 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull Dengie Village Hall representative, Lyn Moull, reported that she has approached another builder but unfortunately, he is unable to carry out the project due to that he now works alone and is unable to fulfil this job alone.		
The bookings to hire the hall are good, however, the pantomime rehearsals will commence soon and the hall will then be booked out more frequently until the end of January.		
144/2025 Locality Funding RESOLVED: The Clerk updated the councillors that the noticeboard had been paid for and that ARG representative, Rik Pond, was waiting on delivery. The Clerk will order the brush cutter from Ernest Doe, who can offer delivery free of charge.	Clerk	
145/2025 Village Gateway Signs RESOLVED: Cllr R. Griffiths reported that she had visited the proposed location for the village gateway signs and in her opinion, due to the gateway to the field, there does not seem to be sufficient width for tractors and machinery to manoeuvre safety. Cllr A. Snowdon suggested that if the proposed location was tidied and the hedgerow cut back then there would be enough room for the sign to be located here without obstructing the gateway to the		
field. The Clerk will write to the landowner to arrange a meeting on the proposed site.	Clerk	

146/2025 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: The Clerk reported that BSR have accepted Cllr A. Snowdon as councillor representative to sit on the Essex Community Foundation decision board. However, the Clerk had not received a response from BSR regarding letter sent for the request for a closed session meeting to discuss the available grant funding.

Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that if BSR had not sent a reply within 14 days then the Clerk to send a reminder email. Seconded Cllr A. Snowdon.

Clerk

147/2025 Dengie Group of Parish Council Meetings

RESOLVED: To discuss contacting the Dengie Group of Parish Council to request the following:

- a) an update regarding the plan for future meetings
- b) to request that a meeting is held regarding the Dengie Wind Farm project
- c) to consider any actions required

The Clerk will send an email to enquire if there are future for reinstating the Dengie Group of Parish Council meetings and offer her services as Clerk. Cllr R. Griffiths wished to include in the email that Asheldham and Dengie wished to raise concerns that they would like the meetings held and that the councillors would be happy to host the meetings. Seconded Cllr A. Snowdon.

Clerk

148/2025 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 received a holding email that Chief Executive for Maldon District Council, Doug Wilkinson, was on annual leave but would respond to the email regarding a TEAMS meeting on his return.

Clerk

2) Applications received from Maldon District Council. To respond as a consultee.

None

149/2025 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie 22/00314/OUTM Althorne

Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access, for a phased mixed use development including: Up to 550 dwellings (Class C3) including affordable housing; Up to 1,000sqm commercial space (Use Class E); Early years facility (Use Class E(f)); Education provision (Use Class F1(a)); A 16ha District Park; A 3.3ha Local Park; Allotments Access enhancements and associated development.

Land South Of Fambridge Road Burnham Road And East West Of Station Road Althorne *REFUSED*

Appeals None

150/2025 Asheldham Brook Bridge

- 1) Resolve to receive an update on the Asheldham Brook Bridge report from Essex County Council Highways.
 - RESOLVED: Clir A. Snowdon proposed that an email is sent to the Conservative MP, John Whittingdale, informing him of the concerns and inviting him to a future meeting. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

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 advised that she had received notifications from ECC Highways that they were inspecting the site to investigate.

151/2025 Drain Repair on Foxhall Road

RESOLVED: To discuss the recent road surface and drain repair works carried out on Foxhall Road and to consider any actions required.

Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that the Clerk will report to ECC Highways highlighting that the recent repair to the drain is not extensive enough due to an elongated section of subsidence. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

152/2025 Finger Post & Signage at the Junction of Foxhall Road/Tillingham Road/Southminster Road

A resident and ARG representative has reported that the finger post and signage at the junction of Foxhall Road, Tillingham Road and Southminster Road requires repair. RESOLVED: Cllr A. Snowdon is carrying out the repairs and cleaning of the finger post. Cllr A. Snowdon then proposes to contact ECC Highways to obtain the missing finger. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

CIIr A. Snowdon

153/2025 Manor Road Sewerage System

RESOLVED: To discuss the collapsing sewerage system on Manor Road and to consider any actions required.

Cllr A. Snowdon explained that Anglian Water have carried out two 'Tankering Operations' in the last year due to problems pumping waste from one pumping station to the other neighbouring pumping station. Cllr A. Snowdon proposes that the parish council writes to Anglian Water to enquire if there is an ongoing problem and what their intended measures to tackle the problem. Seconded Cllr R. Griffiths. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

154/2025 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

155/2025 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.

- A resident advised that the fly tipped vegetation is still outside the UK Power Network pumping station.
- The resident also enquired what was happening with the replacement Dengie road sign. The Clerk advised that she had previously reported both concerns raised by the resident but will send a follow up email to UK Power Network regarding the fly tipped vegetation and also ECC Highways regarding the replacement sign.

Clerk

156/2025 Finance

- 1) RESOLVED: To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. October. 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 November 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

157/2025 Budget for Asheldham & Dengie Precept for the Financial Year 2025/2026

The draft budget and notes have been issued to members for consideration and discussion. The precept must be agreed at the December meeting to meet Maldon District Council deadlines. RESOLVED: Electricity and councillor training expenses will be considered, and the draft budget will be brought forward to the December meeting for agreement. The Clerk will wait for Maldon District Council to issue the Tax Base rate for 2026/2027.

Clerk

Cllr R. Griffiths to ask how the defibrillator replacement parts are funded and if this is a budget for each year.

CIIr R. Griffths

158/2025 Unity Trust Bank Signatories

Following the resignation of Cllr D. Henson and the co-option of Cllr G. Chandler the authorised signatories for the Unity Trust bank accounts require updating.

RESOLVED: To add Cllrs R. Griffiths, Snowdon and Chandler as signatories to the Unity Trust bank account. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

159/2025 To receive reports from External meetings, outside bodies and future meetings Reminder - EALC Training courses booked for Councillors and Clerk. The EALC training calendar has been circulated to councillors and can be found by visiting https://ealc.gov.uk/training-calendar/

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

Clerk

160/2025 Items for the Next Agenda

161/2025 Date of Next Full Council Meeting – Monday 1st. December 2025 at 6.30pm

162/2025 Closure of the Meeting

The Chairperson then closed the meeting at 7.44pm and thanked everyone for attending.

163/2025 Exclusion of the Press and the Public

RESOLVED: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2), the public and press be excluded from the meeting for agenda item 163/2025 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

164/2025 Employee Appraisal

RESOLVED: Cllr R. Griffths carried out the staff appraisal and review with the Clerk, K. Andrews. The next appraisal is scheduled for March 2026.

Clerk

Signed 1st. December 2025

Cllr Rebecca Griffiths Chairperson