

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st. December 2025 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall	ACTION
<p>Present: Cllrs R. Griffiths, L. Brown, S. Russell, A. Snowdon, G. Chandler and Kelly Andrews (Parish Clerk). Two members of the public were also present.</p> <p>136/2025 Apologies for Absence None.</p> <p>137/2025 Declaration of Interest Cllr R. Griffiths declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 177/2025. Cllr R. Griffiths will not take part in the discussion of this agenda item. Agreed, Unanimous decision.</p> <p>138/2025 Dispensations None received.</p> <p>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 3rd. November 2025. Cllr G. Chandler proposed to agree the minutes received. Cllr A. Snowdon seconded this motion. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>142/2025 ARG Report – Colin Cooper Colin Cooper, ARG representative, reported that he was unable to attend the last PC meeting on 3rd November due to illness. Subsequently he sent to the Clerk and all Councillors on an informal basis, copies (5 pages in all including two photographs) of an exchange of messages between him, as chairman of ARG and ECC Cllr. Wendy Stamp about Essex Highways (EH) which included EH's response in red lettering). Colin now invites the parish council to accept the messages in question on a formal basis as well as his comments on Essex Highways response. Colin continued that the messages were regarding 1) Asheldham Brook Bridge, obscured reflector posts and overgrown vegetation in the vicinity 2) Leaning over Public Weighbridge Sign next to the pig field and 3) the state of the entrance to the ECC Yard. Subsequently, on 12th November Essex Highways sent to the PC a short report on the outcome of its recent inspection concerning the vegetation issue and stated that they had risk assessed the matter and determined that it does not need immediate action and that they will continue to monitor the area during future inspections and if the issue further deteriorates they will consider including it in any future works in the area. Colin explained that it is beyond him as to how Essex Highways can state it does not require immediate action. Colin felt that this is a ridiculous response and anyone spending a short period of time observing the area will see how vehicles are moving out towards the opposite carriageway to avoid the overgrown vegetation on an already narrow road. On 7th November Essex Highways sent the parish council its long-awaited Structural Assessment Report on Asheldham Brook Bridge which concluded that the bridge has "insufficient capacity to carry full assessment loading to the latest assessment standard CS454". Essex Highways continue their report by stating that a "Management of Substandard Structure Review CS 470 is being</p>	

prepared" which they aim to be completed by the end of this year and that in the meantime the structure is being monitored at regular intervals.

Essex Highways further state that the next step is to review the previous options report and recommend a suitable solution for feasibility stage. The estimated programme for each stage is set out i.e. Option re-review 2025-26, Feasibility 2026-27, Design 2027-28 and Construction 2028-2029 with the warning that the dates may change due to budget and resource allocation.

Colin explained that the conclusion of the report was that Essex Highways had stated a construction date of Summer 2024 to possibly construction in 3-4 years time, unless it collapses in the meantime.

143/2025 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull

Dengie Village Hall representative, Lyn Moull, reported that she has obtained a further two quotations from building companies for the extension of the village hall. Lyn also reported that, unfortunately, due to the price of the quotations received further funding will need to be raised for the extension to proceed.

The bookings to hire the hall are good, however, the pantomime rehearsals have begun, which brings in a hire fee twice weekly. Further to this, Lyn informed the council that Dengie Pantomime group had donated £1500 from their last performance in January 2025, which had gone towards extending the stage.

144/2025 Locality Funding

RESOLVED: The Clerk updated the councillors that she was waiting on delivery of both the noticeboard and brush cutter.

Once delivered, the Clerk will claim the cost of the items back from the locality funding.

Clerk

145/2025 Village Gateway Signs

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she had sent the applications for grant funding to Maldon District Council, in response to their 'Where quality of Life Matters' scheme. The Clerk had not received a response yet from the landowner of the proposed site.

Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that the parish council allows more time for the landowner to respond but in the meantime the Clerk will send an application to Essex County Council Highways for permission to site the Village Gateway Signs on the land opposite the Southminster Road/Foxhall Road junction.

This motion was proposed by Cllr S. Russell and seconded by Cllr L. Brown.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

146/2025 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park

- 1) 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 it had been confirmed that Cllr A. Snowdon is the 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 the amount of grant funding needs to be agreed with BSR before asking the residents for funding ideas.

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

The Clerk reported that she had offered her services as Clerk to assist in reinstating the regular Dengie Group of Parish Council meetings. With various planning applications expected it was recognised that a meeting date should be arranged as soon as possible.

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 an email from Mark Jaggard, director of Place, Planning and Growth at Maldon District Council who has asked for suggested dates from the parish councillors to arrange a TEAMS meeting.

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

25/00395/HOUSE

Demolition of existing outbuildings; erection of replacement outbuilding for home office, car port and storage use.

The Cottage, Tillingham Road, Asheldham.

RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council did not support this planning application.

Agreed. Majority decision. Two councillors voted to support the application.

Clerk

176/2025 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie

25/00845/ESS

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.

G And B Finch Limited Asheldham Quarry Tillingham Road Asheldham

No objection

25/00849/ESS

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.

G And B Finch Limited Asheldham Quarry Tillingham Road Asheldham

No objection

25/00848/ESS

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

G And B Finch Limited Asheldham Quarry Tillingham Road Asheldham

No objection

Appeals

None.

177/2025 Statutory Consultation on the Future of the Closed Church of Asheldham St Lawrence (Diocese of Chelmsford) Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

To consider making a formal representation either in support or against the draft scheme proposed by the Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) scheme prepared by the Church Commissioners for the closed church building of Asheldham St Lawrence to be appropriated to residential use and for purposes ancillary thereto.

Cllr L. Brown chaired the meeting for this agenda item.

RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council supported this proposal.

Cllr S. Russell proposed this motion. Cllr A. Snowdon seconded. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Cllr R. Griffiths did not take part in the discussion of this agenda item.

Clerk

178/2025 Asheldham Brook Bridge

- 1) RESOLVED: To receive an update on the Asheldham Brook Bridge report from Essex County Council Highways.

The Clerk will respond to Essex County Council Highways regarding the reports received and request a weight limit of the bridge.

Clerk

- 2) RESOLVED: To receive an update regarding the necessary actions agreed at the 1st September Council meeting to maintain and make Asheldham Brook Bridge safer.

The Clerk will write to Essex County Council Highways stressing the disappointment that the parish council has regarding the timeline for repairs.

Clerk

<p>179/2025 Drain Repair on Foxhall Road RESOLVED: To receive an update regarding the recent road surface and drain repair works carried out on Foxhall Road and the reports made to ECC Highways. The Clerk will raise a further report for the larger stretch of road on Foxhall Road and the extent of repairs. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>180/2025 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 reported that he is repairing the finger post and will replace the missing finger. The Clerk will also report the other missing finger.</p>	Cllr A. Snowdon Clerk
<p>181/2025 Manor Road Sewerage System To resolve to receive an update regarding the collapsing sewerage system on Manor Road and the report made. RESOLVED: The Clerk has written to Anglian Water and has received a holding email that they will respond as soon as they can.</p>	Clerk
<p>182/2025 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</p>	
<p>183/2025 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 and ARG representative asked if the finger post at the end of the Dengie Straight was the responsibility of the parish council. Cllr L. Brown explained that it is the responsibility of the Essex County Highways and that the damage can be reported to Essex Highways. The resident also reported that Wendy Stamps email address in the Parish Paper requires updating.</p>	Clerk
<p>184/2025 Finance 1) RESOLVED: To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. November. 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 December 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council’s financial requirements. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>185/2025 Budget for Asheldham & Dengie Precept for the Financial Year 2026/2027 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: To set the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council parish precept for 2026/2027 to £7,441.00. This motion was proposed by Cllr L. Brown Seconded by Cllr S. Russell. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>186/2025 NOTICES, MEETINGS AND TRAINING COURSES. 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. Local Government Reorganisation Webinars - Tuesday 2nd December 2025 5.30 – 6.30pm and Wednesday 3rd December 2025 9.30-10.30am Parish Clerks Informal Networking - Thursday 6th November - 1pm till 2pm - Maldon Town Hall – The Clerk reported that she had taken the opportunity to speak with other local clerks and share concerns and experiences.</p>	

Parish Council Forum – Thursday 6th November - 2pm till 4pm - Maldon Town Hall – The Clerk reported that she had found the forum extremely helpful. The meeting focused on various grant funding opportunities which would benefit the local community. The Clerk would like to attend the next forum if it is convenient.

187/2025 Items for the Next Agenda

- TPO
- Quarry Concerns
- Council Trees

188/2025 Date of Next Full Council Meeting – Monday 2nd. February 2026 at 6.30pm

189/2025 Closure of the Meeting

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business at 8.47pm.

Asheldham & Dengie parish councillors invited the public to festive refreshments.

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council took this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Signed

Cllr Rebecca Griffiths
Chairperson

22nd. December 2025