Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money
7 Roach Vale Colchester Essex CO4 3YN
Tel: 07810781509 email <a href="mailto:theclerk.asheldhamanddengiepc@gmail.com">theclerk.asheldhamanddengiepc@gmail.com</a>
www. https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/

# **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

to be held on

## WEDNESDAY 15th. MAY 2024 at 6.30pm in Dengie Village Hall

The Press and Public are welcome to attend

# **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologises for Absence
- 2. Minutes of the last APM meeting held on 15th. May 2023
- 3. Chairmans report for 2023/2024
- 4. Financial Report for 2023/2024
- 5. Village Hall Committee Report
- 6. Election of distribution panel for Williams & Aylett's Charity
- 7. Tree Wardens Report
- 8. Essex County Councillors Report
- 9. Maldon District Councillors Report
- 10.ARG Report
- 11. Public Session
- 12. Closure of the Meeting

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

Signed DHenson

David Henson Chairman of Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

9<sup>th</sup>. May 2024

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Annual Parish Assembly Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. May 2023 at 6.30pm in Dengie village hall

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

- 1. Apologises for Absence were received from ECC Cllr W. Stamp and MDC Cllr M. Neall
- 2. Minutes of the last APM meeting held on 9th. May 2022. All Agreed
- 3. Financial Report. The RFO informed the meeting that the 2022/2023 Annual Internal Audit had been completed and a full financial statement will be given at the Council meeting following this meeting
  - 4. Village Hall Committee Report

Coronation celebrations went really well. The cream teas were well received. The village hall plans were handed to Lynn Moull

- Election of distribution panel for Williams & Aylett's Charity
   The entire Parish Council was elected to serve on the Williams & Aylett's Charity
- 6. Essex County Councillors Report Nothing to report
- 7. Maldon District Councillors Report Nothing to report
  - 8. Tree Warden Report

All been planting hedging along the village hall. Evergreen Oaks have developed a problem

HighwaysNothing to further to report

10. ARG Report

The ARG report will be given at the Full Council meeting following this meeting

11. Public Session

No question from the public

12. Closure of the Meeting

To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business The Chairman then closed the meeting at 6.40pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed 15<sup>th</sup>. May 2024

D. Henson Chairman

### ASHELDHAM RESIDENTS GROUP ("ARG")

### Report for the Annual Parish Assembly

### 15th May 2024

The current subscription year for members is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and has 68 paid up members

The ARG committee consists of Keeley Pond, Secretary and Rik Pond Treasurer and myself as Chairman.

Since this time last year ARG has organised a successful Winter Litter Pick in conjunction with MDC Councillor, Ward Member for Southminster and Dengie resident Adrian Fluker.

The Yellow Salt Bin is now monitored by ARG member Dave Henson and our thanks to him.

Ann and Shaun Barnard of Brook Lane continue to keep planted and maintain in an attractive way the original planter opposite Sandlings as do Jo and Rebecca Griffiths and family of Hall Road the 6 more recent planters. Last year Sharon Thick of Sandlings kindly made an instant water supply available and a watering regime operated by Sharon, Ann, Shaun, Keeley and myself on an ad hoc basis came into being. My wife Bernie continued to look after the planter at the base of the Asheldham Village Sign outside the Animal Sanctuary. Tony Locke of Endway Cottages continues to offer a back up water supply if ever necessary.

As usual, in November last ARG positioned the wooden Tommy next to the Asheldham Village Sign and attached artificial poppies to various items of street furniture in order to commemorate the Remembrance period.

ARG was for a long time concerned about the non replacement of the broken down village name signage for Asheldham between Cornfields and Broomfield in Southminster Road and for Dengie in Tillingham Road opposite The Haven. MDC Councillor Matthew Neall successfully persuaded MDC to recently replace these signs notwithstanding that place name signs such as this as opposed to street name signs are usually an ECC remit. Our thanks to Matthew for his assistance.

As ever, ARG has spent much time and effort with concerns over the everlasting failure of ECC and Essex Highways ("EH") to properly deal with such matters as the Asheldham Bends, Asheldham Brook Bridge, the erosion of verges by HGVs and the like and flooding caused by blocked drains. EH claim that they clear drains/gullies twice a year but there is little if any evidence of that. ARG is of the view that blocked drains caused by eroded verges will continue to be an issue unless and until EH grasp the nettle and install high kerbing in strategic positions as a deterrence.

ARG has noted with incredulity EHs decision not to do anything about the Asheldham Bends problem after all the time and money spent of feasibility studies over the years.

Despite requests by the PC, at the time of writing the latest EH Report on Asheldham Brook Bridge has still not been received. Originally EH decided that the bridge needed replacing rather than renovated/repaired but then discovered the possible existence of a foul sewer in the vicinity of the bridge. It therefore carried out a further inspection under a weekend road closure about 18 months ago but still no report to hand. In the meantime HGVs of anything between 25 and 40 tonnes weight continue to use the bridge. ARG's Treasurer in his private capacity made a FOI request about the

survey works and the weight restriction and the reply was to the effect that the bridge was looked at every 3 months and was last classified as being capable to carry 40 tonnes. Our Treasurer has requested EH to confirm those statements believing them to be inaccurate and still awaits a reply.

ARG is aware that several members in their private capacities have made representations to the authorities about various proposals which are likely to cause even more traffic through the village, such as the Soler Farm in Keelings Road, the application by the owners of Asheldham Quarry for a time extension and area expansion and by the development of 200 new houses on the Homefield site in Southminster.

Colin Cooper

Chairman

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money 7 Roach Vale Colchester Essex CO4 3YN

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**Dear Councillor** 

You are summoned to attend the forthcoming meeting of Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council to be held on

# WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup>. MAY 2024 immediately after the Annual Parish Assembly in Dengie Village Hall

for the purpose of transacting the business ONLY shown on the agenda

**KBMoney** 

Kevin B. Money – Parish Clerk to the Council – 9<sup>th</sup>. May 2024

The Press and Public are welcome to attend

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

057/2024	2023/24 Chairman Welcome
058/2024	Apologies for Absence
059/2024	Election of Chairman for the 2024/25 year The Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form
060/2024	Election of Vice-Chairman for the 2024/25 year The Vice-Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form
061/2024	To re-adopt all Council policies – sent prior to meeting 2024-25 Council policies and procedures can be found at <a href="https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/procedures/">https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/procedures/</a>
062/2024	2024/25 Chairman to Close Annual meeting

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Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend the forthcoming meeting of Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council to be held on

# WEDNESDAY 15th. MAY 2024 immediately after the AGM in

**Dengie Village Hall** 

for the purpose of transacting the business ONLY shown on the agenda

XBMoney - Kevin B. Money - Parish Clerk to the Council CiLCA - 9th. May 2024

The Press and Public are welcome to attend

# **FULL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

063/2024 Chairman welcome

064/2024 Apologies for Absence

065/2024 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

**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 8<sup>th</sup>. April 2024

067/2024 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.

068/2024 Planning Application/s

069/2024 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Asheldham & Dengie HOUSE/MAL/24/00095 - 9 Endway Cottages Southminster Road Asheldham Southminster First floor rear extension over existing single storey projection. APPROVE subject to conditions

VAR/MAL/24/00221 - 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.) APPROVE subject to conditions

FULM/MAL/23/01236 - 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. **APPROVE** subject to conditions

070/2024 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.

### 071/2024 Annual Return 2023/2024

- 1) To receive the 2023/2024 signed Internal Audit Report
- 2) To receive and sign the Certificate of Exemption AGAR 2023/2024 part 2
- 3) To receive and sign the Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024
- 4) To receive and sign the Section 2 Accounting Statements 2023/2024

### 072/2024 Finance

- 1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2024
- 2) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2024/25
- 3) To approve the payment of Accounts for May 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements.

073/2024 Councillors to note 2024 meeting dates - 01.07.24: 02.09.24: 07.10.24: 04.11.24: 02.12.24

074/2024 Items for Next Agenda

075/2024 Date of Next Full Council meeting – MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>. JUNE 2024 at 6.30pm

076/2024 Closure of the Meeting

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

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Minutes of the Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. 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

**O39/2024** 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

**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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 preapplication for the extension of the land for extraction and also to explain the difference between the preapplication 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.

**O45/2024** 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 dimmish 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** 

## **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 2**

To be completed only by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other smaller authorities\* where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, that meet the qualifying criteria, and that wish to CERTIFY themselves as EXEMPT from a limited assurance review

Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24

- 1. Every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income **or** gross expenditure was £25,000 or less **must**, after the end of each financial year, complete Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices*, unless the authority:
  - a) does not meet the qualifying criteria for exemption; or
  - b) does not wish to certify itself as exempt
- 2. Smaller authorities where the higher of all gross annual income or gross annual expenditure does not exceed £25,000 and that meet the qualifying criteria as set out in the Certificate of Exemption are able to declare themselves exempt from sending the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for a limited assurance review provided the authority completes:
  - a) The **Certificate of Exemption**, page 3 and returns a copy of it to the external auditor **either** by email **or** by post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2024.** Failure to do so will result in reminder letter(s) for which the Authority will be charged £40 +VAT for each letter; and
  - b) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (Form 2) which is made up of:
  - c) Annual Internal Audit Report (page 4) must be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
  - d) Section 1 Annual Governance Statement (page 5) must be completed and approved by the authority.
  - e) Section 2 Accounting Statements (page 6) must be completed and approved by the authority.

NOTE: Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.

3. The authority **must** approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement **before** approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before** 1 July 2024.

### **Publication Requirements**

Smaller authorities **must** publish various documents on a publicly available website as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. These include:

- Certificate of Exemption, page 3
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24, page 4
- Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2023/24, page 5
- Section 2 Accounting Statements 2023/24, page 6
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

### **Limited Assurance Review**

Any smaller authority may request a limited assurance review. If so, the authority should not certify itself as exempt or complete the Certificate of Exemption. Instead it should complete Form 3 of the AGAR 2023/24 and return it to the external auditor together with the supporting documentation requested by the external auditor. The cost to the authority for the review will be £210 +VAT.

Provided that the authority certifies itself as exempt, and completes and publishes the documents listed under 'Publication Requirements', there is no requirement for the authority to have a review.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

\*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

# Guidance notes on completing Form 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24, Sections 1 and 2

- An authority that wishes to declare itself exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review must do so at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2024. It should not submit its Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. However, as part of a more proportionate regime, the authority must comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The Certificate of Exemption must be returned to the external auditor no later than **30 June 2024.** Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT for each letter.
- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption. Proper Practices are found in the *Practitioners' Guide\** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end.
- The authority should receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- · Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness at the meeting at which it is signed off.
- You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.
- The authority must publish numerical and narrative explanations for significant variances in the accounting statements on page 6. Guidance is provided in the *Practitioners' Guide\** which may assist.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2023) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2024).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish, on the authority website/webpage, the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2024.**

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements			
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes been completed?	V	
	Have the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights been published?	~	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	~	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', is an explanation available for publication?	V	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	V	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?	V	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	V	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2024 been reconciled to Box 8?	V	
	Is an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 available, should a question be raised by a local elector and/or an interested party?	V	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? (Local Councils only)		

<sup>\*</sup>Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

### Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2023/24 Form 2

To be completed by smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2024, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

There is no requirement to have a limited assurance review or to submit an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor, provided that the authority has certified itself as exempt at a meeting of the authority after 31 March 2024 and a completed Certificate of Exemption is submitted no later than 30 June 2024 notifying the external auditor.

### ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

certifies that during the financial year 2023/24, the higher of the authority's total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed £25,000

Total annual gross income for the authority 2023/24:

£8.250 = R AMOUNT 200.000

Total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2023/24: £6.104 ER AMOUNT £00,000

There are certain circumstances in which an authority will be unable to certify itself as exempt, so that a limited assurance review will still be required. If an authority is unable to confirm the statements below then it cannot certify itself as exempt and it must submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 to the external auditor to undertake a limited assurance review for which a fee of £210 +VAT will be payable.

By signing this **Certificate of Exemption** you are confirming that:

- The authority was in existence on 1st April 2020
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2022/23), the external auditor has not:
  - issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it
  - made a statutory recommendation to the authority, relating to the authority or any entity connected with it
  - issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ("the Act"), and has not withdrawn the notice
  - · commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
  - made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful, and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration
- The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

If the above statements apply and the authority neither received gross income, nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000, then the Certificate of Exemption can be signed and a copy submitted to the external auditor either by email or by post (not both).

The Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statements, an analysis of variances and the bank reconciliation plus the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 including the period for the exercise of public rights still need to be fully completed and. along with a copy of this certificate, published on the authority website/webpage\* before 1 July 2024. Signing this certificate confirms the authority will comply with the publication requirements.

Signed by the Responsible Financial Officer	Date	I confirm that this Certificate of	
	15/05/2024	Exemption was approved by this authority on this date:	15/05/2024
Signed by Chair	Date	as recorded in minute reference:	
		MINUTE REFERE	
Generic email address of Authority		Telephone numl	ner

Telephone numbei

theclerk.asheldhamanddengiepc@gmail.com

07810781509

\*Published web address

https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/

ONLY this Certificate of Exemption should be returned EITHER by email OR by post (not both) as soon as possible after certification to your external auditor, but no later than 30 June 2024. Reminder letters for late submission will incur a charge of £40 + VAT.

### ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/

**During** the financial year ended 31 March 2024, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2023/24 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	V		
<b>B.</b> This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	V		
<b>C.</b> This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	1		The state of the s
<b>D.</b> The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	1		To the control of the
<b>E.</b> Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	1		The second secon
<b>F.</b> Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			NA
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	1		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.			
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.			
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.			
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")	/		
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	V		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2023-24 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2022-23 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	V		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	V		
O. (For local councils only)  Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

03/02/505 HIMMAAAA DOMMAAAA

WICHAEC LAWSON

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

M Laurson

Date

03/05/2024

\*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\*Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

### Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

### ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, that:

Agreed					
	Yes	No	'Yes' m	eans that this authority:	
We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	V		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.		
We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	•		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.		
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	·		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.		
We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	v		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunit inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts		
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	v		considered and documented the financial and other risks if faces and dealt with them properly.		
We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	V		arranged for a competent person, independent of the finan controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whet internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.		
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	V		respond externa	led to matters brought to its attention by internal and I audit.	
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	v		disclosed everything it should have about its business acti during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.		
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local or trusts.		

<sup>\*</sup>For any statement to which the response is 'no', an explanation must be published

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:	Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:		
15/05/2024	SIGNATURE REQUIRER		
and recorded as minute reference:	Chair		
	Clerk SIGNATURE REQUIRED		

Information required by the Transparency Code (not part of the Annual Governance State	ement)	
The authority website/webpage is up to date and the information required by the Transparency Code has	Yes	No
been published.	V	

https://e-voice.org.uk/asheldham-dengiepc/ BLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

### Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

### ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE PARISH COUNCIL

	Year e	ending	Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures mu agree to underlying financial records.		
Balances brought forward	7,488	7,761	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.		
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	6,296	7,065	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	2,301	1,185	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.		
4. (-) Staff costs	2,844	3,388	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.		
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).		
6. (-) All other payments	5,480	2,716	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	7,761	9,907	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	7,762	9,908	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.		
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets 7,82		7,820	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.		
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		
For Local Councils Only	Yes	No N/A			
11a. Disclosure note re Trust (including charitable)	funds		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.		
11b. Disclosure note re Trust	funds	V	The figures in the accounting statements above		

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities — a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date 15/05/2024

(including charitable)

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

exclude any Trust transactions.

### 15/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

#### MINDIE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

## Smaller authority name: Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (EXEMPT AUTHORITY)

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024** 

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015)	
NOTICE	NOTES
1. Date of announcement 15 <sup>th</sup> . May 2024  2. Each year the smaller authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The AGAR has been published with this notice. It will not be reviewed by the appointed auditor, since the smaller authority has certified itself as exempt from the appointed auditor's review.  Any person interested has the right to inspect and make copies of the AGAR, the accounting records for the financial year to which it relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records must be made available for inspection by any person interested. For the year ended 31 March 2024, these documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to:	(a) Insert date of placing of the notice which must be not less than 1 day before the date in (c) below
(b) Kevin B. Money Parish Clerk / RFO 7 Roach Vale Colchester Essex CO4 3YN Tel: 07810781509 Email; theclerk.asheldhamanddengiepc@gmail.com	(b) Insert name, position and address/telephone number/ email address, as appropriate, of the Clerk or other person to which any person may apply to inspect the accounts
commencing on (c)Monday 3 June 2024 and ending on (d)Friday 12 July 2024	(c) Insert date, which must be at least 1 day after the date of announcement in (a) above and at least 30 working days before the date appointed in (d) below
3. Local government electors and their representatives also have:     • The opportunity to question the appointed auditor about the accounting records; and	(d) The inspection period between (c) and (d) must be 30 working days inclusive and must include the first 10 working days of July.
<ul> <li>The right to make an objection which concerns a matter in respect of which the appointed auditor could either make a public interest report or apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the smaller authority.</li> </ul>	
The appointed auditor can be contacted at the address in paragraph 4 below for this purpose between the above dates only.	
4. The smaller authority's AGAR is only subject to review by the appointed auditor if questions or objections raised under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 lead to the involvement of the auditor. The appointed auditor is:	
PKF Littlejohn LLP (Ref: SBA Team) 15 Westferry Circus Canary Wharf London E14 4HD (sba@pkf-l.com)	
5. This announcement is made by (e) Kevin B. Money Parish Clerk / RFO	(e) Insert name and position of person placing the notice – this person must be the responsible financial officer for the smaller authority

### **Contact details**

## Name of smaller authority:\_Asheldham and Dengie Parish Council

County Area (local councils and parish meetings only):\_Maldon Essex

### Please complete this form and send it back to us with the AGAR or exemption certificate

	Clerk/RFO (Main contact)	Chair
Name	Kevin B. Money	David Henson
Address	7 Roach Vale Colchester Essex CO4 3YN	c/o 7 Roach Vale Colchester Essex CO4 3YN
Daytime telephone number		
Mobile telephone number	07810781509	07810781509
Email address	theclerk.asheldamanddengiepc@gmail.com	theclerk.asheldamanddengiepc@gmail.com

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297.99 8,760.36 <b>9,058.35</b> - <b>9,058.35</b> 9,907.65 - <b>9,907.65</b> 849.30		
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## **Your Account Statement**



For Businesses, For Communities, For Good.

Unity Trust Bank plc PO Box 7193 Planetary Road Willenhall WV1 9DG

Mr Kevin Money Asheldham And Dengie Parish Council 7 Roach Vale Colchester CO4 3YN

Date: 30/04/2024

Account Name: Asheldham And Dengie Parish

Council

Swift Code (BIC): NWBKGB2L

IBAN Number: GB93NWBK60023571418024

Sort Code: 608301

Account Number: 20474807

Your arranged overdraft limit is £0.00

Our unauthorised overdraft charges are changing from tracked rate of 25% above base rate to a fixed Nominal rate 25% EAR (Equivalent Annual Rate 28.39%). To find out more read our Overdrafts Key Features document and our Standard Service Tariff available at www.unity.co.uk



For eligible organisations, your deposits held with Unity Trust Bank are protected up to £85,000 under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). For more information about eligibility and compensation provided by the FSCS, please visit: **FSCS.org.uk** or refer to our FSCS Information Sheet and Exclusions List at unity.co.uk/fscs

### **Contact Us**

Call us: 0345 140 1000
Email us: us@unity.co.uk

Visit us: unity.co.uk

Your Current T1 account transactions:						
Date	Туре	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance	
31/03/2024		Balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£9,609.66	
09/04/2024	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Zurich Insurance	£257.60	£0.00	£9,352.06	
09/04/2024	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: AD Village Hall	£270.70	£0.00	£9,081.36	
09/04/2024	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Andrew Burnett	£24.00	£0.00	£9,057.36	

Page number 1 of 3

Statement number 018

For Businesses. For Communities. For Good. Unity Trust Bank pic is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Unity Trust Bank is entered in the Financial Services Register under number 204570.

Registered Office: Four Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2JB.
Registered in England and Wales no. 1713124

Registered in England and Wales no. 1713124.

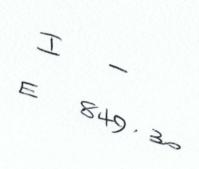
Calls may be monitored and recorded for training, quality and security purposes. © Unity Trust Bank, All Rights Reserved.







Your Current T1 account transactions:									
Date	Туре	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance				
09/04/2024 Faster Paymer Debit		B/P to: HMRC	£59.40	£0.00	£8,997.9				
09/04/2024	Faster Payment Debit	B/P to: Kevin B. Money	£237.60	£0.00	£8,760.36				



Page number 2 of 3

Statement number 018







## **Your Account Statement**



For Businesses, For Communities, For Good.

Unity Trust Bank plc PO Box 7193 Planetary Road Willenhall WV1 9DG

Mr Kevin Money Asheldham And Dengie Parish Council 7 Roach Vale Colchester CO4 3YN

Date: 30/04/2024

Account Name: Asheldham and Dengie Parish

Council Ayletts Account

Swift Code (BIC): NWBKGB2L

IBAN Number: GB93NWBK60023571418024

Sort Code: 608301

Account Number: 20474810

The credit interest rate is 2.75% AER as of your statement date.

#### **Contact Us**

Call us: 0345 140 1000

Email us: us@unity.co.uk

Visit us: unity.co.uk

Our unauthorised overdraft charges are changing from tracked rate of 25% above base rate to a fixed Nominal rate 25% EAR (Equivalent Annual Rate 28.39%). To find out more read our Overdrafts Key Features document and our Standard Service Tariff available at www.unity.co.uk



For eligible organisations, your deposits held with Unity Trust Bank are protected up to £85,000 under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). For more information about eligibility and compensation provided by the FSCS, please visit: **FSCS.org.uk** or refer to our FSCS Information Sheet and Exclusions List at unity.co.uk/fscs

Your Instant Access account transactions:									
Date	Туре	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance				
31/03/2024		Balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£297.99				

Page number 1 of 2

Statement number 014







Unity Trust Bank pic is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority





Ayletts Charity		Bank Rec				
01/04/2012				Balance	£	427.50
				Payment from Trustees	£	
				Total in fund	£	
				Payment to Dengie	-£	39.00
31/03/2013				Balance remaining for Asheldham	£	455.00
19/07/2013	Cheque		100309	Payment to Village Hall	-£	
	Ciloquo				£	195.00
				Received frm trustees	£	66.50
					£	261.50
02/09/2013	Cheque		100310	Payment to Dengie	-£	39.00
					£	222.50
05/08/2014				Received frm trustees	£	66.50
	Cheque		100336	Payment to Dengie	-£	39.00
01/04/2015				balance carried forward	£	250.00
06/08/2015				Received from trustees	£	266.50
	Cheque		100358	Payment to Dengie	-£	139.00
				Balance remaining for Asheldham	£	377.50
12/04/2016	Cheque		100379	Payment to Village Hall	-£	200.00
				Balance remaining for Asheldham	£	177.50
01/09/2016				Received from trustees	£	66.50
	Cheque			Payment to Dengie	-£	39.00
					£	205.00
31/07/2017	bill payment			ARA	-£	50.00
					£	155.00
01/08/2017	Receipt			Received from trustees	£	66.50
					£	221.50
11/09/2017	Cheque		100404	Payment to Dengie Thomas Sym	-£	39.00
					£	182.50
18/07/2018	Receipt			Received from trustees	£	66.50
					£	249.50
01/09/2018	Cheque		100410	Payment to Dengie Thomas Sym	-£	39.00
					£	210.50
16/08/2019				Received from trustees	£	66.50
02/12/2019	Cheque-101414			Payment to Dengie Thomas Sym	-£	39.00
					£	238.00
07/09/2020				Received from trustees	£	106.50
13/08/2021				Received from trustees	£	106.50
06/09/2021	Payment			Dengie Thomas Sympson	-£	78.00
4040-40-					£	373.00
13/07/2022	Receipts			Received from trustees	£	106.50
00/07/0000				Dengie Thomas Sympson	-£	39.00
20/07/2023		R	1	Received from trustees	£	106.50
31/12/2023		R		Bank Interest	£	3.83
05/03/2024				Trees in the Village	-£	256.10
31/03/2024	Receipts	R		Bank Interest	£	3.26
					£	297.99

	A&DPC ACTUAL AGAINS	T BUDGE	TF	REPORT			
			1	ncome /	Left in		
		Agreed	5	spend to	Budget as a		
		2024/25		April '24		April '24	
Income	PRECEPT	7320	£	-			
	BANK INTEREST	10	£	-			
	AYLETTS FUND	106	£	-			
	VAT REFUND	0	£	-			
	GRANTS	0	£	-			
	OTHER INCOME	0	£				
	TOTAL	7436	£	-			
Exp.							
Staff	Salary	3564	£	594.00	£	2,970.00	
	Office Allowance	100	£	_	£	100.00	
	TOTAL	3664	£	594.00	£	3,070.00	
Admin	Admin Expenses	150	£	60.05	£	89.95	
	Audit Fees	80	£	39.60	£	40.40	
	TOTAL	230	£	99.65	£	130.35	
	Highways Project	0	£	<u>-</u>	£	-	
	Insurance	290	£	257.60	£	32.40	
	Churchyard Water	60	£	33.75	£	26.25	
	Grass Cutting	1100	£	24.00	£	1,076.00	
	EALC/NALC/ subscription	160	£	-	£	160.00	
	Training	350	£	-	£	350.00	
	Donations / S137	300	£	-	£	300.00	
	Village Hall Rent / Electricity	220	£	270.70	£.	50.70	
	Election Expenses	100	£	-	£	100.00	
	Parish Projects	550	£	-	£	550.00	
	Bank Charges	72	£	-	£	72.00	
	Website	0	£	-	£	-	
	Defibrillator	250	£	-	£	250.00	
	Parish Magazine	90	£	-	£	90.00	
	TOTAL	3542	£	586.05	£	2,955.95	
	GRAND TOTAL	7436	£	1,279.70	£	6,156.30	
	VAT		£	12.01			
		Total:	£	1,291.71			

	A&DPC F	INANCE APRIL 2024 PAYMENTS							
	Income:	Interest £3.26p:							
		Expenditure							
Chq No.	Invoice No.	Payee	Cost		VAT		Total		A&DPC Ref. No.
BACS	May '24	Kevin B. Money - Clerk salary		237.60	£	-	£	237.60	6
BACS	May '24	HMRC - Tax on salary	£	59.40	£	-	£	59.40	7
BACS		Kevin B. Money - Expenses	£	99.65	£	12.01	£	111.66	8
BACS		Wave - Water bill	£	33.75	£	-	£	33.75	9
		TOTAL	: £	430.40	£	12.01	£	442.41	