

**MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD on
Monday 4th April 2022 at 6.30 p.m. in Dengie Village Hall, Manor Road,
Dengie.**

Present: - Cllr Lisa Brown, Cllr Nick Kelly, Cllr Sally Russell, Cllr David Henson & Cllr Rebecca Griffiths.

In attendance: Mrs. S Sayer (Clerk)

Members of the public: 4

Meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m.

001/22-23 ELECTION OF CHAIR TO RUN MEETING AND WELCOME

Cllr Dave Henson was proposed to Chair the meeting by Cllr Brown and Seconded by all members present.

Cllr Henson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

002/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr Wendy Stamp.

003/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Cllr Lisa Brown on 01/22-23 - pecuniary interest.
- b) Members noted it is their responsibility to check that their Register of Interests are up to date i.e. if any changes occur, then they are updated within 28 days, on the MDC website which is linked to the Asheldham and Dengie Parish council website.

004/22-23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(s)

- a) The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council on 7th March 2021 were reviewed, approved and signed. Proposed: Cllr Sally Russell and Seconded: Cllr Dave Henson.

005/22-23 REPORT FROM DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- a) No report was available from the District Councillor.
- b) Reiterated that if there are any questions please let the Clerk know who will pass them on.

006/22-23 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – FIRST SESSION

A discussion took place regarding the type of trees/hedge packs to order and where to place them. Mrs Griffiths has been looking into the various options and liaising with land owners as to the possible siting of the trees/hedge packs. It was hoped that a tree/hedge pack would be available for both Asheldham and Dengie and that the application would be made accordingly. It was further stated that it would be better to invest in larger more established saplings which would cost in the region of £75.00 each and this would be approved under Agenda item 013/22-23 (a).

Karen and Mary Anderson sent an email sending their apologies, as unfortunately both were unwell but would like the issue chased with Highways in relation to the bund and S106 agreement.

The gullies were reported to be totally blocked up again and a call for the schedules of when they are sluiced was strongly requested and it was suggested that a freedom of information request should be made for this information for the gullies from ECC and the litter picking from MDC.

SIGNED.....CHAIR

ASHELDHAM & DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

9TH MAY 2022

007/22-23 ASHELDHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

- a) A vote of thanks was given to Mr and Mrs Fluker for providing the refreshments for the litter pick. It was another successful one. The Chairman gave thanks to the ARG for arranging it.
- b) ARG have applied to the Woodland Trust for 450 saplings of various species and it was mentioned that it would be best not to have blackthorn, so the Chair going back to check what is included in the pack and see if can request not to have any blackthorne. Planting to be just up from G&B Finch.
A resident had suggested the position for the Asheldham tree may be the throat of the bridle path.
ARG said they would like to contribute to the purchase of the trees.

008/22-23 HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ISSUES

- i) Clerk stated that the recently purchased "No Parking" signs would not be able to be used, but it was suggested that perhaps they could be added to the planters that it was agreed that the Clerk would ascertain quotes/sizes for and apply for the license from highways to place them. A resident suggested using the Menss Shed organisation that is just establishing in Southminster resident to send Clerk contact details.
- ii) No news updates regarding Asheldham Bends Project being reviewed by ECC Highways despite having chased on three separate occasions.
- iii) Asheldham Brook Bridge - Clerk received a response as follows:-

As part of feasibility stage of Asheldham Bridge, we proposed to undertake a ground investigation in November. This work could not be completed as planned due to unknown location of Foul sewer in the vicinity. The exact location of this foul sewer has to be identified before the ground investigation work can start. The ground investigation detail is very important for the scheme and the Feasibility stage cannot be completed without this work carried out.

We are now planning to undertake a trial hole investigation within the river to locate the foul sewer as this foul sewer runs below the river bed level. Environment Agency approval is required for this work to be carried out.

Also, the Environment Agency has requested a flood modelling exercise is carried out for the proposed structure. Both the investigation works and flood modelling works will continue this year.

We are expected to complete the feasibility stage of this work by end of this year and then we will start the detail design of proposed structure next year.

Members were not happy with this response and it was mentioned that they could not carry out the work last November when it was scheduled as the water levels were too high and therefore Clerk to send an email reminding them of this and asking why the news of a foul sewer being in the vicinity has only coming to light now.

- iv) No news on the repair of the signs that have been reported and given reference numbers - 30mph (Ref: 2752071 and the Give Way Sign that if the wrong way around (Ref:2752040)

- v) No update regarding FP 10 and FP 12.
- vi) No update regarding the regularity of litter picking in the parish. Clerk did send a chase but still no response. Clerk to chase again in the form of a FOI request.

009-22-23 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Planning Application(s)- To discuss and decide on the following application(s):-
 - i) no applications at the time of writing
- b)
 - i) List of planning applications – 10-13 noted
 - ii) List of planning decisions and appeals – **10-13** noted

c) **Enforcement Cases**

- i) Clerk read out the following email regarding FUL/MAL/Reference No. ENF381976857 - adj Endway Farmhouse - new build fence interfering with line of sight on the carriageway from Enforcement:-

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to this enforcement investigation. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Officer allocated to this case is unable to carry out their duties for the time being and as such there may be a delay in progressing this case. All correspondence received in this period in relation to these cases will be considered by a Manager and a view taken as to the appropriate course of action for the most urgent matters (those alleged breaches causing the most severe harm in planning terms to residential amenity and the environment or may be in danger of becoming immune from enforcement action in the near future). With the Officer being absent, our resources will be very limited, and we will not be in a position to directly respond to you, but we will ensure that the case is updated with your communication in the meantime.

Clerk responded stating that it was considered by the Parish Council members and residents that this is an urgent matter as where this fence is, it is causing an obstruction on the bend and we have already had many near misses where vehicles are looking to turn into Hall Road and then suddenly a car coming from the Tillingham direction appears when the car is half way over the road, all due to having a lack of vision. Clerk further stated that this matter would be referred to ECC Highways for their comment/action regarding the reduced visibility.

- d) **United Dengie Councils** - there is to be a meeting on Friday 8th April 2022 at 9 a.m. at Champions Hall, South Woodham Ferrers in relation to the Chelmsford City Council. Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Russell, to attend in regard to the transport assessment within the planning application ref: 21/01661/OUT.

010/22-23 FINANCE

- a) Members agreed and approved payments for April 2022 as per list provided.
- b) Members agreed Barclays bank statements to the bank reconciliation to 30th March 2022.
 - Both items a) and B) were approved by all members and Cllr Henson signed the bank statement to the bank reconciliation.
- c) Clerk still having trouble getting mandate changed.
- d) Members noted that the internal audit would be on 14th April 2022.

011/22-23 TRAINING

- a) Clerk stated that the Chairman Training would be taking place on Saturday 14th May in Dengie Village Hall from 10.30 to 12.30.
 - Clerk to double check that Cllr Griffiths has been booked on the EALC AGM in September.

012/22-23 DENGIE VILLAGE SIGN

- a) No further news, the sign is still expected during May 22 and will be sited outside the Dengie Village Hall, Manor Road, Dengie.

SIGNED.....CHAIR

ASHELDHAM & DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

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013/22-23 HER MAJESTY'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

- a) A general discussion took place earlier relating to the ordering of the hedging packs and trees. It was decided that more established trees could be purchased for as little as £75.00 each and it was decided to purchase 4 more established trees, two for each part of the Parish, totalling £300.00. Proposed Cllr Brown and Seconded Cllr Henson - AGREED. The tree warden to establish the best types of tree, liquidambar being one of the favourites and to establish suitable sites.

014/22-23 PARKING ON THE GRASS VERGE IN ASHELDHAM

- a) In light of the fact that the purchased signs can not be used by order of ECC, it was agreed that the Clerk to obtain quotes for 4 x planters to be placed on the grass verge, dimensions to be established and costing in order that a licence can be completed and sent into Olive Porter at Highways. Clerk to get a quote from the Men In Sheds as well.

015/22-23 SEND PROVISION IN THE DENGIE PENINSULA

- a) There was no update relating to this Agenda item, but it was re-iterated that the Parish Council are in support of this project.

016/22-23 CLIMATE ACTION CHALLENGE FUND

Cllr Griffiths stated that no response had been received regarding ideas to utilise this fund and that she would liaise with the Dengie Village Hall Committee about the possibilities.

017/22-23 SOCIAL MEDIA ROLE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Griffiths has been working behind the scenes and managed to improve the Parish Council's profile and there is a lot more interaction occurring which is very positive. A vote of thanks was given.

018/22-23 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – SECOND SESSION

It was stated that the flag pole was back up and a vote of thanks given to Mr. Moull for repairing it once again.

019/22-23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) Monday 9th May 2022 at 6.30 p.m. in Dengie Village Hall - this will be the AGM followed by the Parish Assembly and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Meeting closed at 7.33 pm