

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2 nd . February 2026 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). Three members of the public were also present.</p> <p>001/2026 Apologies for Absence None.</p> <p>002/2026 Declaration of Interest Cllr L. Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 012/2026, planning application 25/00911/FUL, as she knows the applicant. Cllr L. Brown also declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 013/2026 and will not take part in the discussion of this agenda item. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>003/2026 Dispensations None received.</p> <p>004/2026 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 22nd. December 2025. Cllr R. Griffiths proposed to agree the minutes received. Cllr G. Chandler seconded this motion. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>005/2026 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 asked if the parish council had been able to arrange a Dengie Hundred Group of parish council meeting. The Clerk advised that the next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 17th February and Lawling Park Hall in Mayland at 7pm. - Tim Hancock, Town Planner and Head of Planning at Naseby Energy wished to answer queries that were raised at the December parish council meeting. Tim explained that in relation to construction traffic, further investigations of the roads and potential passing places. A statement has been submitted Tim confirmed that the construction traffic will not be passing over Asheldham Brook bridge but will travel towards Latchingdon. In relation to the Community Benefit Fund, Tim explained that an organisation called Community Energy Pathways has been appointed to provide advice how the funding should be structured and governed. The proposal is to set up a local liaison with four parish councils, which are Asheldham & Dengie, Burnham, Tillingham and Southminster and potentially Bradwell-on-Sea as they are close to the site with views of the site. The liaison group would be made up of two representatives from each parish who will decide how the funds are managed and spent, alongside an independent Chairperson from Community Energy England. The funds are just over half a million pounds per year for the lifetime of the project and the next step would be to hold a meeting with the local liaison group to discuss this. Further to this, Dengie Marshes Wind Farm Limited would like to enter an understanding now in advance to any planning decision to the commitment of the management of the funding. - Cllr R. Griffiths asked if the planning application was not approved would the community benefit still stand for the same value. - Tim confirmed that the funding is index linked and if planning consent was given by Maldon or by appeal through the secretary of state then the funding would still be the same. - Cllr R. Griffiths asked what the timeline is for the Memo of Understanding to be signed. 	

- Tim explained that engagement has been made with Community Energy England, and it is hoped that a meeting will be held with local parish councils in the next couple of months but certainly before Maldon District Council make their final decision on the planning application, which is expected sometime in May/June. Tim also confirmed that an additional bird survey is being submitted in March ahead of the planning decision.
- Cllr R. Griffiths asked if a representative from Community Energy England will be at the Memo of Understanding meeting.
- Tim advised that a suggestion has been made that Community Energy England will write to the local parish councils to establish the liaison group and chair the first meeting, thereafter, once the funding is established it would be up to the liaison group employing the Community Energy England. Tim explained that from feedback received, the preference is that a bespoke group looks after funding arrangements rather than a wider group, such as Essex Community Foundation.
- Cllr R. Griffiths asked if the Community Energy Pathways representative is Ollie Pendered.
- Tim confirmed that they are engaging with Ollie Pendered.
- Cllr A. Snowdon queried if Naseby Energy realised that the maps that were being used to show the passing places were not official.
- Tim advised that Naseby Energy are aware that most of the maps used are mostly informal. Naseby Energy has the opportunity through the construction traffic plan to work if local residents and Essex Highways to identify any passing places that could become permanent, ideally the ones with a public highway and work with local farmers to help with necessary widening.
- Cllr A. Snowdon pointed out that the passing place that is not included in the plans is the bend in Asheldham, where Dengie Crop Dries is awaiting consent for a wind turbine and part of their application was a temporary measure to require alleviating the bends. Cllr Snowdon advised that Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council requested that this should be a permanent measure and was surprised that these bends were not highlighted in Naseby Energy's planning application.
- Tim advised that the turbines will be brought in by sea and only HGVs and light vans will be using the highways in connection with the project. However, Tim continued that Naseby Energy will welcome an opportunity to make improvements and work with Dengie Crop Dries to explore if the passing place mentioned could be made permanent.
- A resident asked Tim if the routes were available for members of the public to view.
- Tim advised that the routes can be viewed via the Maldon District Council planning portal and the traffic appendix and traffic statement within the environmental statement which shows the construction routes. The plan is to use an existing crane hardstanding on the estuary to bring the turbine blades by barge and then transport via existing tracks.
- Cllr G. Chandler pointed out that the HGV on the presentation is demonstrated as a rigid 8-wheeler. However, the vehicles used by G B Finch for example are articulated which restricts the movement on bends. The vehicle movement through the village, during peak times, which includes traffic relating to the quarry and grain terminal would allow a HGV vehicle one and a half minutes to travel through the village. This does not include other local deliveries. He raised concern that Asheldham village could become a stand still during peak times.
- Tim agreed with the concerns raised and explained that is what traffic management is all about. He further explained that the quarry is unable to supply the aggregates for the project.
The bulk of the aggregate will be transported from Chelmsford and traffic coming in and out of the site would be managed by a construction management plan and drivers will be briefed.
- Cllr L. Brown asked what the next step would be to initiate making the passing place on the bend in Asheldham permanent, as that is a huge concern.
- Tim advised that Naseby Energy are interested in exploring solutions and have contacted Dengie Crop Dries and suggested that they would like to work with them to explore making the passing place permanent, but they would also have to look at land ownership and work with Essex Highways.
- Cllr L. Brown suggested that the parish council write to Dengie Crops and Essex Highways to initiate the permanent solution if planning permission is granted for Dengie Crop Dries.
- Cllr R. Griffiths asked if contact will be made with Clerks regarding the community benefit fund.
- Tim confirmed that the next step will be to contact clerks and invite two representatives from each parish concerned to attend a meeting.

Clerk

<p>- Cllr R. Griffiths thanked Tim for attending the meeting and for his time answering queries and concerns raised.</p> <p>006/2026 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>007/2026 ARG Report – Colin Cooper Colin Cooper reported that he had one matter to report which related to Agenda item 015/2026, Finger Post & Signage at the junction of Foxhall Road/Tillingham Road/Southminster Road. He commenced by stating that Green Lane should replace the description of Foxhall Road which is a good deal West of the junction Colin continued that Councillor Andrew Snowdon kindly renovated the direction signs and refixed them with items he pre prepared with marginal assistance from myself in the refixing process. ARG Treasurer Rik Pond has delayed the delivery of the new Parish Notice Board until towards the end of February for personal reasons. Colin continued that, regarding Asheldham Brook Bridge, it would appear that the parish council's persistence and that of ARG refusing to take no for an answer, has paid dividends. The parish council will recall that Essex Highways have said that the question of overgrown hedgerows and verges was not a serious problem and that in any case it may be down to a third party to deal with. The overgrown hedgerows, including those concealing the reflector posts on the bridge, have been trimmed to some extent and the public weighbridge sign has been straightened so that is now visible. The proliferation of HGVs crossing the bridge in both directions have eroded the verges and the white lines denoting the edge of the carriageway are now visible, but this should not be the reason why the white lines are visible. The road over the bridge is frequently flooded and has been the case for some time</p> <p>Cllr R. Griffiths wished to thank Cllr A. Snowdon for fixing the finger post.</p>	Clerk
<p>008/2026 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull Dengie Village Hall representative, Lyn Moull, was not in attendance at this meeting and sent her apologies.</p>	
<p>009/2026 Locality Funding RESOLVED: The Clerk updated the councillors that she was pleased to report that the brush cutter had been delivered. The delivery of the noticeboard has been delayed until Rik Pond returns. Once delivered, the Clerk will claim the cost of the items back from the locality funding.</p>	Clerk
<p>010/2026 Village Gateway Signs RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation that the parish council had been successful in obtaining grant funding from the Maldon District Council 'Where quality of Life Matters' scheme for the purchase and installation of Village Gateway Signs. The Clerk had not received a response yet from the landowner of the proposed site. Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that the current sign would have been sighted by Essex Highways and that an application is submitted to Highways to propose to install the sign on the land opposite the Southminster Road/Foxhall Road junction. This motion was proposed by Cllr R. Griffiths and seconded by Cllr L. Brown. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>011/2026 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she has not received a response from BSR but had contacted Essex Community Foundation who confirmed that the funding amount has not yet been finalised. Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that a further letter is sent to BSR advising that the parish council is still waiting for their engagement and response to previous correspondence in relation to the community fund. Cllr A. Snowdon suggested sending the letter to Dengie Solar Park and British Solar Renewables.</p>	Clerk
<p>012/2026 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</p>	Clerk

<p>Planning as to how this application was past when it seems to the Parish Council that it did not satisfy section Q. RESOLVED: Cllr R. Griffiths proposed that the Clerk asks the planning officer from Maldon District Council for a proposed date and time for a meeting and then the majority of councillors may be able to attend. This motion was seconded by Cllr. L. Brown.</p>	Clerk
<p>2) Applications received from Maldon District Council. To respond as a consultee.</p>	
<p>25/00911/FUL Reinstatement of a subservient pitched roof extension on a like for like basis following damage from subsidence. The Osprey, Badnocks Chase, Asheldham RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish councillors supported this application. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie</p>	
<p>Information Only</p>	
<p>Compliance with conditions notification 22/00595/FUL (Construction of a chalet style rural workers dwelling) Condition 6 – Hard and soft landscaping. Condition 7 – Details of boundary treatments. Hall Meadows, Hall Road, Asheldham Conditions discharged</p>	
<p>Decisions None.</p>	
<p>Appeals None.</p>	
<p>013/2026 Asheldham Brook Bridge 1) RESOLVED: The clerk reported that she had shared correspondence with Cllr. Wendy Stamp raising the concerns of councillors and residents. Wendy is assisting the parish council by addressing the complaints with Essex Highways. 2) RESOLVED: Wendy Stamp will raise these concerns with Essex Highways on behalf of the parish council and will continue to work with the Clerk.</p>	Clerk
<p>014/2026 Asheldham Quarry Concerns Residents have raised concerns regarding the proposed continuation of mineral extract and operations carried out from the Asheldham Quarry. RESOLVED: Cllr G. Chandler will speak with Phil at G. B. Finch to raise any concerns and will report back to the parish council at the next meeting. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Cllr G. Chandler
<p>015/2026 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: The finger post has now been repaired by Cllr A. Snowdon.</p>	
<p>016/2026 Manor Road Sewerage System RESOLVED: The Clerk had contacted Anglian Water who were unaware of any problems, but a further telephone call had been scheduled with the Clerk the next day. Cllr A. Snowdon will send an email to the Clerk detailing the concerns raised ready for the telephone call.</p>	Cllr A. Snowdon & Clerk
<p>017/2026 Council Trees 1) Tree Preservation Order – Hall Road, Asheldham Following the application submitted by the Tree Warden, Maldon District Council has issued a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), reference TPO 08/25 on trees in Hall Road, Asheldham which are T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5 Oak.</p>	

RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Councillors acknowledged the receipt of the order and exercise of the powers conferred by section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

2) Council Trees

RESOLVED: There were no concerns raised regarding council trees.

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

018/2026 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.

None.

019/2026 Finance

- 1) RESOLVED: To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 31st. December 2025 and 31st. January 2026. 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.

020/2026 Review of Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Standing Orders

The NALC model standing orders 2018 had been revised in March 2025. The Clerk has reviewed the standing orders and confirms that these remain up to date.

RESOLVED: To adopt Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Standing Orders for the financial year 2026/2027.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

021/2026 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.

Maldon Parish & Town Clerk’s Networking – Tuesday 3rd February Noon till 1pm – Maldon Town Hall - Clerk to attend.

Maldon Parish & Town Council Forum – Tuesday 3rd February 1pm till 3pm – Maldon Town Hall - Councillors may attend.

Councillor Training Days 1 & 2 – Tuesday 3rd & 10th March – Cllr G. Chandler to attend

022/2026 Items for the Next Agenda

- Roots and stumps in Asheldham
- Gulleys, pipes and drains survey request

023/2026 Date of Next Full Council Meeting – Monday 2nd. March 2026 at 6.30pm

024/2026 Closure of the Meeting

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

025/2026 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 026/2026 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

026/2026 Employee Appraisal

RESOLVED: Cllr R. Griffiths carried out the staff appraisal and review.

Signed

2nd. March 2026

**Cllr Rebecca Griffiths
Chairperson**