

**MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD on  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 6.30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Present:** - Cllr Carole Faulkner Cllr Nick Kelly, Cllr Lisa Brown, Cllr Sally Russell & Cllr David Henson  
County Cllr Ron Pratt also attended.

**In attendance:** Mrs. S Sayer (Clerk)

**Members of the public:** 8

**Mr Henson had signed the Acceptance of Office form and emailed to the Parish Clerk who acknowledged receipt and confirmed that all was in order for him to join the meeting.**

**20-21/115 (a) - CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair welcomed everyone present and wished everyone Happy New Year.

**20-21/116 - APOLOGIES**

No apologies at this time.

**20-21/117-DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Cllr Henson declared an interest in Agenda items 20-2021/123 items (b) and (d) & 20-2021/126.  
Cllr Brown declared an interest in Agenda items 20-2021/121.  
A global declaration was made in regards to dealings with G&B Finch.
- b) Members noted that it was their responsibility to register any changes in their Register of Interests on the Maldon District Council website.

Chair made an apology to Mr. Snowdon for not having mentioned him during the course of the last meeting when the co-option of the Parish Councillor was made and thanked him for his time.

**20-21/118- MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(S)**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were proposed by Cllr Faulkner and seconded by Cllr Russell. **RESOLVED**

**20-21/119 – QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – FIRST SESSION**

- Mr. Cooper stated he would wait until the second public forum.
- Mrs Moull had some news about the Village Sign and had been on the phone discussing the sign with the same company that produced Asheldham's Village Sign.
- Materials were discussed, and cast aluminium is considered best and not to have wood due to the cracking.
- They would sketch a couple of designs and rearrange until agreed a final version in colour which would cost £150.00 but that would be refunded if an order was made with them.
- Single sided sign will be £5070 and doubled would be £5520.
- They have a waiting list of 12-15 months.

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- Need to raise money through grants and local businesses, but difficult at the current time.
- Everyone was asked if they had any ideas of what put on the sign
- It was mentioned that it is a farming community and felt that it was also important to depict the church. Possibly a tractor at the top and underneath that the word Dengie and underneath that, if it is a shield shape, the picture in the middle would be the biggest and perhaps have the church and in the other two spaces, a barn owl and as we are farming community a sheaf of corn or picture of a farming field.
- When Asheldham sign was being done the price was considerably lower than quoted now, but probably as person not operating as he did before. The material was cast aluminium and managed to get funds from Community Initiatives Fund. There is Essex Environment Trust and Essex Community Fund and Magnox are still doing funding up to £1000. The Dengie Village Sign file is with Mr. Snowdon.
- All the paperwork needs to be in place to get the funding and most funders require 3 quotes. The information obtained can be used to get other quotes from other companies for comparison.
- Mr Mee – noted that he was interested in FP10 which is item 20-21/120 and will make comment in second public forum.

#### **20-21/120 – HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ISSUES**

- i) The application has been sent to CC Ron Pratt but Clerk not sure whether he had received it or not. Clerk to check and follow up.
- ii) It was stated in regard to the kerbing work, that they have made a bad problem worse. Clerk has been emailing but not getting any response, texts been sent to supervisor and John Cormack who went off with Covid and another had been sent not received anything back. Cllr Pratt came in at this point with agreement from everyone. Cllr Pratt stated that all information sent by Clerk was sent off to Cllr Bentley who was unaware and very shocked. Cllr Pratt has taken pictures and shown to Cllr Bentley.
- Cllr Pratt stated that we need to say how the situation has been made worse. Itemised list.
  - He questioned as to where the bollards have come from and it was stated that Mrs Anderson has put them in and will be putting them in all the way around the corner as they have been told by their surveyor that Highways only own 300 mm and the kerbs that have been put around the corner by highways butt up to their land.
  - Cllr Pratt stated that highways would usually need approve or the planning authority to approve as it is a large addition which due to highway safety would need to be approved by them to ensure the highway is safe.
  - Cllr Pratt will ascertain some dates for a meeting to happen between the Parish Council members and Cllr Kevin Bentley and some residents and have all the paperwork relating to Homelands and the Bund available.
  - The land was offered via a S106 agreement and the County Council said they did not want it. It was mentioned that the S106 agreement was still there and to let them know what they want them to do.
  - The gate coming out of the Homelands property, which has also been mentioned recently as it was thought to have suddenly appeared was confirmed by Mrs Anderson to

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have been there since 1978 and she has the paperwork to back this up. When ECC Highways put in the path along the grass verge with the notice board and post box on, they neglected to put in a drop kerb at that point. It is a right of way off the field and Children use to cut through there to get to the school bus.

- Cllr Pratt to call Clerk regarding dates for a meeting with the portfolio holder to try and resolve some of the issues. A list to be made of items to be discussed together with the paperwork.
- Mrs Anderson further stated that there has never had a footpath on that corner.
- Clerk to liaise with all parties regarding the meeting and to make sure copies of the paperwork.

iii) No news from ECC regarding the state of the pavement from Rushes Lane to Bend opposite the "The Rest". Clerk has taken more photographs and sent off.

iv) In view of all the recent information received regarding the bund the Local Highways panel project to install a pavement from opposite Brook Lane to join up with the existing pavement opposite "Sandlings" was now not possible.

The Clerk referred to "Bad Workmanship" and Cllr Pratt requested what was actually meant by that remark. Rather than "Bad Workmanship" it was felt that there was a fundamental problem with the design. It looks like soil has been put at the back of the kerbing and the HGV's will churn it up and spill it all over the road so it was agreed that the design was flawed. It was stated that is you use high retaining kerbing the HGV's will not get passed.

Cllr Pratt referred to a place in Latchingdon where the high kerbing was used and had to be taken out as it was causing problems.

It was further stated that it did look like bad workmanship as it certainly looked like the kerbing was not held in with anything substantial other than top soil.

There are also issues on the opposite verge to Homelands – two lorries not able to pass and therefore went up on the soil verge and breaking the fence and vegetation. Both side of the road have major issues.

It was suggested that traffic lights were put in like those at Cold Norton over the bridge. This will continue as all the lorries are getting bigger and will carry on as the licence for G&B Finch has a few years to go and Dengie Crops vehicles use this route.

£1000 locality fund – please make sure you use. Cllr Pratt left at this point in the meeting.

- v) Clerk read out an email saying that ECC have it in hand and no amenity has been lost. ECC are looking at options at the present time.
- vi) Cllr Faulkner stated that she would attend the meeting at Stow Maries Parish council in relation to the South Woodham Ferrers infrastructure. Huge concerns that the current plan does not have a by-pass and the Sainsbury roundabout is already causing problems. Many Parish Councils have written and it is all falling on deaf ears. Other Members will try and join the meeting too.
- vii) Problems raised in Green Lanes/Foxall Road, with the many potholes at the side of the road and big dips and the traffic is travelling too fast and wondered if could join forces with Steeple PC and Southminster PC to try and get the speed limit reduced. Trees are dying along the road, and was told once that have TPO's (Tree preservation Orders) on them. Not heard

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anything from Southminster or Steeple as yet. Clerk to speak to tree officer as to whether under a TPO.

It was reiterated that this shows that ECC Highways are not doing the roads properly as work was only carried out in the summer.

**20-21-121 PROBLEMS OF PARKING ON GRASS VERGE ON SOUTHMINSTER ROAD/INSTALLATION OF BUSINESS SIGN.**

- i) Cllr Henson measured the verge in reference to the planters, but concerns were raised that they could be moved. A local company can supply and install permanent bollards using reclaimed telegraph poles— a row of 50 all the way along can be done for £745. ECC licence requires a drawing showing exactly what and where.

Mr Cooper came in and stated that a resident had offered timber to make planters. Need to clarify with the resident how much timber is available.

Question was raised to do a blanket licence, but details of how many and what size they will be are still required.

Clerk to put in licence for a number of planters. Cllr Henson to measure to let Clerk know how many planters will be required. Also need to ensure that the Homelands gateway is not blocked.

- ii) Business Sign - Clerk circulated the email from Olive Porter at ECC Highways and now Cllr Brown will do with planning.

**20-21/122 – REVIEW CO-OPTION POLICY**

- i) Clerk explained that a resident has raised an issue with the Co-option process and item 13 in the policy was read and understood by the Clerk to mean something different to the resident. Therefore Item 13 in the policy was going to be reworded to make it clear. However there is a workshop coming up on Co-option policy and if in agreement would suggest that Clerk attends this course in order to get the most up to date policy information before reviewing the current policy. **AGREED**

**20-21/123 PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) Planning Application(s)- No planning applications at the time of writing  
b) Planning Decision(s) -

**FUL/MAL/20/00993 Asheldham**

Section 73A application for 5No. static caravans and 1No. touring caravan for a temporary period of 12 months while construction of house is completed. Homelands Southminster Road Asheldham Essex (UPRN – 010000237133) REFUSED for the following reasons:-

The development proposed is visually incongruous in its rural setting and harms the character and appearance of the area. It is considered there is insufficient justification for this harm to be permitted to continue, even for a temporary period and is contrary to Policies S8, H4 and D1 of the approved Maldon District Local Development Plan and the NPPF. Dated: 15-1-202 - NOTED

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

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- i) List of planning applications – 50-52 and 2021 1-4 - NOTED
- ii) List of planning decisions and appeals – 50-52 and 2021 1-4 - NOTED

d) i) To note a letter that has been received from Enforcement in the Planning Department regarding the case against Homelands stating that they will let us know if there is any news.

ii) No update available regarding new enforcement requested regarding the decision notice on application reference: FUL/MAL/20/00766 Asheldham and the non-adherence pertaining to the entrance.

iv) Enforcement regarding the gate is no longer a Parish Council issue as the land belongs to ECC and Homelands owners have paperwork to prove this entrance has been in situ since 1978.

e) APP/X1545/20/3260695 originally MDC planning reference 20/00352/FUL PP08612646 – 9 houses was refused by MDC and about 27 people have objected and it was felt that no more traffic was needed and the schools can not cope. Traffic will be coming out on the bend. No comments to be made just to make everyone aware.

#### **20-21/124 – FINANCE**

- a) Members approved the payments for January and February 2021. **RESOLVED.** Chair requested that the Clerk make sure to keep track of any additional hours. Clerk talked members through the finance spreadsheet.
- b) Members agreed the bank reconciliation with the cash book as at the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- c) Precept has been put in and acknowledged in the amount of £6185.00.

#### **20-21/125- REPORT FROM DISTRICT** -No report available.

#### **20-21/126 – G&B Finch Quarry Liaison Committee Meetings/Lighting Pollution**

- a) Cllr Faulkner to represent the Council. Mr. Cooper stated that Mr. Richard Thick is considering representing the residents and if not Mr. Cooper said he would do it. Copy of the paperwork relating to history of the quarry to be sent onto members so fully informed before attending the spring meeting.

#### **20-21/127 TRAINING**

- a) Members **AGREED** for the Clerk to attend Co-options and Elections training at £70.00 and Financial Regulations at £70.00. If a bursary is granted the Parish will received 75% of the cost back making the cost only £30.00 each course and this would be split between the 3 parishes. Proposed: Cllr Faulkner Seconded Cllr Brown.

#### **20-21/128 – QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- Mr Mee talked about FP10 which has been a long ongoing saga and affects him as the plan shows that the footpath goes through his field and no-one in living memory has walked through my field, whilst there is a remnant of a stile.
- A debate with Roy Read and Nicky Chapman from the Council has taken place.

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- When the footbridge was installed on the North corner of his field, when that happened he was informed that the footpath had been moved to go where the FP takes you and down to Keelings Road.
- He made an application in 2004 to have the FP moved and 2008 was informed that it had been officially moved.
- It has come about in the last 18 months that the plans are showing the FP still his side of the hedge. Mr. Mee can not get to the bottom of as it was denied that an application was ever made and Mr. Mee is looking for support that the FP should be officially moved to the other side of the hedge as that has been walked for years. Mrs Moull agreed with Mr. Mee and happy to support that the path has been walked for the last 20 years in the position that it is used.
- Ramblers have agreed to have it transferred.
- There is a form complete and if people give Mr. Mee their names, all the paperwork can be sent off to the Highways PROW Dept.
- ARG has been corresponding with our MP and Cllr Kevin Bentley about various issues concerning Asheldham and copying in the PC on all of it. The postponement of resurfacing, drains, flooding, pot holes and missing signs. Received answers day of the meeting.
- Would like to see the reports of the inspection of the drainage situation and the Asheldham Brook Bridge, Clerk had also requested the report.
- If the bridge has to be rebuilt could be a major problem for access to Southminster. Clerk to send another email and copy in Cllr Pratt.
- Environmental weight limits as opposed to structural weight limits and need to get to the bottom of that. Could use this to our advantage regarding the weight and size of lorries going through the village.
- Clerk to speak to Cllr Pratt in relation to the Environmental/Structural weight limits
- Regarding the Dengie Village Sign – do we know where the post is going? In order to get a licence need to know where post is going. Village Hall offered it can go on there. Talked about the triangle at the top of Manor Road and the grass verge opposite the triangle, but concerns were raised whether it could go far enough back. Clerk to make some enquiries. Mrs Moull to carry on and get post/drawings underway and get a proforma invoice.
- A Beautiful shed has now been installed behind the village hall.
- The flag pole blew over in the wind and Mr. Moull has repaired it and it is now in the shed and the flag just needs a couple of stitches. Vote of thanks given to Mr and Mrs Moull.
- Bennet Triangle can not be used – can only have one post on Bennet junction.
- The problem with the verge on the other side was vehicular access.
- FP10, the last bit is a very recent ad hoc route.
- The gate on the official is still locked.
- Question was raised if the gate if near to a building. NFU has sent out posters saying that if there are any footpaths going close to residents at the moment they can be diverted.
- Must be a very recent thing as residents in Burham got threatened with legal action.
- Removal of finger posts has been physically lifted out which would have taken a machine and ECC are aware of that and the same way that the path markers have been removed to try and get the path moved. ECC and PC now aware of it.
- It was further stated that all the finger post and markers have been re-instated. Chair requested everyone to keep the members in the loop and hoped that ECC get this situation sorted out as soon as possible.
- Clerk stated that the Parish Council will be consulted on the diversion of a footpath with a plan.

**20-21/129 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING –**

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- a) The next meeting will be held on Monday 1st March 2021 at 6.30 p.m. and will be virtual.

**20-21/130**—All business having been transacted, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting and to keep safe and well and look after each other.