

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th. May 2023 at 6.50pm in Dengie village hall

Present: Cllrs L. Brown, R. Griffiths, S. Russell, A. Snowdon and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk).
 There were also 6 members of the public present

078/2023 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

079/2023 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp and MDC Cllr M. Neall

080/2023 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda
 Cllr A. Snowdon and Cllr L. Brown declared an interest in Planning application 23/00350

081/2023 To approve the Minutes of the last Council meeting of Asheldham & Dengie PC

To receive and agree the minutes of the last A&DPC meeting held on 3rd. April 2023. **All Agreed**

082/2023 Essex County Councillors report - To receive a report from Essex County Councillor
 No further report was given

083/2023 District Councillors report - To receive a report from the District Councillor
 No report was given

084/2023 Questions from the Press and Public – First 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.

The Laurels that have been planted outside the new built bungalow opposite Hall Road may be in breach of planning permission. The fence should be 4m from the highway but it is only 2m – should be another 2m inwards with another 2m further inward. Planning permission was for Native hedge planting – laurels are not native.

Gullies are still blocked and have been regularly blocked for several years. The straw droppings from passing lorries cause a blockage in the drains.

An outstanding report on the gullies still exists from Highways.

A weight restriction on Asheldham bridge – 25 tonne limit was imposed some years ago which is now be far exceeded. Can the weight limit be investigated.

Bridlepath is overgrown

a) Election 2023 update and Co-Option information – Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that following the Elections only 4 Councillors were elected leaving a vacancy on the Council. A vacancy notice has been advertised and the closing date being 31st. May 2023 with a possible co-option at the June meeting

Cllr D. Henson proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr A. Fluker for his kind donation towards the defibrillator pads. **All Agreed**

085/2023 Asheldham Residents Group – Update from the ARG and to make any decisions necessary. A maximum time of **15 minutes** will be allowed

The supply and erection of the planters. Colin thanked all concerned for getting the planters made, erected and installed. A problem does exist in getting a water supply to keep the plants looking good. Sharon Thick and Tony Locke have both offered to supply water when needed. Volunteers to contact Colin who will liaise with Sharon and Tony.

Another 420 saplings have been delivered and a work party for clearing the area to get ready for planting will be organised

086/2023 Highway & Public Footpath Issues

To receive updates on outstanding highways issues and an opportunity for members to raise any new highways issues and make decisions accordingly.

1) Update on the Asheldham Bends Project to be reviewed by ECC Highways and the LHP Panel and make any decisions required.

A report stated that undertaking the Asheldham Bends Project is not viable. It will result in faster moving traffic and may cause a Health & Safety risk. It was agreed that a comprehensive response to this needed to be compiled and sent back to the LHP Panel and ECC Highways as well as Cllr Wendy Stamp and Cllr Neale

2) Enforcement Officer to be contacted regarding the bund to request it be removed

3) Update regarding Asheldham Brook Bridge and to make any relevant decisions.

None received

4) Update regarding FP10 and FP12 (Ref: 2752089)

No further update has been received

087/2023 Planning Application/s

23/00350/VAR - Barn Approximately 70 Metres Northwest Of Reddings Farm Reddings Lane Tillingham

Variation of condition 3 (Accommodation to be used by seasonal workers) on planning application 13/01060/FUL (Conversion of vacant farm buildings to form accommodation for agricultural farm workers. Alterations to Listed Building to enable conversion of farm buildings to form accommodation for agricultural farm workers. Renewal of application FUL/MAL/12/00112)

RESOLVED: Refuse this application

Reasons being proven nuisance to neighbours, hence the serious enforcement actions taken thus far. Very concerned that the applicants report is at odds with information in the public domain and that the business has sought to advertise and continue during the enforcement / application process.

23/00244/FULM - Land To The South Of Keelings Road Dengie Essex

Erection of a 19 MW Solar PV Array, comprising ground mounted solar PV panels, with co-located 5 MW battery energy storage system (BESS), vehicular access from Keelings Road, internal access tracks, landscaping and associated infrastructure including security fencing, CCTV cameras, and grid connection infrastructure including transformers, substation compound buildings and cabling route to the point of connection

RESOLVED: Refuse this application

The Parish Council is fully aware of the need for renewable energy, however the applicant has failed to answer properly questions raised in the Public Consultation, and the application falls far short of the details required to make a proper decision.

Having considered the application carefully, and planning guidance issued on this topic elsewhere in the country, we are concerned at the lack of information regarding construction method and noise mitigation. Proper detailed assessment of the impact of the structures within the site over the long term (effects of rain drip, large quantities of galvanised material in soil contact. A total lack of clarity on vegetation control in and around the panels, with dubious land management in the surrounding area. Gross errors on the fencing plan information and poor construction. A lack of information on the provision of water to newly planted trees (approx. 5cubic meters of water every 14 days). There is no provision for any workers on site during maintenance work in terms of wash room and toilet facilities. There is no statement on the methodology for soil management during construction or for the reinstatement at the end of the 40 year lease. Maldon already has significant renewables projects, the Dengie in particular hosting a very significant amount of wind and solar already. By the nature of the construction, this facility has foundations, and as such cannot be regarded as a temporary structure any more than one would consider many an agricultural building temporary. Part of the proposal whilst not directly a planning matter, but part of the application as such is the Community Funding, which by comparison to payment levels elsewhere for both wind and solar is derisory in extreme.

The Parish Council urges MDC to refuse this application given the amount of information lacking therein.

23/00393/HOUSE - Little Grange Rushes Lane Asheldham Southminster

Installation of dormer window

RESOLVED: Support this application

The Parish Council is satisfied that this does not alter the outline of the property and sits well within the overall design

088/2023 Planning issues affecting Asheldham & Dengie

1) **United Dengie Councils** – To receive an update. No update from UDC

Minutes for Full Council meeting on Monday 15th. May 2023 in Dengie Village Hall

089/2023 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie
Councillors noted the Planning Decisions made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie

FUL/MAL/23/00168 - Land At Asheldham Grange Barn Rushes Lane Asheldham
Erection of agricultural style barn to store tractors and farming machinery associated with the maintenance of the land. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

090/2023 Planning Appeals affecting Asheldham & Dengie. No planning appeals have been submitted

091/2023 Dengie Village Sign - To receive an update and to make any decisions necessary.
The Clerk has provided to the village hall the title plans.

092/2023 The Grass Verge - Asheldham
a) Update on the installation of the planters.
The project is complete – Remove from agenda

093/2023 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.

An increase in volume of traffic going to the solar farm will be problematic
A vehicle count in both Asheldham and Dengie villages should be undertaken

094/2023 Annual Return 2022/2023

- 1) To receive the 2022/23 signed Internal Audit Report
Councillors received and noted the 2022/23 signed Internal Audit Report
- 2) To receive and sign the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2022/23 part 2
Cllr proposed signing the Certificate of Exemption form. Cllr seconded. **All Agreed**
The Chairman and RFO then signed the Certificate of Exemption
- 3) To receive and sign the Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23
Cllr proposed signing Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23. Cllr seconded. **All Agreed**
The Chairman and Clerk then signed Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23
- 4) To receive and sign the Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2022/23
Cllr proposed signing Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2022/23. Cllr seconded. **All Agreed**
The Chairman and RFO then signed Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2022/23

095/2023 Finance

- 1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2023
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2023
- 2) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2023/24
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget 2023/24
- 3) To approve the payment of Accounts for May 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council’s financial requirements. **All Agreed**
- 4) Councillors to confirm they have completed their registration for the new Unity Trust Bank accounts. All Councillor who are UTB signatories confirmed they have logged onto the system and can authorise transactions

096/2023 Items for Next Agenda
Tarmac on Highway by planters

097/2023 Date of Next Full Council meeting – Monday 5th. June 2023 at 6.30pm

098/2023 Closure of the Meeting

To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business
The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

L. Brown

5th. June 2023

**Chairman
L. Brown**