

**MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD on
Monday 7th March 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 6.32 p.m.

177/21-22 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.

178/21-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr Wendy Stamp.

179/21-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Cllr Lisa Brown on 191/21-22 - 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.

180/21-22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(s)

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

181/21-22 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 them on. Cllr Stamp stated that she had viewed the Agenda and has her on the ball regarding Highways.

182/21-22 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – FIRST SESSION

Clerk to contact Cllr Lee Scott and Andy Hilsdon in regard to the Bund and the Asheldham Bends.

The Dengie Village Sign has been put back due to Covid and it will be made soon and the estimated delivery will be about May 2022. It is going to be installed outside the Village Hall. The area has to be cleared so a call for volunteers was made.

The Queen's Jubilee - Asheldham and Dengie will be putting on a Children's Party and now as it is not going to be a joint venture with Tillingham, the party will be open to grandchildren and cousins. The age is limited up to 11 year olds - although all our welcome. The Party has been advertised in the Parish Paper, asking for people to let know about numbers so the organisers can ensure that every child has a memento of the occasion. This will be happening on Friday 3rd June. Saturday 4th June a dance will take place and

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on Sunday 5th June a Cream Tea. Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had put by £250.00 for these events.

Roof of the pre-fab at the back of the Village Hall is being repaired.

Thanks to Mr. Moull and Mr. Snowden for cleaning the windows and grids on the Village Hall.

There was a mention of the Village Beacon that was currently laying in Mr and Mrs Moull's garden. Clerk stated that a quote was obtained a few years ago and it was perceived too costly. Also a suggestion for a gas beacon was made, but they were not taller enough and would not suit the purpose. Clerk to review the file.

A suggestion was made to use the Community Pay Back Team - however it was felt that the group needed constant supervision.

It was suggested to contact the schools to make the Asheldham and Dengie children aware of the activities over the Jubilee weekend. Also a leaflet drop could be done.

It will be put on the Facebook page and website and any other media that has been opened for the Parish in time for the event.

183/21-22 ASHELDHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

- a) The front of G&B Finch was raised and an on-site meeting is taking place to discuss what can be done.

Also there will be a session of clearing the ditch and vegetation further around the bend from G&B Finch and maybe get some trees planted. However, there have been some ferocious storms and then Covid struck, so this area is in need of tidying up and a call for volunteers was made for a working party.

Hall Road, trees reported in the road. Clerk to report as dangerous. It was suggested to put new bushes along there as the trees are top heavy with ivy growth. AR Group has cleaned the reflector posts going into Southminster. Thanks given to Mr. Cooper for carrying this out for the safety of the public.

It was mentioned about the broken/missing signs as ECC Highways have it all down on the website as not high priority.

Finally the Asheldham Village sign, the Tillingham Road sign and the Dengie Village sign are broken. Clerk stated that is one already reported.

Residents not happy at the length of time these jobs are taking to be carried out.

184/21-22 HIGHWAY & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ISSUES

- i) Essex Highways Devolution Pilot - Clerk has ordered the "no parking signs" for the grass verge and started to complete the licence and already received the riding signs just got to find out exactly where they can be put up without being on a telegraph/British telecom post so the PC do not get fined. Also doing the licence for the Jubilee bench that is being funded by the Community Fund.
- ii) No updates Asheldham Bends Project being reviewed by ECC Highways and the LHP Panel minutes for December have still not yet been published.
- iii) The report is still not available as they have had issues with the investigation work required and to do with utility services and a flood risk assessment.
- 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.

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- vi) The problem with the fallen tree has been resolved as the landowner has cut the up and put a fence up.
- vii) The equestrian signs have been purchased as detailed in item i) above.
- viii) Clerk stated that the litter picking is supposed to happen 6 weekly, members and resident's disputed that this was actually occurring as no-one ever seen. Clerk to contact Maldon District Council and ask them to look into this in more detail as it was felt that the 50 bags of rubbish collected during the last ARG Litter Pick would have been much less if this was the case.

185/21-22 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 – 5-9 noted
 - ii) List of planning decisions and appeals – 5-9 noted
- c) **Enforcement Cases**
 - i) No news received regarding the decision notice on application reference: FUL/MAL/Reference No. ENF381976857 - adj Endway Farmhouse - new build fence interfering with line of sight on the carriageway. Clerk to check if a response is required within a certain amount of time possibly 28 days.
- d) **Review of Local Development Plan – Maldon District Council**
 - i) Cllr Griffiths has been charged with formulating a response, but stated that the Parish Council really needs to hear from the members of the public. Points were raised regarding the "Call for sites" that were in the immediate vicinity and would affect Asheldham and Dengie Parish. A discussion took place regarding pre-empting various pieces of land in the District that were unlikely to be needed. It was also stated that another PC had just sent in a letter as they felt the questionnaire was not user friendly. Leaflet to be posted on the Facebook page detailing the 7 points of the review.
- 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 possibly Cllr Russell, to attend in regard to the transport assessment within the planning application ref: 21/01661/OUT.
Also if Asheldham and Dengie PC are happy for Cllr Mark Raffray from the United Dengie Groups to continue releasing press releases on their behalf under the guise of United Dengie Councils. AGREED.

186/21-22 FINANCE

- a) Members agreed and approved payments for March 2022 as per list provided.
- b) Members agreed Barclays bank statements to the bank reconciliation to 28th February 2022 and the Chair signed.
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 agreed the additional cost of £2.00 per grass cut. Last year 13 cuts so approximately £26.00 per year depending on the length of the growing system.

187/21-22 TRAINING

- a) Clerk awaiting confirmation that the training is going ahead on Saturday 14th May 22.

188/21-22 DENGIE VILLAGE SIGN

- a) Covered earlier in the meeting.

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189/21-22 HER MAJESTY'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

- a) The mention of using a liquidambar tree on the Asheldham Grass Verge and another resident suggested some ideas for Manor Road, Dengie. Question was raised whether the trees/packs of hedging were available for anywhere and can be supplied by the Woodland Trust. Clerk to send link to ARG.

190/21-22 PARKING ON THE GRASS VERGE IN ASHELDHAM

- a) Awaiting the licence permission and to purchase some 2 x 2 wood to use as stacks.

191/21-22 SEND PROVISION IN THE DENGIE PENINSULA

- a) A discussion took place regarding the lack of facilities for children in the Dengie that have a SEND requirement. Cllr Brown in contact with Amy Melton from ECC education regarding various provisions that can be provided at Silver Lakes (Well-being, mindfulness, social isolation etc.) - Cllr Wendy Stamp has also taken up the mantle. A need has to be proven in the area as well. Asheldham and Dengie support the idea and other contacts who can help in this matter.

192-21-22 CLIMATE ACTION CHALLENGE FUND

Cllr Griffiths looked at the offer of £20,000 but need some ideas of what can be done in the village. Solar farm was suggested or solar panels on the Village Hall.

193/21-22 SOCIAL MEDIA ROLE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

It was overwhelmingly agreed for Cllr Griffiths to take on the Social Media Role.

194/21-22 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – SECOND SESSION

The noise of the crow scarer was stated as being particularly loud, but it was also mentioned that the cost of the rape crop is particularly high, but Clerk to send a letter to Fisher Farms asking them that maybe they could turn on a bit later in the morning than already is. However it was also stated that it would be turned off in the next few weeks.

Noise problem with Dengie Crops has been resolved.

195/21-22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) Monday 4th April 2022 at 6.30 p.m. in Dengie Village Hall
- b) It was approved to change the November 2022 meeting to 31st October as there is a four week gap from the October meeting. Reason being Clerk is on annual leave from 4th November 2022 for two weeks.

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm