

**MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD on  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at 7.00 p.m.**

**Present:** - Cllr Mrs C Faulkner, Cllr A Fluker, Cllr Lisa Brown & Cllr Sally Russell

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

**Members of the public:** 4

**19-20/156 - WELCOME**

Cllr Faulkner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**19-20/157 – APOLOGIES**

- Cllr Nick Kelly due to a family bereavement.

**19-20/158 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) No declaration of interest were made at this point in the meeting, other than the usual global declaration that all councillors live and/or work in the Parish.
- b) Members noted that it was their responsibility to register any changes in their Register of Interests on the Maldon District Council website.

**19-20/159 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(S)**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2019 were proposed by Cllr Lisa Brown and seconded by Cllr Sally Russell. **RESOLVED.**

**19-20/160 – QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- Mr. Snowden raised the problem of the G&B Finch Floodlight pollution and others mentioned about the danger it caused for approaching traffic as it was too bright. It was thought that it was not supposed to be on after working hours. Also a family living close by was experiencing severe light pollution into their home. Clerk to write to G&B Finch.
- Mr. Cooper stated that the litter pick had been another success and that more recently the Asheldham Residents Group had been clearing out dead tree trunks and branches on Tillingham Road bends, after the quarry up to “Broomfield” house on Saturday mornings, it was a bit bear now, but much tidier and he hoped that people have seen a difference hopefully for the better.
- Also the Coastal and Countryside Officer at MDC to have a site meeting of possible planting sources of a free supply of saplings or might have to pay or get a grant.
- Bob Turner from Dengie Crops brought up the need for the junction of the Southminster Road with Hall Road needs to be reconfigured – it was decided that a meeting needed to occur between Highways, Parish Council, Dengie Crops and G& B Finches. Clerk to arrange. Clerk mentioned that contact with Thomas Eng at the Local Highways Panel had been made regarding the installation of a multi-angled mirror, but ECC Highways do not place any mirrors on the public highway. If the Parish Council wish to place on private land, then consent from the landowner and may also require planning permission. Approval will also need to be given by the Department of Transport but a history of incidents on the police register, all vegetatoin/fences/brick walls would be removed to provide sufficient forward visibility, a history of incidents at the local still occurring and proof must be provided. If this information can be provided then ECC Highways can contact the Department of Transport on behalf of the residents.

**19-20/161 – ESSEXINFO.NET WEBSITE CLOSING 31/03/2020**

- a) Clerk informed members that the Agenda had been posted on the new website

SIGNED.....CHAIR

ASHELDHAM & DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2020

which had been set up and training was to happen. Leaflets with the new site address were distributed and the Clerk put on the notice boards and local Parish Magazine.

**19-20/162 – HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ISSUES**

- i. Members resolved to apply to LHP for a 20mph limit on the B1021 from the Bennet junction with Foxhall Road/Southminster Road through the Asheldham **Bends stopping just after the bennet junction with Hall Road.**
- ii. Clerk informed members that Tillingham Village Council had replied and would not be supporting our request to reduce the speed limit from the junction of Reddings Lane along the Dengie Straight to the 40mph limit in situ. Their reason being that they had a request pending with ECC Highways for a 20mph zone in Tillingham and it was resolved by Tillingham Village Council that until that zone is agreed, especially the start and finish points of the zone is known. Members resolved to forge ahead with the request and Clerk to complete at Local Highways Panel form and get approval from Cllr Ron Pratt.
- iii. Clerk reiterated that only one person had come back with spots that needed the Trucam monitoring. Clerk to draw up timetable including from G&B Finch up passed "Broomfield" house, Foxhall Road, from the Bennet Junction with Foxhall Road towards Southminster and into the Asheldham Village.
- iv. Clerk informed those present that the salt bin had been purchased and just needed placing. Clerk to drop off bin to Mr. Cooper – convenient time to be arranged.
- v. After having no luck when calling ECC Highways as the resurfacing was nowhere to be seen on the maps that they put on the website showing current and near future works and the operator stating that if it is not on the maps that is all they know. The Clerk contacted Julie Martyn at ECC Highways who said she would look into it, however no response had been received in time for the meeting. At this point Mr. Snowdon stated that he had news and he had contacted Cllr Kevin Bentley who said the works had been cancelled. Clerk to take photographs and send a letter to County Councillor Kevin Bentley. Mr. Cooper asked if it would help if he sent a letter from the ARG. Members welcomed the suggestion. It was also suggested to get residents to report road defects and lobby ECC.
- vi. Cllr Russell and the Clerk visited the site of the pavement from Rushes Lane to just before the bend where "The Bund" is. The pavement is in a bad condition, but on the ECC maps it looked as though the kerbed path going around "The Bund" opposite "The Rest" was not pavement, so it was decided to ascertain from Highways one way or another and make another request for the repair of the pavement.
- vii. Members resolved that another LHP request should be sent asking for a pavement to be installed from opposite Brooks Lane and meeting up with the current pavement.
- viii. The matter regarding the multi angled mirror was detailed under the heading public forum, but it was decided that the Clerk make enquiries and obtain the information required to get a multi – angled mirror installed, although as the history pertaining incidents was not compelling as many are not reported and therefore not recorded.

**19-20/163 – PLANNING MATTERS**

a) **Planning Application –**

The following planning applications were received during the course of December 2019:-  
**19/00920/OUT** – see below – this was refused.

**19/01264/HOUSE** – Single storey side extension & 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension over existing.  
No response was made to MDC Planning – Members noted these applications.

**Received during the course of January 2020:-**

**19/00919/OUT**

Outline application for the reconstruction of a cattery with all matters reserved.  
Cattery at Wheatsheaf Farm, Rushes Lane Asheldham – deadline for comments –  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Members resolved to **refuse** this application on the grounds  
that it was not in keeping with development in the countryside and therefore was  
inappropriate.

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

- i List of planning applications -49/50/51/52/1/2/3/4 - **NOTED**
- ii List of planning decisions and appeals – 49/50/51/52/1/2/3/4 - **NOTED**
- iii Decisions made in relation to Asheldham & Dengie –  
**OUT/MAL/19/00920 Asheldham**  
Single Storey dwelling, with all matters reserved.  
Land East of Wheatsheaf Farm, Rushes Lane, Asheldham.  
(UPRN – 010014002587) Mr and Mrs Robinson – **REFUSED - NOTED**
- iv It was decided to write and ascertain whether the Parish council could make a  
grant application to the fund that would be created from procuring £300 from  
each new property in order to help mitigate the damage that new  
houses/developments cause and the Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and  
Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). More details relating to this document are detailed  
below. Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation in  
relation to the Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and  
Mitigation Strategy Draft SPC which Chelmsford City Council (CCC) are  
publishing for public consultation from 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to 21<sup>st</sup> February  
2020. <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/local-plans-and-policies/essex-coast-recreational-disturbance-avoidance-and-mitigation>
- v Members noted that Maldon District Council adopted the amendment to the  
Affordable Housing and Viability Supplementary Planning Document on 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 2019. (Adoption Statement circulated via email on 9/1/20).

b) **Planning enforcement updates**

- i No update was available as MDC employee was out of the office. A discussion took  
place about the history of the planning and 106 agreement attached to the planning  
pertaining to the bund. Also about the height of The Bund, but it was inconclusive  
whether it had got higher or not. Clerk to chase MDC Enforcement.

**19-20/164 – THEMATIC STRATEGIES**

It was resolved to take up the offer of Ben Page at MDC to discuss how to collaborate with them, provide better information & insights, improve ways of working, problem solve and achieve common ambitions. Clerk to complete the form provided to request a meeting or telephone chat.

**19-20/165 – FINANCE**

- a) Members reviewed the payments for January and February 2020 - **RESOLVED**
- b) Members reviewed and signed off the Barclays bank statements to the bank reconciliation at the end of January 2020 – **RESOLVED**
- c) Bank mandate changes – no news.

**19-20/166 - DEFIBRILLATOR PROJECT**

- a) Clerk had contracted 5 electricians and finally got a quote from one for £75.00. Members agreed that it was not for the want of trying to get three quotes and in order to move the project on it was decided to accept the quote given over the phone from Steve Kent of £75.00 and to be no more than £125.00. Clerk to liaise with Lyn Moull for access and positioning of the cabinet as agreed by the Dengie Village Hall Committee. Proposed: Cllr Fluker and seconded by all members present.

**19-20/167 - REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FLUKER**

- **2018/19 Accounts are signed off** without any conditions or observations and that a value for money (VFM) certificate has been issued by the auditors -**The net out turn from 2018/19 was £1.5m being returned to reserves.** However, due to accumulation pressures from previous years it is proposed to make a payment of £1.5m to the Council's pension fund
- The Council is currently recruiting into the role of **Director of Resources** and is seeking an interim until the post is filled.
- **The budget policies for 2020/21 have been agreed by council**
- Whilst maintaining its first class services the Council is working as efficiently as it can however some costs such as inflation and rising wage costs (principally the living wage and nationally agreed increments) are beyond our control and that said a small increase in MDC Council Tax is being considered. It is anticipated that it will be below 10p per week.
- **The Council is determining its governance in relation to Bradwell B**
- **The Joint Members Bradwell Board (JMBB)** has been operating for some time and comprises members from both Essex and Maldon District Council. The meetings are attended by Officers from both Councils and BRB
- **The Bradwell B Working Group** acts as conduit between Council and the JMBB
- Planning Applications that are not covered by the Development Consent Order (DCO) or predates it will be dealt with by the **South Eastern Area Planning Committee** and or the **District Planning Committee**
- **It is proposed that the Bradwell B DPD Working Group** will focus on the DPD which will deal with policy planning issues that will support the LDP

- **The BRB consultation process** starting with the SOCC **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION** will start in the coming weeks so it is important that when the **STAGE ONE CONSULTATION STARTS** individuals, parish councils and local community groups respond.
- The Council has agreed to increase its funding to the **CAB for the year 2020-21 by £10k per annum**
- The Council has received a grant of £180k from Essex County Council to develop its **Community Infrastructure Levy CIL policy**

**19-20/168 VILLAGE BEACON**

A response from Highways is awaited regarding a request for permission to site the Beacon on the grass verge of the junction with Hall Road/Manor Road and Keelings Road.

**19-20/169 – DENGIE VILLAGE SIGN**

Mrs Moull gave a message to be read out about the sign and that a message had been given to Mr. Moull regarding the design which would be discussed at a meeting and then the fundraising can begin.

**19-20/170 - TRAINING**

- a) Clerk mentioned the new on-line training that EALC were doing for £14.00 and that she would be taking up the GDPR course through Mundon.

**19-20/171 –LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME**

- a) Clerk reiterated that this project would not be progressed until the changeover of the website, as the award is mainly based on the content of the website. This will be progressed at the end of March.

**19-20/172 – VE DAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

- a) Mrs Moull re-iterated that advertising has been in Parish Paper since December. Up to 20 people have put by tickets for the Saturday night and a few for the cream tea on Sunday. There is going to be a meeting to organise food. The live 40's music is booked, so a price can now be put on the tickets which will be restricted to 60 for both events. Help is required with food and Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Brown and Cllr Russell and the Clerk all volunteered.

**19-20/173 – REMOVAL OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT – ST. LAWRENCE TO BRADWELL**

Item deferred until further information is available.

**19-20/174 - "HAPPY TO CHAT" BENCHES**

Clerk informed members and residents that an expression of interest had been lodged on behalf of both villages to Ben page but no update was available as he was not back in the office until 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**19-20/175 – CORRESPONDENCE**

No further correspondence received other than what has already been included as an agenda item.

Cllr Fluker left the meeting at this point as he was needed at home.

**19-20/176- SECOND PUBLIC FORUM**

Various signs were reported as being either laying down or in a poor condition.

- Footpath concrete sign laying down.
- Where old telephone box entrance to footpath sign in poor condition and could be health and safety hazard.
- The Village sign “Dengie” opposite “The Haven” in poor conditions

It was suggested that “The Bund” had swallowed up a portion of the highways boundary and research into where the Highways boundary starts and finishes should be made.

Apparently the highway is measured from the road centre towards the verge/pavement.

**19-20/177 - EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

No external meetings to report.

**19-20/178 – INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

No items were discussed.

**19-20/179- DATE OF NEXT MEETING –**

- a) The next meeting will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 7 p.m.

**19-20/180 –** All business having been transacted, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.27 p.m.