

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

Westwood, Grange Road, Tillingham, Essex CM0 7UR

Tel: 07903 312394 email: theclerk.asheldhamanddengiepc@gmail.com

www: <https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/>

Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd. March 2026 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall	ACTION
<p>Present: Cllrs R. Griffiths, L. Brown, A. Snowdon, G. Chandler and Kelly Andrews (Parish Clerk). Four members of the public were also present.</p>	
<p>026/2026 Apologies for Absence None. The Clerk advised that prior to this meeting, Cllr S Russell had resigned from her position as councillor. The Clerk has notified Maldon District Council and a copy of the Public Notice of Vacancy has been received, which advises that, if by 16 March 2026 a request for an election to fill said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer at the address below by ten electors for the said Parish, an election will be held to fill the said vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option. Cllr R. Griffiths wished to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Russell for her help and support during her time as councillor and that the council really appreciated her input for the community.</p>	
<p>027/2026 Declaration of Interest None.</p>	
<p>028/2026 Dispensations None received.</p>	
<p>029/2026 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 2nd. February 2026. Cllr R. Griffiths proposed to agree the minutes received. Cllr L. Brown seconded this motion. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	
<p>030/2026 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. - A resident and ARG representative noted that it seems to have become a regular occurrence that traffic cones are being placed in potholes on the highway. Cllr Chandler advised that he believes residents are placing the cones in the potholes rather than Essex County Council Highways.</p>	
<p>031/2026 District Councillor Report - Matthew Neall District Councillor, Matthew Neall was not in attendance at this meeting.</p>	
<p>007/2026 ARG Report – Colin Cooper Colin Cooper reported that at the time of writing his report last Friday, Colin was waiting reaction from the tree officer, Jo Griffiths, regarding the first mowing of the season undertaken by the contractors MSJ Garwood & Son, particularly the mowing of the land opposite Sandlings. Jo Griffiths responded that she had spoken to the Chair and that her response will be discussed further during agenda item 041/2026 section 2). Colin further reported that in the last few days a resident had reported activity in the Essex County Council yard, which has involved G B Finch HGV lorries. It has appeared that the yard has been substantially cleared but hopes that ECC has not any intentions for storage of old fridges and freezers, which happened many years ago. As previously reported, the yard gates are looking much better after a recent renovation. On a separate matter, Dengie Crop Dries has kindly agreed to fund the purchase of a number of union flags to replace the ones displayed outside the Dengie village hall, Endway Farmhouse and Dengie Crop Dries plus extra flags for future use. ARG has now erected the new flags. The main road through Asheldham continues to flood at various points, such as that of Asheldham Brook bridge and the junction of Southminster Road and hall Road. Rain water continues to pour</p>	

down Southminster Road Hill, undoubtedly due to blocked drains. Essex Highways do not appear to have done anything about the BT inspection chamber at the field entrance opposite Tower Hill Animal Sanctuary, which potentially blocks the run of the water down hill into the ditch, although Essex County Council Highways were made aware of this several years ago.

Colin continued to report that, in his first ARG report prepared on 27th February, he mentioned recent activity at the ECC Yard. I now give an update as follows:

On the same morning as my report, I saw that the yard gates were open and a man on a machine, clearing debris into more piles than I originally spotted. The man was James Cowell, who is a local farmer at Lunendales, Foxhall Road.

I had met James before as we had crossed paths when both litter picking. He told me he was contracted by ECC to clear the Yard but did not know of ECC's reason for doing so. He said he was expecting an official from ECC to visit him at any time.

A little later I revisited the Yard and introduced myself to James Sage who described himself as Senior Engineer Business Analyst at ECC and formerly worked for Ringway Jacobs.

We exchanged details and he asked me to let him know I see any signs of vandalism at the Yard. Mr. Sage told me that the present contract between ECC and Ringway Jacobs expires in 2027 and that the Yard is being cleared up in preparation for a possible tendering process at that stage. He mentioned the possibility of any successful tenderer using the Yard for the former purposes of the storage of road material. He also said there was also a possibility of ECC selling the Yard.

Mr Sage said that over the next few days various contractors will be collecting the piles of rubbish of various forms. Also, that he has unearthed a store covered by bushes in the far-right hand corner of the yard as you go through the gates. He was previously unaware of its existence and is full of vehicle wheels and tyres. The roof is of asbestos so specialist contractors will be engaged in dismantling.

I will forward under separate cover some photographs I took with my mobile phone with Mr. Sage's permission, if they have come out.

A separate matter to mention is that the Brook Lane sign is missing. I have established with nearby ARG member Shaun Barnard that he retrieved the sign which was coming apart from the wood to which it was affixed and that he is in the course of rectifying the matter

008/2026 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull

Dengie Village Hall representative, Lyn Moull, reported that there had still been frequent bookings to hire the village hall.

Lyn is also waiting on further quotations for the building of the village hall extension.

009/2026 Locality Funding

RESOLVED: The Clerk updated the councillors that she was pleased to report that she had received confirmation of the reimbursed funds for the brush cutter and was waiting for that payment to appear in the bank account. The Clerk is now waiting for the installation of the noticeboard to be carried out by Rik Pond, when she will then know the final costs and can complete the application to claim the cost of the items back from the locality funding.

Clerk

010/2026 Village Gateway Signs

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she had been provided with an application form for gateways from Essex County Council Highways. The Clerk would like to meet with councillors at the proposed site to measure the exact location to enable her to complete the application form.

This motion was proposed by Cllr R. Griffiths and seconded by Cllr L. Brown.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

036/2026 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she had received a response from BSR which she had circulated to councillors prior to this meeting.

Cllr A. Snowdon proposed that a further letter, composed by councillors, is sent to BSR and that John Whittingdale MP is copied in, advising that the parish council has never been involved in any public consultations and that any funding that is set, is per megawatt per annum and carried out retrospectively.

The councillors will draft a letter and send a final copy to the Clerk to send to BSR and John Whittingdale.

Proposed: Cllr R Griffiths and seconded by Cllr A Snowdon.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk & Cllrs.

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

Planning as to how this application was past when it seems to the Parish Council that it did not satisfy section Q.

RESOLVED: Cllr A. Snowdon spoke to senior planning officer, Mark Jaggard, at the latest Dengie Group of Parish Council meeting to enquire when the meeting would be held. The Clerk advised that she had asked Cllr Wendy Stamp assist and follow this up.

Clerk

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

OUTM/MAL/24/00941 PP-13550306

Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for primary means of access from Scotts Hill, for the development of up to 249 dwellings, public open space, together with associated landscaping, highways, drainage and other infrastructure works.

Land West Of David Fisher Way David Fisher Way, Southminster

RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie parish Council did not support this application. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie**Decisions****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

APPROVED.

Clerk

25/00976/VARM

Variation of conditions 2 (plans), 15 (visibility splays), 16 (construction traffic management plan and 17 (route mitigation plan) of approved planning permission 25/00406/VARM (Variation of conditions 2 (plans), 15 (visibility splays), 16 (construction traffic management plan and 17 (route mitigation plan) from approved planning permission 23/01236/FULM (Erection of a 19 MW Solar PV Array, comprising ground mounted solar PV panels, with co-located 5 MW battery energy storage system (BESS), vehicular access from Keelings Road, internal access tracks, landscaping and associated infrastructure including security fencing, CCTV cameras, and grid connection infrastructure including transformers, substation compound buildings and cabling route to the point of connection) - Revisions to the surface material of the access track.)

Land To The South Of Keelings Road Dengie

British Solar Renewables

APPROVED

Clerk

Appeals

None.

038/2026 Asheldham Brook Bridge

- 1) RESOLVED: The Clerk will continue to work with Cllr Wendy Stamp to resolve the issues raised with Asheldham Brook Bridge and obtaining the structural report from Essex County Council Highways.
- 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. There were no updates regarding this matter. The Clerk will continue to chase.

Clerk

Clerk

039/2026 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 reported that the quarry has been extremely quiet recently.

Cllr L. Brown advised that machinery breakdowns and the general situation of the economy has had an impact on the quarry operations. Cllr L. Brown also advised councillors to notify the quarry directly if there are any concerns.

<p>It was agreed that this agenda item will be removed and Cllr Chandler will update the councillors if he has any concerns in the future. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>040/2026 Biodiversity duty Under the Environment Act 2021, parish councils have a legal biodiversity duty to actively conserve and enhance local biodiversity. As part of this duty the parish council must adopt a Biodiversity Duty Policy. The Clerk has circulated a draft Biodiversity Duty Policy prior to this meeting. RESOLVED: Asheldham & Dengie will review and adapt the proposed policy to relate to the parish's approach to biodiversity. This motion was proposed by Cllr R. Griffiths and seconded by Cllr L. Brown. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>041/2026 Council Trees 1) RESOLVED: The councillors agreed that the area opposite Sandlings was looking a lot tidier. 2) RESOLVED: The Clerk advised that, although MSJ Garwood & Son had cut back the stumps, they had advised that they were not willing to continue to do this in the future with their tools. Cllr A. Snowdon will cut the stumps off with a brush cutter to ground level to enable MSJ Garwood & Sons to continue to cut the grass. The councillors wished to thank MSJ Garwood for cutting back the stumps and regrowth.</p>	Cllr Snowdon Clerk
<p>042/2026 Parish Gulley Pipes and Drains RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact Essex County Council Highways and request that an inspection of the gulleys, pipes and drains in Asheldham is carried out to investigate the cause of the ongoing blockages. This motion was proposed by Cllr A. Snowdon and seconded by Cllr G. Chandler. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>043/2026 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>044/2026 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. - A resident raised repeated concern regarding the gulleys at Asheldham Brook bridge and asked that this was added to the list of concerns to raise when the Clerk contacts Essex County Council Highways regarding the drains. - The resident also advised that Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council's response relating to the formal observations on a southern extension to Asheldham Quarry for the extraction, processing, sale and distribution of sand and gravel were still not showing on the Essex County Council planning portal.</p>	Clerk Clerk
<p>045/2026 Finance 1) RESOLVED: To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 28th. February 2026. 2) RESOLVED: To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2025/26 3) RESOLVED: To approve the payment of Accounts for March 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>046/2026 TO REVIEW THE ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM OF: • INTERNAL CONTROL • INTERNAL AUDIT • FINANCIAL RISK MANAGMENT Documents detailing the procedures undertaken in respect of the above have been circulated to members. RESOLVED: To review the documents and consider accepting the procedures. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p>	Clerk
<p>047/2026 REVIEW OF ASHELDHAM & DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS The NALC model financial regulations were adapted and adopted in March 2025. The Clerk has reviewed the financial regulations. These remain up to date.</p>	

RESOLVED: The councillors will review the financial regulations for the April meeting. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

**Cllrs &
Clerk**

048/2026 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.

Dengie Group of Parish Councils – Tuesday 17th February – Cllr A. Snowdon to report

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

Dengie Climate Action Partnership – Thursday 26th March – Tillingham Village Hall

049/2026 Items for the Next Agenda

050/2026 Date of Next Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 8th. April 2026 at 6.30pm

051/2026 Closure of the Meeting

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

Signed

8th. April 2026

**Cllr Rebecca Griffiths
Chairperson**