



Dedham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 02.03.2015 at the Duchy barn Dedham.

Present: Cllr's Sheila Beeton, Tony Regan, Kevin Taylor, Peter Gibbins, Nicola Baker, Ann Follows and Sue Vinter. County Councillor Ann Brown

1. Apologies: Cllr Mark Cable.

2. Declaration of interest: Cllr Regan for item. Cllr Gibbins Item 10 Hallfields

3. Minutes: Acceptance of the minutes of 02.02.2015. These were agreed.

4. Proposal: To co-opt Christine Frost as a Dedham Parish Councillor. This was proposed by Cllr Sheila Beeton and seconded by Cllr Nicola Baker. This was carried unanimously. Cllr Frost was welcomed by Cllr Beeton and thanked for her work so far with the preparation of the Parish Assembly agenda. (Item 12).

5. Update on items from last meeting – not reported separately

a) Stratford Road Speed Limit. Emma Cansdale informed the members that speed sensors had been requested to be placed along this road to monitor traffic speeds. However, Emma said that the Chair of the Local Highways Panel (LHP) had the responsibility of managing the finance for this work and the cost of a survey was £210.00. Cllr Brown, as Chair of the LHP requested that the Clerk write to her and she will agree to the expenditure. Cllr Brown added that the Stratford Road should not be a 60 mph limit. The road had unobstructed views across the Vale and there was a seat along the bank that was used to admire the view. Cllr Clark reminded members that most of the road did not have a footpath.

The Clerk advised Councillors that ECC had been requested to carry out a speed survey that will also include Coles Oak Lane.

.Action EC & AB.

b) **Tree initiative CBC.** The Clerk said that she had obtained 15 dogwood trees that will, in due course, be planted around the Mill Pond. Cllr Gibbins asked that if these trees would in any way obstruct the views across the Mill Pond, which has in recent years been obscured by overgrowth. Cllr's Beeton and Follows assured Cllr Gibbins that dogwood trees were small and could be cut back each year so the views would not be obscured. Cllr Taylor offered to help with the planting.

Action: SB AF EC & KT.

6. Open Session – Have Your say

As Cllr Brown was present Cllr Beeton invited her to speak and she said that the park and ride would not be ready until April due to electrical problems. Cllrs were disappointed that the park and ride scheme did not include a stop at the hospital. Cllr Brown said that Cllr Rodney

Bass ECC had decided the positions of the park and ride bus stops. It did not include the hospital.

The question of the use of the Rangers was brought up and Cllr Brown advised that any request for them to carry out work should be headed with the term 'Rangers'. She said they had not enough work and they should be used. Cllr Brown then added that Cllr Rodney Bass had requested that the Parish Councils asking the work be carried out must write to landowners who had not cleared their hedgerows abutting highways. Failing this the ECC would take action. Cllr Brown was asked to forward a copy of his dictate. Cllr Brown then spoke about the footpaths from Dedham to Flatford and the disgusting amount of 'dog poo' in bags that dog walkers had thrown into hedges and asked if anything can be done. No one had an answer, but most of this was actually on the Suffolk side of the river. Cllr Beeton said that the Clerk should write to the Suffolk County Council (Babergh???) and the possible provision of dog poo bins. Cllr Clarke said that some little while ago notices was put on litterbins that dog poo could be placed in these and there was no need for extra dog poo bins, just as long there were sufficient litterbins. Cllr Taylor said that a litterbin should be placed at the end of where most peoples walk from Flatford, near the Fountain House. It was suggested that these notices mentioned before should be replaced. It was suggested that a letter be sent to CBC to place more of these notices on the litterbins. And for an extra litterbin near the Fountain House. Cllr Beeton asked that the Clerks look at these various proposals and report to the next Parish meeting.

Action Clerks

7. Accounts: The following were approved and Cllr's Beeton and Regan later signed cheques: However Cllr Beeton queried the extra expense on the roundabout work of the £200.00 for the removal of the old concrete cricket practice pitch. Cllr Beeton said that this was over and above the total monies requested from the 106 fund and a request would have to be made to Bob Penny for approval of the extra expense. The amount was of £200.00 was approved.

- 1) Emma Cansdale Clerk salary March: £252.81
 - 2) Brian Hindley Asst. Clerk's salary March: £202.21
 - 3) Iris Hindley Litter Picking February 2015: £192.00
 - 4) Duchy Barn Hire February: (02/02. 13/02) £30.00.
 - 5) Work concerning re-positioning of roundabout and leveling of soil.
 - (a) At £1350.00 plus VAT
 - (b) Approval of additional costs of £200.00 for removal of concrete cricket wicket.
 - 6) Professional charges for provision of advice concerning toilets in the Drift and possible dispute with Colchester Borough Council. £900.00.
 - 7) Expenses; Cllr Follows. Postage: £5.70p.
- Additional expenditure was as follows:
- 8) Accent Stationers: £37.90.
 - 9) Ladywell Accountancy: £55.00
 - 10) HMRC £148.00.

8. Planning Advisory Group.

Cllr Regan reported on the following applications: Application: 150274. The Millstream Mill Lane. T1 reduce height of hornbeam hedge by approx. 6ft. T2 reduce height of young scots pine by 8ft. T3 remove approx. 13 overgrown leylandii. T4 reduce height of overgrown leylandii by 15ft. T5 reduce height of overgrown leylandii and

- a) lawsons by 15ft.
- b) Application: 150196. Harwich Road 91. Application for prior notification of forestry development – proposed agricultural building.
- c) Application: 150168. Park Farm Coopers Lane. Temporary of mobile home associated with the conversion of the Granary to form part of home.
- d) Application: 150155. Dairy House High Street. Demolish existing lean-to conservatory and make good abutment areas. Demolish existing lean to kitchen and replace with Orangery Garden Room. Dismantle and rebuild root damaged existing boundary wall.

Councillors agreed with the recommendations of Cllr Regan on applications 150274, 150196, 150168 and 150155 for approval.

- e) Application: 150248. Barratts Farm East Lane. Erection of temporary Manager's accommodation.

Councillor Reagan declared an interest in this application and did not take part in the debate or decision. Elements such as road access, traffic and the building construction were discussed. Councillors unanimously agreed that construction of a two-bedroom dwelling, outside the village envelope and within the AONB was not appropriate.

Councillors were unanimously to the objections put forward by Cllr Taylor on the application 150248 Barratts Farm.

9. Bargate Lane.

Cllr Regan notified members that the site had been effectively cleared and the static caravans had been seen to leave the village. It was a question people keeping an eye on any activity at the site.

10. Hallfields.

Our Clerk informed Councillors that Hallfields had not actually got planning consent yet as the 106 agreement had not been agreed, but it was expected to. The Clerk agreed to forward the criteria for occupancy to Cllr's Regan and Beeton, for an affordable house that was something still needed to be agreed with Colne Housing and Dedham Parish Council.

Action: EC

11. Committee and Advisory Groups format and procedures. Emma Cansdale asked that all Committee and Advisory Group Chairs to consider their terms of reference, e.g. the number of their meetings, structure, and criteria for their objectives. She wished that their suggestions be submitted to her before the end of March.

Action: All Chairs. EC.

12. The Parish Assembly: Monday 27th April 2015.

a) Our Chair Cllr Beeton said that our new Cllr Christine Frost had volunteered to prepare an agenda and she, Cllr Beeton, had prepared a report**, which had been circulated to all. Principally two speakers will be asked to attend and whilst the future of Dedham is the theme the speakers will discuss also the Colchester Planning criteria and Dedham as an AONB. A 'flyer' will be prepared, 1000 copies made and circulated throughout the village. It will contain a 'tear off' section asking for comments and suggestions. The Craft Centre and the Pharmacy will be collecting points. Cllr Frost said she would arrange collection of the returns.

b) It was proposed and agreed that the Chairs allowance be utilised for this event.

Action: SB CF BH.

13. 20 mph speed limits and other matters in the village. The Assist. Clerk raised this issue as a number of residents had voiced their opinions concerning the recent publicity about the consideration of a 20 mph speed limit along Dedham High Street as voiced by the County Councillor Ann Brown. Cllr Brown said that the ECC Cllr Rodney Bass was opposed to this policy as Dedham High Street was a thoroughfare. Cllr's said that there was not much call for this limit and there had only been two for it and two against it. It would not Councillors' agreed it would not be right to make decisions with a small number of views. A member of the public pointed out that a 20 mph speed limit would 24 hours, seven days a week. It was maintained that most people do keep to safe speeds in the village and it was only the minority who flouted the limits. The same member of the public suggested that perhaps a more important action to take would be the placing of a zebra crossing from the car park to the footpath on The Mill side. The Clerk was asked to bring this idea to the Local Highways Panel (LHP). Cllr Taylor said that a speed sensor should be placed on Shoebriidge Hill on the approach to the Assembly Rooms. Cllr Baker seconded this and the Clerk asked to contact ECC Highways.

Action: EC

14. Toilets – The Drift Dedham. Cllr Beeton said she was extremely pleased with the outcome of negotiations with CBC Cllr Tina Bourne and that a decision to pass over the funding to Dedham Parish Council had been delayed for one year. The legal advice we had obtained, at some expense, had been invaluable in the discussions, which was wholly in our favour. Cllr Gibbins pointed out that a more important issue was that there should be more

toilets in the village not less and that additional toilets in the car park is important. He reflected that it used to be the norm that the previous Council put temporary toilets in the car park during the Bank Holidays. However Cllr Beeton said that during the recent survey of visitors to Dedham, part of which took place in the car park, there was not one comment concerning additional toilets in the car park and 97% of visitors used the car park. It had been the view of the National Trust that visitors were not visiting Dedham with the comment, 'No toilets, no visit' and that walks from Flatford to Dedham were not arranged because there were no toilets. Cllr Britton was asked to bring the whole question of toilets in Dedham, as an agenda item to the next meeting as there was clearly strong opinions about this issue. **Action: PB**

15. Car Park Working Groups – Update.

a) Cllr Follows announced that the Car Park Working Group had a grant of £2250.00 formally ratified by the AONB Dedham and Stour Valley Project to improve the environmental area around the Mill Pond. This would be to remove the tree, currently lying mostly in the Pond and the tidying up of the shrubs, bramble etc. around the Pond. No match funding is required. She was seeking approval for this to go ahead. This was proposed by Cllr Beeton and seconded by Cllr Clark and was agreed unanimously.

b) Royal Square. Cllr Taylor summarised the recent experience over the past year of the residents and users of Royal Square. Unfortunately several of the users (including business users) had not complied with requests to abide by the guidelines and he proposed that further action was necessary to persuade people to comply. There was he said really only one and that is to bring in his proposal to request CBC to bring Royal Square into the ticketing arrangements for the rest of the High Street. There was some discussion over this proposal but it was seconded by Cllr Baker and carried by all with the abstention.

Action: EC

16. Crime Report. The Asst. Clerk reported that there had been two house burglaries, at neither of which was there loss of property, the perpetrators may have been disturbed, some damage to a car and an assault.

The Clerk declared that the following matter contained confidential commercial information and the Council should be in closed session. There were no members of the public present apart from a member of the Working group.

17. Playground refurbishment: The Chair of the Working Group Cllr Gibbins, Cllr Clark and the Asst. Clerk brought the members up to date with the latest developments. Three companies had been approached with one company that was favoured. The Group was seeking the Council's approval to enter into a dialogue with this company to further the project and wished to bring their recommendations to the next Council meeting once those discussions had taken place. A confidential report had been circulated to all Councillors for their consideration. Councillors agreed unanimously for the Group to continue with the preferred Company and report in due course. This was proposed by Cllr Beeton and seconded by Cllr Baker. Carried unanimously.

Action PB CC IM BH

18. Roadside Verge – Crown Street. Cllr Follows referred to her amended report ** and estimate from Eager Beaver, and circulated to all Councillors about this suggested work and proposed that the Eager Beaver be employed to clear this verge in order to avoid the yearly clearance. The estimate was for £260.00 and proposed by Cllr Baker seconded by Cllr Regan. It was carried unanimously. **Action: AF**

10.25pm The Clerk announced at this stage that the Chair should announce that the Standing Orders should be suspended in order for business to continue, which was done.

19. Reports from representatives of advisory working groups.

Cllr Beeton reported from the last meeting of the Community Safety Group and that the item upon the Crown Street shrubbery had been covered under item 18. The 20 mph matter had also been covered at today's meeting under item 13. A criteria for users of the playing fields had been drafted by the Clerks and when agreed will be circulated as will the notes of the meeting.** **Action: BH**

20. Correspondence.

- a) The Clerk asked Councillors if they wished to enter the Best Kept Village Competition which was agreed.

- b) The Dedham Youth Club wished to announce that they had arranged for a quiz night on 21.03.2015 in the Assembly Rooms and asked if the Council wished to enter a team. The members declined.

21. Matters for Information. Our Chair Cllr Beeton wished to place on record the recent death of Joan Hammond who had been a wonderful example of someone who had done an enormous amount for the village serving for many years as Councillor and as Chair of Dedham Parish Council During her later years she was the local correspondent for the local newspapers. All Councillors expressed their sympathies to her family. She will be sorely missed in Dedham.

22. Matter for continuing Reference:

- a) Notice Board Replacement. The Asst. Clerk was still seeking quotes. The Clerk said she was still researching details of the grants available when the original notice boards were obtained. **Action EC BH.**

- b) A Boards – High Street. The Asst. Clerk will circulate copies of the relevant guidelines from ECC in the Spring to local businesses. **Action BH**

- c) Water Leak from Manhole Cover Royal Square. There has been no progress with this matter and the Asst. Clerk will contact ECC. **Action BH**

23. The Next meeting will be held at 7.30pm Monday 12 April 2015 in the Duchy Barn

Signed.....

Date 12.04.2015.

** Documents available from the Asst. Clerk