

Minutes of meeting held on 8th November 2006

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 8th November, 2006 in the Assembly Rooms

Present: In the Chair	CLr Mrs. V. Guglielmi
Councillors	D. Bradbrook, R. Cannon, R. Cort, R. Laverick, Mrs. Lyn West, P. Moorhouse, J.Osborn.
Ward Councillor	C. Gamett
Parish Clerk	Mrs. J. Flewin
Electors	23 Electors

Rev. Gerard Moate attended to give an update on the situation regarding the horse chestnut tree in front of the church and initially gave a brief history of the tree itself. It is over 200 years old and has always been a major feature of the village scene. However, it is not on consecrated ground and is considered to be part of the vicarage "front garden". Over the years pollarding and crowning has been carried out but the centre of the tree is rotting and horse chestnut trees are prone to shedding branches as they age. Experts consider that although this particular tree responded to earlier crowning with new growth it is coming to the end of its natural life and unless some further action is taken there is a fear that it might become very dangerous particularly as it overhangs the High Street. The PCC is very aware of the importance of this particular tree and assured the Parish Council that no decisions will be taken without full consultation with the community. Rev. Moate outlined the options which were

open which ranged from further surgery to complete removal and invited opinions and comments from those electors present. Some questions were asked and a request that costings for the various options be obtained. Rev. Moate agreed that this would be done and further consultation will take place at a later date.

The Chairman thanked the vicar for his attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from Cllr. Clover.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING having been circulated were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) War Memorial The grant application has been turned down because it was for "cleaning" the base section of the war memorial which is not covered by the grant scheme. However, a list of companies dealing with war memorial refurbishment has been received. It was agreed that the memorial as a whole would benefit from specialised attention and Cllr. Osborn will endeavour to obtain the three quotes required for grant aid.

(b) Barrier - Royal Square Following site visits from several Councillors one or two possible solutions had been put forward. Initially the best plan

seemed to be to reverse the position of the gap so that the barrier closed right up to Mr. & Mrs. Bridge's garden wall. This would give a sightline of approaching bicycles, etc. but still enable pushchairs to get through whilst protecting the wall. However, Mrs. Bridges was not now in favour of this. The placing of a bollard similar to those at the pavilion end was discussed and a resident suggested a field gate. The problem with a bollard was that this would allow for larger vehicles, i.e. motorbikes, to access the playing field as has happened in the past from Southfields. After some discussion Cllr. Moorhouse agreed to obtain costings for the re-siting of the barrier and the placing of a movable bollard for the next meeting.

(c) Community Police Support Officer In view of the previously called public meeting and the several Parish Council meetings at which this question had been aired the Chairman asked if there were any further comments which members wished to make. Cllr. Mrs. West stated that she did not feel that the village would get "value for money" in view of the low level of crime in Dedham and resident Mrs. Wickstead was of the opinion that the extra cost to be borne by the village would be unwelcome and hard on some residents. Members were reminded that despite considerable past publicity up to this meeting there had been no objections received by the Parish Council and at all previous meetings there had been a majority in favour of the scheme. The Chairman called for a show of hands from those residents present which resulted in a two-thirds majority in favour. Councillors voted five for, two against and one abstention.

It was therefore agreed in principle that Dedham would go forward with the process of employing a CPSO as from 1st April, 2007, but that in the meantime this decision would again be publicised in the parish magazine together with details of the cost for all Bands of property. The magazine was delivered to all houses in the village and

residents would be invited to send any letters of objection or approval to the Parish Clerk. The decision would also be published in the parish column of the newspapers.

(d) Monks Lane C.Cllr. Tony Clover was meeting with Geoff Harris on site on the 9th November. Cllr. Garnett was setting up a meeting in Colchester with ECC and other interested parties to hear the outcome of their deliberations.

4.CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Obstruction of vehicles - Forge Street A letter of complaint has been received via NW regarding obstruction of vehicles in Forge Street caused in the main by the Dedham Vale Driving School. It was agreed that initially a letter from the Parish Council should be sent asking for their co-operation in solving this problem.

(b) Use of bad language on Sports Field A visitor to the play area during a football match had complained of bad language being used which had compelled them to leave. Cllr. Osborn has taken this up with the Sports Club and the matter will be raised at their next committee meeting. Meanwhile a letter of apology will be sent by the Parish Council to the family concerned.

(c) Affordable housing for single residents A letter from a young resident of Dedham asked what future there was for a single person requiring accommodation in the village. This followed the allocation of the new affordable housing recently announced and members were sympathetic to her plea. Cllr. Garnett had already contacted Miss Josie Smith by e-mail and invited her to keep in touch with him.

5. DEDHAM SURGERY The Steering Group continued to seek funding. The building will be handed over on the 22nd November and the opening ceremony will be held on the 8 December. It is hoped that tenancy will start on the 27th November. Cllr. Garnett said that the new North Essex PCT had acknowledged their letter stating that they were having a three month moratorium in respect of the previous PCT during which they would be reviewing the matter of the health centre. EEDA are to come to look at the surgery later this month together with some members of the Steering Group.

6. FOOTPATHS/PLAY AREA Footpath 2. has been closed at Boxhouse Lane. This footpath which links Coles Oak Lane with Boxhouse Lane has for many years been walked over a section of land which is not the correct route and which has now been closed by the owners. This stems from a diversion over forty years ago when there was a pig farm on the adjacent land which now houses a new residence. The diversion was never made official and maps still show the original route which goes through the middle of the new house. A number of meetings have taken place with Mary Moir, ECC Rights of Way Officer, and the residents of the new house but matters are in abeyance until the mapping expert, Mr. Gary White, pronounces on the precise route of the middle part of FP2. The extent to which other land owners are affected is not completely known at this time.

7. ACCOUNTS It was proposed by Cllr. Bradbrook, seconded by Cllr. Osborn, with all in favour, that the following accounts be paid:

	£
A. Hodson - Hours worked PPP	250.00
" Maintenance	120.00
Mrs. O.M. Ruff- Litter	144.00
Hire of Duchy Barn	10.00
British Legion - Poppy wreath	20.00
Income: CBC - Portaloo (50%)	£112.50

8. PLANNING The Planning sub-Committee has dealt with the following applications:

LB/COL/06/ Dedham Hall, Brook Street Dedham

1647/1649

First floor extension and alterations.

COMMENT: Approve with conditions. See File.

COL/06/1669 Sundowne, The Heath, Dedham.

Certificate of lawfulness.

COMMENT: Refuse as previously decided (old application.)

COL/06/1676 Lower Barn Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham.

Demolish dwelling house and farm buildings and erect replacement dwelling.

COMMENT: Approve subject to conditions (see File)

COL/06/1676 Rare Breeds Farm, Mill Lane, Dedham.

Proposed toilet block.

COMMENT: Approve subject to conditions (see File)

COL/06/1699 1 Frog Meadow, Brook Street, Dedham.

Formation of 2 dormers and 1 roof light.

COMMENT: Approve subject to conditions (see File)

COL/06/1732 13 Dedham Meade, Dedham.

Mews access, loft bedroom and dble. garage with attic storage.

COMMENT: 'CalledIn'. Recommend refusal.

COL/06/1745 16 Dedham Meade, Dedham.

Additional bedroom over existing flat roof extension and extension
to porch.

COMMENT: Approve.

COL/06/1511 Land adj. Travers, Crown Street, Dedham.

Revised plans

Proposed 2 storey dwelling.

COMMENT: Approve the concept, but still feel over development of site. Highways issues.

The following applications have been approved by CBC:

COL/06/1490 6 Dedham Meade, Dedham.

Replacement roof to incorporate bedrooms.

COL/06/1463 Land west of Barratts Farm, East Lane, Dedham.

Ménage with new surface, fence and gate.

COL/06/1332 The Kennels and Wilderness Cottage, Gun Hill, Dedham.

Break through to connect two properties, including staircase.

COL/06/1360 The Cottage, Grove Hill, Dedham.

Conservation roof light.

The following application has been refused by CBC:

COL/06/1405 Crown Cottage, Crown Street, Dedham.

Vehicle access and drop kerb.

9. REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR The grant application for the Mill

Lane car park toilet block has been approved. Cllr. Garnett is hoping that CBC will also contribute to the overall cost. An approach has been made to the Environment Agency regarding railings and a grating across the culvert outside the Craft Centre to prevent children playing in the Blackbrook at that point.

10. PUBLIC REPRESENTATION A complaint was made that lights in the car park area of the new health centre were left on all night. It was thought that this was probably for security purposes whilst machinery and equipment was still on the premises. Cllr. Osborn will check with the builders to see if the brightness could be reduced and to ensure that the lights do not constitute a nuisance to other residents.

It was requested that overhanging shrubbery in Crown Street be cut back.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS The street lights in Mill Lane were not working at

present. Clerk to write to CBC. Cllr. Laverick reported that Community Speedwatch training commences tomorrow (9th November). He also hopes to attend

the PPP Course on the subject of Leaflets. Cllr. Laverick asked if the rules affecting bus stops could be clarified inasmuch as some bus drivers in rural areas will stop on request between official bus stops whilst others will not. Long Road West is a good example of an area where "request" stops would be beneficial in view of the distance between "bus stops". Clerk to contact CBC for information. The Emergency Coordinators' Meeting had not yet been advised. Cllr. Mrs. West reported that the school governing body had been reconstituted and asked if the Parish Council wished her to continue as their representative on the governing body. There were no objections to this. A resident from Long Road East had contacted the Chairman to ask if her daughter could assist Mrs. Ruff on a litter-picking day as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. There were no objections to this as long as all necessary requirements governing adults in charge of under-age children were met. The Chairman will speak to the parent and Cllr. Osborn will contact Mrs. Ruff.

12. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING **There will be no meeting in December,**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 10th January, 2007, at 7.30 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

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