

# Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kelly Andrews

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## Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Annual Parish Assembly Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall

Present: Cllrs R. Griffiths (Chair), Cllr L. Brown, Cllr A. Snowdon, Cllr G. Chandler and Kelly Andrews (Parish Clerk). There were also 5 members of the public present

**1. Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp, MDC M. Neall and Mrs L. Moull.

**2. Minutes of the last APM meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025. All Agreed**

**3. Chairmans report for 2025/2026**

Cllr R. Griffiths presented the following report:

This year has again been a busy one for Asheldham and Dengie Parish council, and I would like to begin by extending my thanks to fellow councillors. Cllrs Brown, Chandler and Snowdon for their continued support, commitment and time through this year. Although Cllr Russell left us this year, I would also like to extend my thanks to her for her commitment to the council for many years. And a formal welcome to Councillor Chandler, who joined us this year and is a valued member of our team. This has been my first (almost full) year as chairman, and it has not been without its challenges. I am grateful for the support of our new clerk, Kelly, and I would also like to thank the local community for attending these meetings. As always, communication with Maldon District Council has been difficult, but we did manage to have a Teams meeting with their planning department, which we were grateful for. We are still struggling to get answers from Essex Highways regarding the Asheldham Brook bridge, and the blocked gullies on Southminster Road are still causing problems.

We are still struggling to make headway with the BSR solar fund community fund - but are actively engaging with their team to come to a reasonable agreement on the funding model and total funding given.

On behalf of the parish council, I'd like to thank Asheldham Residents group and its committee members for all their hard work and in particular Colin Cooper for his continued dedication and hard work throughout the village.

Jo Griffiths, our tree warden, has given her time and expertise freely, and we are thankful to her.

This year, the Parish Council managed to secure a large amount of locality funding from ECC, which helped to fund a new strimmer for groundskeeping and a brand new village notice board in Asheldham. We have also managed to secure funding for village gateway signs as you come into the village and are awaiting permission from Highways to progress the project and complete installation which is an exciting project for the new year. As always, new planning permissions and renewable energy proposals in the local area bring both challenges and opportunities for additional funding and improvements for our residents, and we will work tirelessly to reap these benefits.

After some residents complained of Dog fouling, we sponsored the installation of a new dog bin and anti-dog fouling signs in the village.

We would also like to thank Megan and Adrian Fluker, who, alongside ARG hosted more successful litter picks and thanks to those who attended and assisted.

We look forward to the year ahead and bringing even more positive, actionable change to our residents.

Thank you, Cllr Rebecca Griffiths

## 4. Village Hall Committee Report

The following report was read by the Parish Clerk, Kelly Andrews, on behalf of the Dengie Village Hall Chair, Lyn Moull:

Bookings are still going well. Deansbrook continue to have their meetings here. We have a flower arranging class on June 6th. Everyone welcome. £12 per person which covers flowers all materials and refreshments. Proceeds to St James Dengie.

The litter pick is this Saturday and of course the local elections tomorrow which boosts our bank balance.

Hopefully Hopes and Dreams will take place in August.

Regarding the extension, I have been in contact with the builders re their quote and they tell me it will be submitted within the next couple of weeks.

Chris Andrews still continues to clean the hall free of charge. Our thanks to Chris.

### **5. Election of distribution panel for Williams & Aylett's Charity**

Following the proposal from Cllr R. Griffiths, it was agreed that the entire Parish Council were allocated to serve on the Williams & Aylett's charity as the distribution panel for the William & Aylett's Charity.

### **6. Tree Wardens Report**

Mrs J. Griffiths presented the following report:

There was not a lot to report. However, during February to May of 2025 I had to give assistance to some locals who had received nasty letters from the council regarding dead trees in the hedging. This has now been resolved but I have noticed that there appears to be more in Hall Road.

I managed to get five TPOs put on the oak trees opposite Dengie Crop Dries to protect them from the pending extension of the gravel pit. This will need revisiting as the trees are located incorrectly on the map.

Of the four village trees, two are ok and two are not due to the very hot summer and not enough watering. I will try and source some replacement trees from a local resident who is growing trees and will hopefully donate these. I will place these replacement trees in a different place as they have not been successful in the current location.

I received advice from the Tree Council, Woodland Trust and RHS regarding the leaf minor on the holm oaks. The advice given was that the leaves may look really bad, but they will not affect the tree. The defective leaves will fall in late May and will be replaced. To reduce the burden, rake up the leaves and burn them, which due to the extent of leaves this cannot happen.

I received a complaint regarding the overhanging dead trees in the hedgerow from the brook bridge to where the pigs are. I raised a complaint with Essex County Council who said that the work could not be carried out as the work is on a rota. However, the work was carried out the next week and the road sign is visible again.

Lastly, if anyone has any tree problems or concerns please contact me.

### **7. Essex County Councillors Report**

Cllr W. Stamp supplied an ECC Annual report for 2025-2026. The report can be found by visiting: <https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/a/59784890-60719192>

### **8. Maldon District Councillors Report**

Cllr M. Neall circulated an annual report for 2025-2026. The report can be found by visiting: <https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/a/59784890-60718988>

### **9. ARG Report**

Asheldham Residents Group chair presented the following report:

Since the ARG report presented to the last PC Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026, I have the following to report.

A Watering Rota for the planters on the land opposite Sandlings has been established for the coming months. Ann, Karen, Sharon, Keeley, Jo, Julie and Graham and I are the volunteers.

Thanks to Sharon for laying on an instant water supply and Tony Lock for a backup supply, if ever required.

ARG in conjunction with Dengie resident Adrian Fluker have organised the annual Spring Litter Pick for the morning of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Meet at Dengie Village Hall at 9.30am for a 10.00 am start.

Fuller details will be circulated nearer the date.

The new Asheldham Parish Notice Board was erected on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April by Rik, Keeley, Andrew Snowdon and me and the previous one placed outside the VH for disposal with the forthcoming Litter Pick rubbish.

Andrew has reduced the height of the protruding bush stumps and trimmed the ground ivy on the land opposite Sandlings in accordance with the process agreed by the PC and the contractors, MSJ Garwood and Son.

**10. Public Session**

No questions were asked.

**11. Closure of the Meeting**

**To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business**

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 6.44pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*R Griffiths*

**Rebecca Griffiths  
Chairman**

5<sup>th</sup>. May 2027