

MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD on Monday 1st April 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Cllr A Snowdon, Cllr R Moull, Cllr Mrs C Faulkner & Cllr Nick Kelly

In attendance: Mrs. S Sayer (Clerk)

Members of the public: 4

Cllr Snowdon welcomed everyone present to the meeting starting promptly at 7 p.m.

19-20/001 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Adrian Fluker sent his apologies due to a family matter.

19-20/002 – DECLARTIONS OF INTEREST

Members made the usual declaration that all members live and/or work in the District and declared a global declaration. No other declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

19-20/003 - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the 4th March were approved & signed. Proposed: Cllr Moull and Seconded by Cllr Falkner, the minutes were – **AGREED** and signed by the Chair.

19-20/004 - QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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.

- Concerns were raised over various road signs that have been broken for some period of time.
- David Hall was renewing the timber on the planter at the base of the Asheldham Village Sign.
- Colin Cooper informed those present that the Asheldham notice board had been renovated.
- It was mentioned that the area where the Asheldham Village sign is located is very boggy, much more so than in previous years and it has been reported to ECC Highways to see if they can do anything to improve this problem. ECC anticipated that the cause could be a blocked gully and the water is backing up and flooding the grass verge area making it soggy and that if the gully is jet hosed it will rectify the problem. Residents are not convinced that this is the cause.
- Problems occurred with the vegetation by the pig field that was leaning into the road and causing a health and safety problem. Mr. Hall jnr returned with a chain saw and cut what needed to be cut, and left the trimmings on the verge and some on the green.
- A reminder that the next litter pick was to take place on Saturday 6th April 2019.

SIGNED.....

CHAIR

ASHELDHAM & DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

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- It was mentioned that “The Bund” looked like it was increasing in size and was even protruding half way across the gate that has been installed on the stretch of land that is owned by the Parish Council and is not an entrance.
- Enforcement has been notified about the building on the corner of New Hall Road. Cllr Andrew Snowdon to let the Clerk have the reference number as he has notified MDC enforcement tea.
- Members were informed that if they were in doubt about the completion of the nomination forms to call Maldon District Council.

19-20/005 - .HIGHWAY & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ISSUES

- i) Update regarding correspondence with ECC in regard to lower 30mph limit from triangle/bennet junction with Tillingham Road (B1021) and Foxall Road to 20mph through the Asheldham Bends. – **Clerk informed members that a request needs to be made to the Local Highways Panel to implement this speed limit. AGREED**
- ii) Update regarding correspondence with Tillingham Parish Council as to whether they will jointly support Asheldham and Dengie Parish council in seeking a 40mph limit from Reddings Lane junction to the current 40mph limit in situ. **Clerk informed members that will not get an answer until after Tillingham Parish Council’s next meeting on 16th April 2019. NOTED**

19-20/006 -PLANNING MATTERS

No planning applications to review at this meeting.

- a) **Correspondence received over the course of the month and circulated via e-mail:**
 - i. List of planning applications 10/11/12/13 - **NOTED**
 - ii. List of planning decisions and appeals 10/11/12/13 - **NOTED**
 - iii. Letter sent by Burnham On Crouch Town Council and reply from MDC, Members’ to note and decide whether to make a comment regarding this Correspondence. **No comments were made concerning this as the Chairman informed members and the public that no decisions could be made whilst in “Purdah”**
- b) **Planning enforcement updates**
 - i. Update on correspondence with the Enforcement team requesting more details of exactly what they are enforcing and the anticipated time this will take as it has already been 2 years. Caravans etc – Land east of bungalow – 16/00421/CU **Clerk informed members that no response had been received to date and would chase again. NOTED**

19-20/007- FINANCE

- a) Members received financial information, reviewed and signed off reconciliation to end of March 2019. **AGREED**
- b) Members approved payments for April 2019 and signed off the excel sheet.

Bank reconciliation signed off and agreed to the bank statements as follows:-

		£
BANK	31/03/2019	
	Community account no. 80925519	£985.22
	Business Premium account no. 80950459	£4,267.58
	<u>Bank Account Total</u>	£5,252.80
<u>Income 2018/19</u>		
	Balance carried forward 1st April 2018	£3,081.35
	Precept	£5,714.00
	VAT refund	£108.83
	Bank Interest	£10.29
	William Ayletts money (Asheldham & Dengie)	£66.50
	EALC Training Bursary 75% reimbursement	£277.50
	G&B Finch Donation - Defibrillator Project	£800.00
	Total income 2018/19	£10,058.47
	Less un-cleared receipts	£0.00
<u>Expenditure 2018/19</u>	Payments cleared up to and including 31/03/2019	£4,804.53
	difference to find?	-£1.14
<u>Bank Balance</u>	<u>income less expenditure as at</u>	£5,252.80
	Cash book balance	£5,252.80
	No un-cleared payments	£0.00
	Actual cash book balance as at 31/3/2019	£5,252.80
LESS	RESERVES	
	Election expenses	-£1,000.00
	Remaining usable funds.	£4,252.80

19-20/008 - DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Faulkner and Cllr Moull attended the AGM at Tillingham Parish Council where a presentation was given by John Cleary a First Responder regarding the benefits of having a Defibrillator for residents to access in an emergency. All was very positive and Cllr Faulkner to give Clerk John Cleary's details to contact him and find out the best deal available as he indicated that he would be able to supply and fit at a lower

price that has been quoted. Also they would check after each use and possibly have access to a fully qualified electrician. It was **AGREED** that Clerk to get further information and a decision is to be made at the next meeting if all members happy with the quotes.

19-20/009 - MAY ELECTIONS

A discussion took place as to some problems that were encountered at MDC regarding the checking of the papers, some people were told they had to make appointments, whilst all the paperwork indicated that there was a drop in and check facility between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Any problems anyone was encountering with the completion of the papers, Cllr Snowdon advised to call MDC.

19-20/010 - REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

No report available

19-20/0011 – MDC CORPORATE PLAN – 2019-2023

19-20/012- VILLAGE BEACON

- Clerk awaiting response from Insurance Company as to value that other PC's have put down on their insurances.
 - Need to establish if go ahead where would the Beacon be installed.
 - Cost of a new or slightly used pole
 - How would the heavy metal basket be fitted to the pole
 - How far in the ground would the pole need to be to ensure stability.
 - Perhaps liaison with Tillingham and St. Lawrence Parish Councils would be helpful to see what they have in place for their Village Beacon.
- Clerk to accumulate as much information as possible before the next meeting.**
- AGREED.

19-20/013 -DENGIE VILLAGE SIGN PROJECT

Cllr Andrew Snowdon informed those present that he is the Chairman of the Dengie Village Sign project and the following had been established:-

- Cost – approximately £3500
- Design has been loosely discussed
- Possible location of the sign – ECC Verge opposite the Bennet Junction/triangle but was ruled out at that time as there were various services underneath it. Various attempts to register the land had also been made with the Land Registry but without much success.
- Meetings of the current committee members have been attempted on 2-3 separate occasions but without any luck.
- The committee do not want the Parish Council to take over the project as they would like to complete the project.
- Cllr Snowdon is happy to carry on in his capacity as Chair of the Dengie Village Sign Committee and will try and get the members together for a meeting.
- It was suggested that it is taken off the Parish Council meeting Agenda until such time there is some further to report.

Clerk to take off the Agenda until update received. AGREED

19-20/014 - SECOND PUBLIC FORUM

No items were raised at this point by members of the public.

19-20/015 – AUDIO RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- A discussion took place regarding recording the Parish Council meetings and then webcast onto the website.
- The reason given for this is that the minutes were not considered to be full enough even though it was understood that parish council minutes are not “verbatim” (word for word) or only an “aide memoire” (a memory aid).
- It was stated that it was hard to follow the minutes as to what actually had happened while unable to attend due to ill health and that another person felt the same, when asked who, it was stated that he could not say due to “Purdah” (describes the period of time immediately before elections or referendums when specific restrictions on communications activity are in place)
- The Clerk reiterated that the minutes were not a verbatim account and in fact were more detailed than should be, as the Agenda should be the detailed document and the minutes should just be a recording of the decision e.g. “It was resolved etc. etc. etc. Not a “he said, she said” account.
- The member then stated that the minutes were not full enough and that other Parish Councils do minutes that are fuller and better. The Clerk then asked the Chair if he was claiming that the minutes were inaccurate.
- Members were not keen on the idea of being recorded as it was felt that much of the banter that was had, would be lost and along with it vital local information.
- However, a decision was not made as it was suggested that this item be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Clerk to place on Agenda for the 13th May 2019 meeting. AGREED

19-20/016 - CORRESPONDENCE – No decisions can be made under this heading

There was no additional correspondence other than that has already been circulated via email during the course of the month. – **NOTED**

19-20/017 - EXTERNAL MEETINGS

No other meetings attended other than Tillingham AGM which has already been reported on under the heading of Defibrillator.

19-20/018 - INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

An opportunity for members to raise any items they wish to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

FP4 Way markers propped in hedge – needs

19-20/019 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held Monday 13th May 2019 at 7 p.m. which is the Parish Council AGM and will be followed by the Parish Assembly at 8 p.m. followed by the usual refreshments.

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm and Cllr Snowdon thanked everyone present for attending.

SIGNED.....

CHAIR

ASHELDHAM & DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

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