

**MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD on Monday 2nd September 2019 at 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Cllr Mrs C Faulkner, Cllr Nick Kelly & Cllr Lisa Brown

In attendance: Mrs. S Sayer (Clerk)

Members of the public: 20

The “Declaration of Acceptance of Office” was signed by Adrian Fluker and Sally Russell and witnessed by the Clerk. Newly appointed Cllr(s) Fluker & Russell joined the other members to take part in the meeting.

Cllr Faulkner welcomed everyone present to the meeting at 7.05 and due to the evenings closing in it was decided to close the meeting at 7.06 p.m. and proceed outside of the hall into the Village Hall Car Park and raise the “Red Ensign”. Cllr Fluker said a few words to mark the occasion of commemorating the annual anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War but also the day that the SS Athenia was torpedoed just a few hours after hostilities were declared and the loss of 128 passengers and crew, although many hundreds of merchant ships and thousands of seafarers lost their lives, 3rd September became enshrined as “Merchant Navy Day”. and the “Red Ensign” was raised in readiness, and the meeting was re-opened at 7.11 p.m.

Clerk requested all members to consider adding in as an Agenda item Planning Application reference no:19/00863/house PP-08070825. All members agreed to include for decision.

19-20/064 – APOLOGIES

- District Councillor Dewick

19-20/065 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Cllr Lisa Brown declared an interest on planning application 19/00857 – no other declarations were made at this point in the meeting other than the usually global declaration that all members live in the village(s)
- b) Members noted that it was their responsibility to register any changes in their Register of Interests on the Maldon District Council website.

19-20/066 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(S)

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2019 were proposed by Cllr Fluker and seconded by Cllr Faulkner. **RESOLVED.**
- b) The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019 were proposed by Cllr Faulkner and seconded by Cllr Kelly. **RESOLVED.**
- c) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July were proposed by: Cllr Faulkner and seconded by: Cllr Brown. **RESOLVED.**

19-20/067 - ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members discussed and **RESOLVED** the following:-

- a) Finance – Cllr Faulkner
- b) Transport – Cllr Faulkner
- c) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils (DHGPC) – Cllr Faulkner
- d) Bradwell Power Station Local Community Liaison Committee (LCLC) – Cllr Fluker.
- e) Police – Cllr Brown
- f) Tree Warden – Mrs J Griffiths
- g) Footpaths – Cllr Brown
- h) Asheldham Quarry Liaison Committee (AQLC) – Cllrs Fluker, Kelly & Russell.

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- i) Highways – All members & Parish Clerk.
- j) Personnel Committee (requires 3 people) – Cllrs Kelly, Russell & Brown.

19-20/068 – QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The points raised were as follows:-

- A request was made for all members to speak louder, for those members of the public finding it harder to hear.
- Chair of the Asheldham Resident's Group spoke about getting improved speed monitoring in Asheldham and had spoken to Adrian Rayner of the Community Protection Team who deals with speeding (TruCam) as well as, dog fouling, fly tipping etc. The police have to approve the site for health and safety, and there is a back log. The request was made for the Parish Council to join with ARG to spread the surveillance more widely. Clerk to add to the budget that will be presented at the October meeting.
- An adhoc litter pick took place and 6-7 bags of rubbish were collected. Cllr Faulkner said she would do the Green Lane area.
- Someone went through some fly tipping in Cripplegate and found a document with an address in Rayleigh, this was followed up by MDC Waste Management Team who issued a "Penalty Notice" which was ignored, so the next step is legal prosecution.
- ARG cut away vegetation concealing Asheldham road sign.
- The diversion in place has caused a resident great displeasure and wondered if a reduction on the council tax was possible. Advice was given that MDC would be the one to contact concerning a reduction in the council tax, but as the diversion was put in place by ECC it would be better to contact Essex County Council directly requesting compensation.
- The blocked gullies in Southminster Road and Hall Road have been sluiced. Moor Hill gullies said to be packed. Clerk to send email to Southminster Parish Clerk.

19-20/069 – ESSEXINFO.NET WEBSITE CLOSING 31/03/2020

Clerk informed members that an email had been received stating that the Essexinfo.net website would be closing effect 31st March 2020. Clerk had acquired one quote for the set-up of a new website from a local company called Dengietech Ltd. Clerk had also spoken to a local resident who also has his own Tech company and who is in the process of setting up a website FOC for Dengie Village Hall and kindly offered to consult on this project and would look into the possibility of Essexinfo continuing to avoid all the Parish Councils currently using Essexinfo having to change. Clerk to provide contact details for EALC to local resident who is offering to consult. Althorne PC using "Wordpress" system and no response from Tillingham PC. Clerk to date
It was **RESOLVED** to research further and bring findings to October meeting and any costs involved can be included & considered as part of next year's budget.

19-20/070 – HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ISSUES

- a) Clerk informed those present that a new Local Highways Panel request form had been sent which now needed to be completed and then signed off by the Essex County Council Representative – Ron Pratt to request the 30mph limit from triangle/bennet junction with Tillingham Road (B1021) and Foxhall Road to 20 mph through the Asheldham Bends. It was **RESOLVED** to continue with this request.

- b) Clerk informed members that the original reason for Tillingham Village Council not to have supported a speed reduction along the Dengie Straight was due to the lack of a police presence to enforce it. Clerk had not pursued the question again with Tillingham Village Council now that it had different members and Cllr Fluker requested that this be done. **ACTION: CLERK TO WRITE AGAIN.**
- c) Cllr Brown, had kindly volunteered to have the pallet of 1 tonne of salt delivered to her property. Clerk informed members the salt had been ordered.
- d) Question of purchasing salt bins – deferred until October meeting. Clerk to ascertain if ECC Highways may supply some free of charge.
- e) Cllr Fluker looked into the temporary 7.5 tonne environmental weight restriction and established that it was to bring gas to Dengie Crops Ltd in Asheldham. Cllr Faulkner stated that she was approached to attend a meeting regarding the 7.5 tonne restriction/diversion but was informed that Cllr Fluker and Cllr Dewick were sent invites from Highways to attend but did not receive them and she was told she did not need to attend.

19-20/071 – PLANNING MATTERS

a)

i) **Application No: 19/00680/FUL PP-07806278**

Proposal: Section 73A application to change the use of three holiday lettings to three residential units

Location: East Ware Farm Bridge Wick Lane Dengie Essex

Deadline for comments to MDC by 11th September 2019.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to this planning application subject to section 25 of the Localism act 2011. The application is not within the village envelope and there are no policies to allow for residential units in the area. This application is not sustainable.

Proposed: Cllr Fluker and Seconded by all members.

ii) **Application No: 19/00857/FUL PP-07670148**

Proposal: Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and erection of garage and garden store

Location: 3 East Ware Cottages Bridge Wick Lane Dengie Essex

Deadline for comments to MDC by 17th September 2019.

It was **RESOLVED** to support this planning application subject to be ancillary to the property.

iii) **Applicaton No. 19/00863/HOUSE PP-08070825**

Proposal: 2 Brook Lane, Ashelhdam, Essex. CM0 7DY

Demolition of existing single storey car port/store and erection of new single storey annex. First Floor extension over existing single storey kitchen wing and additional surface parking.

It was **RESOLVED** to support this application as it is a better use of the space.

b) **Correspondence received over the course of the month and circulated via e-mail:**

- i. List of planning applications 27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34 – **NOTED.**
- ii List of planning decisions and appeals 27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34 -

NOTED

c) **Planning enforcement updates**

It was **RESOLVED**, that the clerk write to Richard Holmes at MDC who is

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Director of Service Delivery, attaching the email trail complaining about The lack of response and information given regarding the enforcement on the use of Land east of bungalow – Planning Ref:16/00421/CU

- d) **Update regarding request of the Dengie Hundred Grp of Parish Councils.**
Letter was sent as per agenda item 19-20/052-c).

19-20/72 - FINANCE

- a) Members reviewed the payments for August & September 2019 - **AGREED**
b) Members reviewed and signed off the Barclays bank statements to the bank reconciliation. **RESOLVED**
c) Clerk informed members that a request for a new mandate had been made and it was **RESOLVED** that all members are giving signing rights on the bank account, so that it would make life easier if members were unable to attend a meeting (2 out of five to sign) bank permitting, however, cheques are used very little and most of the banking is conducted online. The Clerk also informed those present that Cllr Fluker was still on the mandate.

19-20/73 - DEFIBRILLATOR PROJECT

- a) Clerk stated that all requests had been sent and the majority had been received, there were just a couple to chase.
b) Clerk informed members that John Cleary from First Responders had said that the equipment they were waiting for to be approved was still not ready, however, another machine was available, and this machine can continue to administer CPR whilst the machine is analysing and has a faster shock ability and gives a bigger charge. John Cleary said this is a crucial as many machines have you have to stop giving CPR whilst it analyses and can be detrimental to the patient. It was **RESOLVED** that the Defibrillator and cabinet are ordered with the First Responders discount code. Proposed: Cllr Faulkner seconded by all members.
c) Clerk to contact electrician for a quote now model has been agreed.
d) Decision regarding a plaque dedicated to those people who have donated was deferred until such time the machine had been installed and then write to all those who generously donated to see if they are happy with a plaque.

Question of security of the cabinet was raised. Village Hall Committee to look into the insurance required for theft/damage and this will be reimbursed by the Parish Council.

19-20/74 - REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- a) Cllr Adrian Fluker covered the following:-
- New Moor Farm was refused at appeal.
 - Southminster Medical Centre is full.
 - Letter on Tillingham Village website written by one of the GP's been requested to reword their letter.
 - MOG – Maldon Operational Group who are looking into the delivery of a hospital in Maldon. There were six potential sites which have now been reduced to 2 potential sites in Maldon. Aim to provide healthcare for NH England and Clinical Commissioning Group however, got to prove it is necessary.
 - LDP – North Heybridge (garden suburb) stalled as there is issues with flooding. MDC decided not to defend appeal.
 - Maldon District Council transformation concludes on 31st October and £1.8m savings per annum which means MDC will be sustainable and not need to merge with another organisation.

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- Talked of a possible move from current Council Offices as now there has been a 22% reduction in employees, the space required has also reduced. It is a large & valuable site and is costing £600,000 a year to run and maintain, this figure does not include the staffing costs.
- 20mph speed limited are being looked into as MDC been approached by several Councils as there is issues with air quality and EU rates are lower than UK rates.
- Reminder was given to return the registration forms for the electoral register, as chasing people costs money.
- Interesting things happening about waste and fuel, and everything will be mitigated as much as possible in order not to affect residents.
- It is expected there will be General Election between now and May 2020.
- Information given that District Council are looking for polling station/count staff for elections and it is a good rate of pay.

19-20/75 - VILLAGE BEACON

- a) Clerk informed members that no further progress had been made in regard to the Village Beacon, but would ensure information is collated before the next meeting so that the members can make an informed decision in regard to whether to pursue this project or not.

19-20/76 - SECOND PUBLIC FORUM

- Member of the public sought clarification on approved planning application ref: 19/00453 as originally applied for two buildings on site which was refused. It was confirmed that it has only been approved for one building and an annex. Also it was stated that this planning application had a condition attached pertaining to the lowering of the bund and it was further stated that it looked like the landowner was, in fact lowering the bund.
- It was stated that there is a notice along the Dengie Straight that is very dangerous and needs removing, it is actually in Tillingham Parish. Clerk to request removal of this sign to ground level in the interest of Health and Safety, but in the meanwhile get it cordoned off and loop in Tillingham Village Council Clerk.
- It was also mentioned that there had been a nasty accident between Reddings Lane and Tillingham where a range rover ended up in a ditch. It is considered to be a high risk area. Clerk to confirm the date of the accident and note it as information that can back up the implementation of the reduction in speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on the Dengie Straight. Local resident and Clerk to Liaise.
It was suggested that ECC Highways be approached about implementing this speed limit along the Dengie Straight rather than go through the Highway Panel as this stretch of road has proven to be very dangerous.
Proposed: Cllr Fluker Seconded: Cllr Faulkner.
- A member of the public also mentioned that Friends of Southminster Community Open Spaces, will not litter pick on roads that do not have speed limits and the rubbish along Moor Hill is not good.
MDC employ Appletons to litter pick on every road, not necessarily back roads.

19-20/77 - AUDIO RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a) It was **RESOLVED** not to implement the recording of the Parish Council meetings:
Proposed: Cllr Fluker and Seconded: By all members. Item to be taken off the agenda.

19-20/78 - TRAINING

- a) The training given by Joy Darby from EALC that took place in Dengie Village Hall on Thursday 15th August in conjunction with the New Councillors of Mundon Parish Council was considered to be very helpful
- b) No further training was discussed at this time, but Cllr Faulkner is booked on the Chairman's Training in October.

19-20/79 –LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

- a) It was stated that EALC had looked at the Asheldham and Dengie Parish Council website and said that there would be very little work needed to bring it up to Foundation Level Award. The Parish had already held Quality Status. Clerk to ascertain the cost of pursuing this project and bring back to next meeting and include in the precept/budget for 2020/21.

19-20/80 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – POPPY WREATH/VE DAY 8TH MAY 2020

- a) Clerk informed members that a 17 in Poppy Wreath would cost £17.00, plus a ribbon £2.25. Cllr Fluker requested that this expense was added to the budget which will be presented at the October meeting. Clerk also mentioned that many other Parish councils also donate another £20.00 to the Royal British Legion
- b) Brief discussions regarding the VE Day celebrations planned for 8th May 2020, took place and it was agreed that the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee would work together to provide a celebration in the community.

19-20/81 - CORRESPONDENCE

- a) There was no other correspondence other those items that were already an agenda item.

19-20/82 - EXTERNAL MEETINGS

- Cllr Fluker attended the latest Bradwell B meeting and generally this project is moving very quickly and it is estimated that the Chinese will break ground in 5 years' time. Two reactors will be built in stage one. It was stated that it is likely that a village will be constructed for workers, with shops etc.
- The Traffic Consultation will be publicised. Any non-classified roads on the route they will be looking at classifying. Latchingdon through to Bradwell.
- Essex Association of Local Councils AGM to be held on 19th September, all members and the Clerk invited to attend.

19-20/83 - INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

No additional items were raised.

19-20/84 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING –

- a) The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th October 2019 at 7 p.m.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to move the November meeting from 4th to 11th November as the Clerk will be on holiday.

At this point in the meeting a question was asked by a member of the public relating to a rumour that he had heard regarding Barking Council buying up houses in the district – a short discussion took place, but it was clearly stated that unfortunately Maldon District Council has no control over who is buying private stock. Local Social Housing comes with the criteria – local people first.

19-20/85 – All business having been transacted. The meeting closed at 9.02 p.m. and The Chair thanked everyone for coming and invited them to join the members for some refreshments.

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