

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8 th . April 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). One member of the public was also present.</p> <p>052/2026 Apologies for Absence None.</p> <p>053/2026 Declaration of Interest None.</p> <p>054/2026 Dispensations None received.</p> <p>055/2026 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. March 2026. Cllr R. Griffiths proposed to agree the minutes received. Cllr L. Brown seconded this motion. Agreed. Unanimous decision.</p> <p>056/2026 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. - There were no questions or comments from the public.</p> <p>057/2026 Councillor Vacancy Following the resignation of Cllr Russell, Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council are awaiting to fill the casual vacancy by co-option process. The Clerk reported that she had received notification from Maldon District Council that there had been no request for a by-election therefore Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council can proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Clerk has distributed notices for display in the noticeboards and an advertisement will be published in the May edition of the Parish Paper. A deadline of two months will be given for applications.</p> <p>058/2026 District Councillor Report - Matthew Neall District Councillor, Matthew Neall was not in attendance at this meeting.</p> <p>059/2026 ARG Report – Colin Cooper Colin Cooper reported that he Brook Lane road sign has now been renovated and refixed courtesy of ARG member Shaun Barnard. Colin also reported that the yellow salt/grit bin, on the land opposite Sandlings, has been restocked by ARG member Dave Henson. However, because the bags of rock salt tended to go brittle and burst easily when moved, he and Dave have decided to have loose rock salt in the bin, and a supply of small plastic bins and a small shovel inside too, in order that members of the public can help themselves to the rock salt. It is intended to affix a notice to the underside of the bin lid requesting that the plastic bins be returned immediately after use. Dave is happy to bear the cost of the plastic bins and shovel although he is aware that no doubt ARG would do so.</p> <p>Colin continued to report that the new Asheldham Parish Notice Board will be positioned in place of the existing one by him and Rik as soon as they are both available and when the weather is set fair.</p> <p>Colin confirmed that he is happy to continue as the ARG chairman, if duly elected at the next AGM (date not yet fixed) but will retire as Co-ordinator of the Dengie Village Hall 100 Club at the end of this month.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

060/2026 Village Hall Report – Lyn Moull

Dengie Village Hall representative, Lyn Moull was not present at this meeting but had reported, prior to the meeting, that Sadlers had visited the village hall and were currently putting together a quotation for the building of the village hall extension.

061/2026 Locality Funding

RESOLVED: The Clerk updated the councillors that she was pleased to report that she had received the reimbursement of funds in the bank account for both the brush cutter and the new notice board. It was agreed that this item will now be removed from the agenda.

Clerk

062/2026 Village Gateway Signs

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she had visited the proposed site with Cllr A. Snowdon and they had taken measurements for the purpose of the Essex County Council Highways application form for gateways. The Clerk also reported that the funding for the village gateway signs had been agreed by Maldon District Council providing that the application is agreed by ECC Highways.

Clerk

063/2026 British Solar Renewables - Dengie Solar Park

RESOLVED: Cllr R. Griffiths and Cllr A. Snowdon have drafted a letter and a final copy has been sent to the Clerk to send to BSR and John Whittingdale once agreed.

Within the cover letter to John Whittingdale, he will be reminded that he had previously made a statement that he supported the government consultation of a payment is made of £1000 per megawatt.

Proposed: Cllr R Griffiths and seconded by Cllr L Brown.

Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

064/2026 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: Councillors R. Griffiths, L. Brown and A. Snowdon attended a Teams meeting held by Maldon District Council planning on 18th March, where Maldon District Councils action was to respond to Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council as they had not produced a traffic management plan and also proceeding with field works without submitting the appropriate paperwork.

Maldon District Council could not revoke the planning decision as it had already been made but will look into enforcement actions.

- 2) RESOLVED: To discuss the ongoing scrap yard activity in Asheldham and the failure of Maldon District Council to enforce the related planning refusal.

Cllr A. Snowdon advised that the activity at the scrap yard is ongoing despite not having permission.

RESOLVED: To raise an enforcement notice with Maldon District Council.

Proposed: Cllr A. Snowdon. Seconded: Cllr G. Chandler. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

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

26/00163/AGR

Prior notification for a proposed agricultural straw and hay store.

Land South East Of Dengie Crops, Hall Road, Asheldham

Clerk

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

None.

Appeals

None.

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.

Clerk & Cllrs.

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.

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.

065/2026 Asheldham Brook Bridge

- 1) RESOLVED: The Clerk had not received an update on the Asheldham Brook Bridge report from Essex County Council Highways
- 2) RESOLVED: The Clerk had not received an update regarding the necessary actions agreed at the 1st September Council meeting to maintain and make Asheldham Brook Bridge safer.

Clerk

Clerk

066/2026 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.

RESOLVED: The adoption of the proposed policy was agreed. Proposed: Cllr L. Brown Seconded: Cllr G. Chandler Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

RESOLVED: The councillors discussed the actions that Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council will take to conserve and enhance the local biodiversity along with Maldon District Council's local development plan. Councillors will attend the Dengie Climate Action Group meetings when possible.

Clerk

067/2026 Vegetation Opposite Sandlings

- 1) RESOLVED: A decision had been made at the April meeting that the stumps will be trimmed of any fresh growth, ready for MSJ Garwood to carry out maintenance to the area. This item will be removed from the agenda. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

068/2026 Parish Gulley Pipes and Drains

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she has reported the issue to Essex County Council Highways and was waiting for a response.

The Clerk also advised the councillors that MSJ Garwood had reported that there was a possible leak on the green outside Towerhill Stables. Cllr A. Snowdon suggested that this could link with the gulley issues. The Clerk will report this to Essex and Suffolk Water. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

069/2026 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](http://Causeway.one.network)

070/2026 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.

071/2026 Finance

- 1) RESOLVED: To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 31st. March 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 April 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. Agreed. Unanimous decision.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

072/2026 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.

Councillor Training Days 1 & 2 – Tuesday 3rd & 10th March – Cllr G. Chandler reported that the course was very informative and covered lots of information regarding the precept. Cllr G. Chandler

reported that he had joined NALC.

Dengie Climate Action Partnership – Thursday 28th May – Tillingham Village Hall

073/2026 **Items for the Next Agenda**

074/2026 **Date of Next Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 6th. May 2026 at 6.30pm**

This meeting will also include the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Assembly.

075/2026 **Closure of the Meeting**

RESOLVED: To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business at 7.10pm.

Signed

8th. May 2026

Cllr Rebecca Griffiths
Chairperson