

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th. April 2024 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall

Present: Cllrs D. Henson (Chair), L. Brown, R. Griffiths, S. Russell, A. Snowdon and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 3 members of the public present

038/2024 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

039/2024 Apologies for Absence were received MDC Cllr M. Neall

040/2024 Declaration of Interest

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda Councillors to check that their ROI are up to date.

Cllr D. Henson and L. Brown declared an interest in planning application 24/00221/VAR

041/2024 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 4th. March 2024. **All Agreed**

042/2024 Essex County Councillor report - To receive information from Essex County Councillor All information has been circulated to Councillors and residents

043/2024 District Councillor report - To receive a report from the District Councillor. No report was given

044/2024 Questions from the Press and Public –

(This session will 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 and press to speak about items on the agenda and to raise other issues.

Lee Finch from G&B Finch attended the meeting to answer any questions from the PC regarding the pre-application for the extension of the land for extraction and also to explain the difference between the pre-application piece of land and the larger piece of land that is in the Local Minerals Plan - Call for Sites. Upon questioning, Lee explained that the quarry is ahead of schedule with its current extraction due to the seam of gravel rising considerably to the north and therefore they have submitted a pre-application for the piece of land to the south of the quarry. Lee said that this would be able to be dug and restored within their current time limit of 2029. All access to the site would remain as it is at the moment. The footpath would be preserved with a bund put in place to retain a boundary.

With regards to the Local Mineral Plan, Lee explained that Asheldham Quarry may not be even chosen by ECC and if it was he would have to consider if it would be financial viable to do as they do not own the land, huge archaeological dig costs and also the amount of gravel available for extraction.

Rik Pond asked for the PC to raise the issue of the clearing of the gulleys again as well as the issue of broadband service within the Asheldham and Dengie area. It was agreed that the PC would write to Openreach to raise the issue.

Lyn Moull, Village Hall Committee reported that there would be a Celebration / thank you ceremony for the Dengie Village Sign that is now sited at the Hall. It will be held at 3pm on Thursday June 6th. Invites to follow. Lyn also asked if the Village Hall can be considered for the Locality Fund for the next released funding. It was agreed that this request would be forwarded to Wendy Stamp.

045/2024 Asheldham Residents Group – Update from the ARG and to make any decisions necessary.

Nothing to report apart from ARGs on going frustration at the non-performance of Essex Highways about letting us know about proposals for Asheldham Brook Bridge and MDCs lack of enforcement action over the bund etc at Homelands

046/2024 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 FP10 & 12 – No update on this issue being referred back to the answers previously given - Enquiry 2323005, relating to FP12 had the roadside fingerpost replaced on 18 January 2023. There is a waymark post defect on FP10 that will be attended the next time someone is in the area. However, Officers are unable to give a timescale for this.

2) Councillors to discuss replacement of the missing Definitive Rights of Way maps. The up-to-date maps have been provided and will be stored safely.

047/2024 Planning Application/s**24/00221/VAR - Land At Homelands Southminster Road Asheldham**

Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) on approved planning application 22/00896/FUL (A erection of 4 bedroom bungalow, detached garage and new vehicular access.)

Conditions(s) Removal: The position of the proposed house, garage and associated hard/soft landscaping is to be changed within the site. The drawing numbers stated in condition 2 will need to be changed to those submitted in this application as set out in the accompanying drawing issue sheet.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council opposes the proposed amendment on the grounds that the consent for construction of the bungalow 22/00896 was in part granted on the promise by the landowner to make over the ground to the south to Essex Highways in order that road improvements might be made. A copy of a deed of transfer was in the application. Whilst the current situation is that ECC Highways have no funds for a major road improvement, it remains the case that if the earth bank (placed by the land owners and subject to enforcement from MDC) were removed and with the fence set back as agreed, there would be a vast improvement in road safety purely from improved sight lines. To allow a readjustment to the fence line, bringing it closer to the road, especially in conjunction with non-native laurel hedging will seriously diminish the new sight line.

It is noted that the plans do not show the earth bank, nor indicate any time line for removal, nor indeed the provision of the sight line in Condition 10 of the consent for Homelands, which has a direct bearing on this application, as condition 10 required a 2.4m wide sight line, clear to ground level along the entire frontage, a significant part of which now falls within the boundary of this application.

The Parish Council continues to push for ECC Highways to make road improvements, and whilst noting that current finances prevent a major road scheme, ensuring the clear to ground level sight line as per plans in 22/00896 would provide a major improvement at minimal cost if any, to ECC Highways, as the land owner will be responsible for removal of the earth bund.

Should MDC decide to approve the amendment, the Parish Council requests that a condition of consent contains a specific reference to the complete removal of the earth bund.

24/00273/FUL - 1 Pitt Cottages Hall Road Asheldham Southminster

Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of bungalow with associated parking and amenity space

RESOLVED: Refuse this planning application due to the restriction of car parking spaces and the amenity space of the existing property. Also, this is contrary to MDC policy D1, H4 and scale, bulk and design of the application

OUT/MAL/24/00267 - Land At White Horse Cottage Tillingham Road Dengie

Outline planning application with all matters reserved except landscaping for the construction of a 3 bedroom detached bungalow with detached double garage

RESOLVED: Support this planning application subject to the access to be addressed

048/2024 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie**FUL/MAL/24/00021 - Land At 3 East Ware Cottages Bridge Wick Lane Dengie**

Proposed construction of annex ancillary to 3 Eastware Cottages for occupation by disabled relative

REFUSE

049/2024 United Dengie Councils – To receive an update. No update has been received

050/2024 .gov.uk Domain name and website

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Government is imposing all Councils must have a .gov.uk domain name linked to the website. The Clerk has obtained a quotation for 10 email mailboxes and to convert all information across to the new emails etc. The quote is £401.00p +VAT but up to 31.03.24 the Government will reimburse the Council £100.00p. Bringing the cost down to £301.00p +VAT.

Cllr D. Henson proposed not to proceed with this conversion. Cllr L. Brown seconded. **All Agreed**

051/2024 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.

No further questions from the public

052/2024 Finance

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. March 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. March 2024

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 April 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council’s financial requirements. **All Agreed**

053/2024 Councillors to note 2024 meeting dates

15.05.24: 03.06.24: 01.07.24: 02.09.24: 07.10.24: 04.11.24: 02.12.24

054/2024 Items for Next Agenda

Village hall as an item on all future agendas

055/2024 Date of Next Full Council meeting – **WEDNESDAY 15th. May 2024 at**

6.30pm which is the Annual Parish Assembly, followed by A&DPC AGM then onto a Full Council meeting

056/2024 Closure of the Meeting

To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.35pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

D Henson

15th. May 2024

**D. Henson
Chairman**