

**MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD on
Monday 1st March 2021 at 6.30 p.m. via Zoom**

Present: - Cllr Carole Faulkner Cllr Nick Kelly, Cllr Lisa Brown, Cllr Sally Russell & Cllr David Henson

In attendance: Mrs. S Sayer (Clerk)

Members of the public: 12

20-21/131 - CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20-21/132 - APOLOGIES

No apologies at this time.

20-21/133-DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) No declarations made at this point in the meeting.

- b) Members noted that it was their responsibility to register any changes in their Register of Interests on the Maldon District Council website.

20-21/134– MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(S)

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February were proposed by Cllr Faulkner and seconded by Cllr Russell. **RESOLVED**

20-21/135 – QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – FIRST SESSION

- Green Lane and the issue of speed restriction did not think it is a good idea. Pure speculation about the trees, leave to those that know more about trees.

- Meeting has not been posted on either notice boards and therefore is not legal– Resident stated that there is no reason why Clerk not able to post on the notice boards. The agenda was posted onto the website. Another resident claimed responsibility but it is not his fault. Clerk stated that it was perfectly legal, but that was questioned by the resident. Clerk stated that she had a letter stating that should not leave her home. Resident stated that you can for work and should make alternative arrangements for someone else to place Agenda on the notice boards.

- Resurfacing done between 4th March and 15th March (8 nights but excluding the 2 weekends)

- 29th March Highways Surgery and looking forward to a good debate then.

- Broadband – some residents recently received a letter from BT about Superfast Fibre Optic Broadband and for them to express and interest and BT will ascertain if the property is eligible and more detailed survey would take place and an estimate of the cost given. Cllr Russell and a resident attended a workshop last year. Some local residents will, have in the last few weeks been aware that fibre cabling has been attached to some telegraph poles - Hall Road, Manor Road and Southminster Road (CD Cabling done the work in Hall Road) B1021 Southminster through the main drag/heart of the village seems to have been left out. Cllr Brown stated that they were installing outside her property and another resident. Cllr

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Faulkner stated that she believed that it is already underground in Southminster and outside her resident in Foxhall Road.

A discussion took place on what was happening in and around Asheldham and Dengie but further investigations need to be made to ascertain the position for everyone in Asheldham and Dengie.

20-21/136 – HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ISSUES

- i) The application has been sent to CC Ron Pratt – awaiting confirmation that he is happy to counter sign.
- ii) Highways meeting is happening on Monday 29th March at 4.10 p.m. Clerk sent form and will be sending a more detailed email regarding what has happened historically with a list of the attendees.
- iii) No news from ECC regarding the state of the pavement from Rushes Lane to Bend opposite the “The Rest”.
- iv) Update was received from the Landowner regarding PROW_244_10 – Clerk read out the email received.

“Following a complaint about the footpath from a member of the public it has now been established that legally the foot path should go via two foot bridges through the grounds of the old Vicarage/Rectory. To enable this to happen two foot bridges will have to be reinstated and some trees and other vegetation in the Rectory removed. I understand that this work cannot be undertaken by ECC for some time and that as a result the footpath may now have to be closed on health and safety grounds which will be a shame as lot of local people use it. My application to move the footpath is still live as it still provides connectivity to both the legal route and the route that is currently being used and has been for many years. As the land owner and to mitigate the issues at the Old Rectory I have opened a prescribed route on the eastern edge of my field which is where the proposed foot path will run. In the 25 years I have been associated with the area I have never known the footpath to run through the Old Rectory a point confirmed by another local resident of some 40 years”

- v) Chair attended a meeting regarding the South Woodham Ferrers infrastructure and the effects that it will have on the Dengie Peninsula. A decision is being made by the Chelmsford City Council Cabinet on 2nd March. Chair from Stow Maries has taken legal advice and many Parish Councils have written in detailing their concerns and the fact that the gridlock that is going to occur will move people to use the small lanes in the area.
- vi) Speeding down Green Lanes and Foxall Road - seeking advice from the tree surgeon from MDC and had previously stated that will have to wait until the trees start budding again. It is not about the speed it is about being unable to pass and this is causing erosion of the verges. Chair to contact the companies that use the roads from 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. which is the busiest time.

20-21-137 PROBLEMS OF PARKING ON GRASS VERGE ON SOUTHMINSTER ROAD/INSTALLATION OF BUSINESS SIGN.

- i) A resident has allowed the person parking the car on the verge to use a piece of their land. Cllr Russell stated that she felt that putting planters in would be an attractive addition. Will not need so many. Still need a licence and need to know what is happening with the wood offered by a resident but has since stated not keen on the planters. It would be a

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problem with the ongoing maintenance of the planters. It was decided to not go ahead and a vote of thanks to the resident for providing the parking space.

20-21/139 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Planning Application(s)- To review and make a decision on the following application:-
21/00045/FUL PP-09415058

Proposal: Erection of 5No bungalows, layout parking, turning and amenity areas, form biodiversity pond and plant orchards trees and a new hedgerow.

Location: Land South of Parish Hall, Manor Road, Dengie, Essex.

Members unanimously objected to this application and noted that the details given last time still applied.

Residents were given a chance to state their views on the planning application, and were very concerned of the knock on effects. Mention of neolithic age and the field design is unique to this area. Buzzards, badgers and bats have been seen and will be affected. Concerns about light and dust pollution, no property in the Dengie opposite one another.

Worried that the space visible at the back of the proposed development could be in-filled with more properties.

History of planning in the area by the property owner have been refused all on the basis of lack of sustainability. Conditions relating to RAMSAR etc all point to this being refused again. Two designated bus stops outside the Village Hall and resident has written a letter asking if this is an official stop and written about the bus service as 12 extra vehicles will have no effect of enhancing the local bus service.

Reference was made to the archaeological report and there would be disturbance and evidence of Bronze Age on the land. Not actually opposing but stated extensive digs would need to take place.

Surface flooding was also a concern due to sea levels rising and drainage ditches were raised regarding the ditches.

Technical issues – the field has not been ploughed in 20 years.

Not specified re sewage arrangements, environmental agency says they must have something in place prior to build. Ownership of the ditches are owned by others and not the applicant. If the drainage criteria is going to be changed by building on it, it is debatable whether the ditch will remain that way. Not sure where the power will come from and that could mean that the existing residents could see a reduction in power supply.

Manor Road is 4.8 metres wide in the planning, but this is a single road width and only 3.1 m so inaccuracies in technical information on their submission.

Doctors surgeries are full. Bus service will not create a critical mass, 5 properties will not make a difference.

Chair stated that members will say what is needed to be said by the electorate but residents have to put an objection in yourselves and the Parish council are only consultees. Objections raised before will still be applicable plus other comments to be made again the application.

Members took a vote and 5 agreed to object to this application.

- b) Planning Decision(s) – No decisions at the time of writing.
c) Correspondence received over the course of the month and circulated via e-mail:
i) List of planning applications – 5-8 NOTED
ii) List of planning decisions and appeals – 5-8 NOTED

- d) i) No news received regarding the enforcement issue with Homelands at the time of writing.
- ii) No update regarding new enforcement requested regarding the decision notice on application reference: FUL/MAL/20/00766 Asheldham and the non-adherence pertaining to the entrance.

20-21/139 FINANCE

- To review and approve payments for March 2021 as per list provided. Prop: Cllr Faulkner and Seconded by: Cllr Brown.
- Barclays bank statements to the cash book reconciliation to 28th February 2021 AGREED

20-21/140 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

No Councillor present.

20-21/141 G&B Finch QUARRY LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- a) Clerk to inform M Finch that Mr. Cooper will take up the place of the resident on the committee.

20-21/142 Training

- a) Clerk to fill in bursary forms.

20-21/143 SUPER FAST BROADBAND

Clerk to look into this and refer to first public session.

20/21/144 DENGIE VILLAGE SIGN

Resident liaised with Village Sign Company and sorted out a proforma invoice and need to get a licence from ECC to be able to put the sign at the top of Manor Road. Fall back will be that the Village Hall said it can go by the Village Hall. Call from G&B Finch who has very kindly said that they would pay for the whole lot, so all the money for the sign has now been obtained. Thanks to Mrs Moull for arranging and a very special thank you to G&B Finch for their very generous donation.

20-21/145 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.

- Bennet junction post is still lying on the ground. Clerk checked on line and works have apparently been scheduled.
- Resident asked whether the Chair would be looking at her comments and whether she would like to revise her position. Chair stated as members that was sent to them and resident stated that it does not gel with NFU or Defra.
- Children from Steeple and St. Lawrence being offered schooling in Brightlinsea and Rochford as there are no spaces at Ormiston or William De Ferrers or the Plume. Chair to gather as much information as asks everyone to do the same. Clerk to write to all Parish Councils informing them of the problems in the area and requesting that they write to make sure something is sorted out. Letter received saying Ormiston trying to expand.
- Building needs to be stopped until the school places, roads etc. are sorted out.

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- Infrastructure needs sorting out prior to the proposed building.
- What happened to the Medical Hub in Maldon
- New school was supposed to be part of the new development currently being built in Maldon.

20-21/146 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 12th April 2021 (as 5th April is Easter Monday) at 6.30 p.m. and it will be held virtually.
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20-21/147 ALL BUSINESS HAVING BEEN TRANSACTED – THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CLOSED AT 7.50 P.M. & THE CHAIR THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING.