

Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money

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www. <https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/>

Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Annual Parish Assembly Meeting held on Wednesday 15th. May 2024 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall

Present: Cllrs D. Henson (Chair), L. Brown, R. Griffiths, A. Snowdon and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 4 members of the public present

1. Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp, MDC M. Neall and Cllr S. Russell

2. Minutes of the last APM meeting held on 15th. May 2023. All Agreed

3. Chairmans report for 2023/2024

It's been a frustrating year for the Parish Council. The Asheldham bends project has been cancelled, Asheldham Brook Bridge is no further forward, and the gullies and drains along Southminster Road are still completely blocked.

Despite requests for information from Essex Highways, we have received no feedback on the bridge, and have had different accounts regarding gully cleaning, none of which seem accurate.

On a more positive note, we do have some new signs around the parishes, and a lovely new Dengie Sign.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I'd like to thank Asheldham Residents Group and its committee members for all their hard work and Colin in particular, who works tirelessly to bring improvements to the village.

Thank you also to the Village Sign Committee and Village Hall Committee who have delivered a fantastic new Dengie sign and really spruced up the Village Hall Grounds.

Thanks to Adrian and Megan Fluker who alongside ARG hosted more successful litter picks and thanks to those that attended and helped.

There are many others that keep our villages looking neat and tidy, grass cutting, gardening and helping with local projects and although there are too many to name individually, the Parish Council appreciates everything that goes on behind the scenes. We do have a small amount of funds available for any equipment that may make things a little easier, so please do ask at our monthly meetings and this can be discussed.

Kevin has done an outstanding job this year, keeping us on the straight and narrow. With the banking in order, finances in check, audits, insurances, minutes, agendas and frustrating communications with local councils all going on, we do recognise and appreciate all the hard work that you do. Thank you.

Finally, I'd like to thank Rebecca, Lisa, Sally and Andrew for their time, effort and support throughout the year.

4. Financial Report for 2023/2024

The accounts for 2023/2024 have been submitted to the Internal Auditor. The accounts will be approved at the next Parish Council meeting later this evening. The accounts are exempt from an external audit due to the fact that the income and expenditure does not exceed £25,000. Therefore, the Council Certifies itself for this internal audit. Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council must hold at least 50% of its Precept in reserve.

5. Village Hall Committee Report

Private bookings are up on last year. The caravans booking is still coming in. Pantomime is a good booking. /hopes & dreams is a whole 8 days long.

Old shed, portacabin have been removed. The staging is now in the new shed. New fencing around the village hall. The back and ditch has been cleared. Jubilee fence has been erected. The village sign has been installed. Seeding has been undertaken. Tiling of the kitchen is due to be undertaken. Cream tea party in June thanking GB Finch for helping with the sign. The Parish paper advertising this event will be inserted.

6. Election of distribution panel for Williams & Aylett's Charity

The entire Parish Council was elected to serve on the Williams & Aylett's charity

7. Tree Wardens Report

The trees that have been installed are all alive. The hedging however, is not looking good due to the dry weather.

8. Essex County Councillors Report

Cllr W. Stamp supplied an ECC Annual report for 2023-2024. It can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/minutes-of-parish-council-meet/2024/>

9. Maldon District Councillors Report

This is my first time of delivering an annual District Councillor report to this council, which I am glad to do. As you (may or may not) know, I have been a parish councillor for the past 5 years and from memory in that time this is the first district council annual report that has been received to this parish council, in the last 5 years.

From what I have been able to ascertain, I am one of the first MDC representatives for the Tillingham Ward that has not had to face an election in order to be 'Elected'.

In May 2023 there were no other persons nominated for election, therefore I was named the councillor for the Ward. A personal achievement I am very proud of.

This for me has meant, that I feel I have to do more locally as the people of the area have not actually voted for me to be their representation, but I still have to do the job.

Since election in May, I have made sure that I have been more visible in the Tillingham Ward and ensuring that I attend as many of the Parish Council meetings that I am able to attend, I have 3 Parish Councils in my ward, Dengie & Asheldham, Tillingham and Bradwell on Sea.

Attending more Parish Council meetings was a key pledge on my election information if I had been able to fight for the election, so this is one thing that I will continue to endeavour to continue.

So, what have I done in the year?

Working with ECC Cllr Stamp to resurface North & South Street in Tillingham

Working with local residence groups replacing village signage that had been removed.

My personal attendance at MDC meetings since I have been elected is 93.55% missing 2 meetings due to a Covid-19 infection.

Being a member of the District Support Group at MDC to hold the administration to account. As this group is part of the official opposition

Working with local residents with regards to planning matters

Working with local residents with regards to enforcement notices

Dealing with local social housing issues for residents

Speaking up at MDC meetings to ensure that issues that impact the Ward are heard.

Negotiating with Stevenson's busses to ensure the first bus out of Bradwell was not lost.

Plus many other items of casework, I have been involved with locally and within the district.

As ever, I am committed to this area and will be representing the people of the Tillingham Ward at MDC. I would encourage all residents of the ward to attend Parish Council meetings to make sure your voice is heard locally as all Parish Councils and District Councils should be working for the residents they represent and to contact me with items that you feel MDC are not fulfilling locally so that I can help get them raised at MDC Meetings.

As ever, I thank this councils support of me for the last year, and I am happy to be your point of contact at MDC.

10. ARG Report

A report was supplied and read:-

The report can be found at

11. Public Session

No questions were asked

12. Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 6.45pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

D Henson

**David Henson
Chairman**

3rd. June 2024

