



## Dedham Parish Council

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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 January 2015 in the Duchy Barn.**

**Present:** Cllr Sheila Beeton, Cllr Tony Regan, Cllr Kevin Taylor, Cllr Ann Follows, Cllr Nicola Baker (8.15pm) Clerk Emma Cansdale, Asst. Clerk Brian Hindley, Cllr Ann Brown (8.10pm)

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Chris Clark, Cllr Sue Vintner, Ward Councillor Mark Cable

**2. Declaration of Interest.** None declared.

**3. Minutes of last meeting 1 December 2014. Amendments:** Jane Hughes not present. Item 6 Planning Application Bargate Lane - Cllr Regan had not spoken to Peter Hill but to Andrew Tyrell - Item 7 Cllr Taylor not Cllr Regan spoke regarding an application 146319 Stour Coach House

**4. Update on items from last meeting:** None.

**5. Result of Notice of Vacancy for Dedham Parish Council –** None received

#### **6. Open Session:**

The Chair invited members of the public to make general comments in advance of key items on the agenda. There was only one member of the public present who protested strongly about the sewer system along Manningtree Road near Constable Row. It had apparently been blocked before Christmas (23.12.2014) and there were vehicles present apparently dealing with a blockage. Cllr Beeton said that she had spoken to Colne Housing and they had no record of this occurrence. This was disputed by the member of the public who said that one of the van drivers had knocked on the door of No.4 saying that he was there to deal with a blockage. Cllr Taylor emphasised that before any decision upon the planning application for Hallfields was made the problem must be attended to. Cllr Regan said that he still had not had any notification of when the application was to be called in. Cllr Beeton requested Cllr's Regan and Taylor to follow up this matter. Cllr Regan said that there was an alarm fitted to the sewer system and until this goes off nothing can be done. Cllr Beeton said she will make contact with Colne Housing.

**Action Cllr's Beeton**

**Regan & Taylor.**

In the absence of Cllr Mark Cable Cllr Beeton read from his email in which he reiterated the 'call ins' he had made: Stour Coach House 146319. Shelley Glebe Barn 146316 and Hallfields 146334. The Bargate Lane situation planning application has been refused (which we were aware) and the occupants have 3 months to vacate, but have 6 months to appeal this decision. Other matters had been discussed at the full council meeting but none had any particular reference to rural communities.

Ward Cllr Cable mentioned that he had also called in the decision to close the toilets in The Drift and that he had united support from fellow Colchester Councillors and West Mersea. He was awaiting the scrutiny panel meeting when this will be discussed. Cllr Regan said that he had been given the dates of the 'call ins' and will check the CBC website and notify Councillors.

Cllr Beeton noted that the Clerks' pay award had been granted from 01 January.2105 with a proportion made as a lump sum.

Cllr Brown stated that she had had a request from Mrs Shepherd of Stratford Road to try and reduce the speed limit (currently at 60 mph) of both Stratford Road and Coles Oak Lane. Cllr Brown had urged Mrs Shepherd to talk to her neighbours and get a petition up and submit this to the ERCC Highways. Cllr Brown will also get a speed survey done. Cllr Brown also included her wish to get a 20 mph limit along Dedham High Street but she had been told by ECC Highways that this was not a suitable thoroughfare for this type of limit, There was some discussion as to whether or not this was an A road or a B road. It was considered by the Clerk that this was a B road. It was suggested that there should be wider publicity of this proposal of the 20 mph limit to gauge local feelings on this and Cllr Bake said she would put an article in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk said she would coordinate this response.

**Action Cllr Brown. EC.**

**7. Accounts.** The following amounts were approved for payment and signed by Cllr's Beeton and Regan

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|---|--|
| 1) Accent Stationers: £135.21               | 8) Iris Hindley Litter picking £168.00                           |
| 2) Duchy Barn hire £15.00.                  | 9) Brian Hindley Asst. Clerk £216.27                             |
| 3) Mr P Proctor: £236.72                    | 10) Emma Cansdale Clerk, salary<br>& Payment NCP £17.46, £252.81 |
| 4) Stamps: £6.36.                           | 11) RCCE Annual subs. £66.00                                     |
| 5) Mr. Trimmit: Hedge: £310.00              | 12) Registration Data Protection<br>£35.00                       |
| 6) Instaprint: Leaflets: £24.94             |  |
| 7) Dedham Sports Club Grass Cutting £500.00 |  |

**8. Planning Advisory Group (PAG)**

a) Cllr Regan reported upon the recommendations of the PAG

- 146413 Lower Barn Farm, Jupes Hill, Dedham  
Construction of a hard surfaced tennis court with surround fencing
- 146442 Great House, High Street, Dedham  
Pruning of Ilex Raising crown of Catalpa Thinning Wild Cherry
- 146525 Little Netherhall, Princel Lane, Dedham T1 Sycamore tree - reduce by 25% to allow more light T2 Bay tree - reduce and reshape G2 Elaeagnus Shrub - remove for re-landscaping
- 146523 Mill House, Mill Lane, Dedham T1 and T2 Holly - fell and grind stumps to allow for landscaping T3 Beech - Damage on rear of trunk reduce by 30% to negate failure of tree T4 Mulberry - Wind damaged, remove left hand branch with chain and reduce remainder of tree by 30% to negate
- 146590 Malting Cottage, The Heath, Dedham Essex CO7 6BT  
Extension to existing workshop and extension to garage to form Garden room.  
All the above planning applications were recommended and approved by the Council.
- 146387 Bracken Long Road West Dedham. Single storey extension to existing bungalow and erection of garage/outbuilding (for occasional family use)  
Dedham Parish Council recommends refusal for these reasons:  
The garage/annex is 27.5 metres long and out of proportion to the bungalow and neighbouring properties; It is overdevelopment of the site, which is in the AONB  
The annex is totally detached from the main property and is capable of use as a separate dwelling. We refer to the reasons given for refusal of application 145180 (subsequently upheld on appeal). We believe this application is contrary to DP1, DP13, DP22 and UR2.  
The need for space is more than adequately met in the doubling of size in the bungalow to a 5 bedroom, 3-bathroom property.

**8 (b)** The Clerk discussed the matter of the process and timescale for the Planning Advisory Group (PAG). Stating that she would advise the PAG to bring the recommendations of the PAG to Councilors prior to the full Council meeting. This would enable Councilors time to consider the planning applications prior to the meeting. It was pointed out by the PAG that some applications were not received prior to the date of the publication of the agenda and that they would like to maintain the current practice of giving Councilors their views and recommendations at the meeting. Cllr Regan said that none of the local Parish Councils he had looked at actually publicise their recommendations prior to the Council meetings. Cllr Taylor suggested a compromise of any possibly contentious planning application be brought to the notice of Councilors prior to the meeting as they had done with both the Hallfields and Bargate Lane applications. This was agreed as an interim answer and that any contentions matters will be circulated with the PAG recommendations prior to the Council meeting. These could then be put onto the agenda. This was agreed by all Councilors. However Cllr Beeton asked the Clerk to clarify the legal position of PAG recommendations. **Action: EC**

**8(c) Bargate Lane.** Cllr Regan advised the meeting that in addition to what Cllr Cable had advised was that the legal procedure was continuing and a Health and Safety notice had been delivered to the site, which had not been returned.

**8(d) Hallfields** Cllr Regan said that when the 'call in' date for Hallfields was known he would advise Councilors.

**9. Toilets – The Drift .** The Chair Cllr Beeton explained the position that CBC had notified DPC that the toilets would be closed on the 01.04.2015 unless DPC took on the responsibility of running and maintaining them. DPC had decided the cost of maintaining the toilets should not fall on the village as they were mainly there for visitors. Our MP Bernard Jenkins had been written to and he had taken up this issue, which also included the position of Tiptree and Wivenhoe. Cllr Beeton continued that Wivenhoe were in a position of negotiating with CBC over the transfer of assets but Dedham had no such bargaining position but we were taking legal advice. Cllr Baker made the point that these toilets contained the only disabled toilet in Dedham. Cllr Gibbins said that rather than decreasing the number of toilets in Dedham we ought to be increasing them. Cllr Regan made an important point that in comparison the incomes of Tiptree are 320k, Wivenhoe 270k and Wivenhoe 327k, much much greater than Dedham's 37k. Cllr Beeton reminded councilors that the Scrutiny meeting, that was due to take place on the 13.01.2015 had been cancelled but that it should still take place on a date to be notified. Cllr Beeton stressed that DPC will try and negotiate a reduction or complete elimination of business rates of £1,400.00 per year should the costs have to be borne by DPC. Cllr Beeton asked Cllr's Regan and Taylor to assess the financial impact and aspects of the proposal and that Cllr Baker contact the Dedham Vale Society, National Trust and AONB to gain wider publicity. Cllr Beeton also said she would write to the ECC portfolio holders with these responsibilities and the RCCE. Cllr Brown asked that she be sent any reports and she will write to DVS and AONB. **Action: SB TR KT NB AB.**

**10. The Precept.** Cllr Regan presented the forecasts of income and expenditure for the remainder of the financial year ending 31st.March 2015 and the proposed budget for 2015/16 (the report is available from the Asst. Clerk). Reserves are estimated at £14,900 as at 31st.March 2015. Income for next year is boosted by a conservative forecast of £10,000 from the car parking partnership but expenditure will include significant increases from the employment of the Assistant Clerk (£7,000 v £3,500), the cutting of hedges and verges (£2,000 v £1,000) and £1,000 for repairs and maintenance to the Sports Pavilion. Capital expenditure of £3,000 is included for the repair or replacement of the parish noticeboards. Reserves at 31st.March 2016 are forecast to increase to £22,594, therefore the Finance Advisory Group recommended that the Precept remain unchanged. It was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Follows that the precept be accepted at £24,205.00. It was agreed unanimously.

**11. Car Park Working Group.** Cllr Beeton updated Councilors with the progress of the working group who met recently with the Police and Matthew Young of CBC who was anxious to reinstate the car parking vending machines and expected them to be fitted by the 21 January 2015. Extra security will be installed. The shrubbery near the machines will be

cleared substantially to enable clear views of the machines from the roadway. Matthew Young has decided to give a reward to anyone who gives information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons damaging the machines. The reward is 2 years free parking in the Dedham Car parks. Cllr Beeton said that she would be meeting with local press representatives to publicise the reward.

Cllr Taylor let Councilors know of the current position of car parking in Royal Square. The policy was shown on the DPC website. However there were still persistent 'over-stayers' on Royal Square. It was, he said the selfish few that may in the long run spoil the excellent facility of short term parking for residents. He would be bringing this matter forward in the Council Meeting in March to assess the situation. Cllr Taylor would be responding to the letters from Judith Anderson- Fowle and Shakespeare Galleries. **Action: KT**

**12. Crime Reports.** The Asst. Clerk reported on two crimes, a car break in and criminal damage, again to the car park vending machines in December, but it was pointed out that this was not a complete list as there had been at least one burglary reported recently. He said that he would not rely upon Neighbourhood Watch in future for his information and make his own enquires. **Action: BH**

**13. Playground Refurbishment:** Cllr Gibbins was pleased to say that some progress had been made on the installation of the roundabout and he expected the work to be completed soon. In so far as the refurbishment of the equipment was concerned he had obtained two estimates with a third due soon. The quotes thus far were approaching 40K He hoped to be able to put the working group recommendation to the Council on the 2 March 2015. Cllr Beeton brought the question of the need of additional funding to the notice of Councilors and that she proposed to increase the application for 106 monies to be increased to 25k. She said there had already been a grant of 15k from CIF and a provisional figure of 20k from 106 monies. Therefore she proposed that we increase our application for 106 funding to 25k thereby amending our original application to CBC. The proposal was made by Cllr Gibbins and seconded by Cllr Kevin Taylor. It was unanimously agreed. **Action: SB**

**14. Reports from Representatives – None.**

**15. CALC.** The Asst. Clerk gave a brief report of the recent CALC meeting held in December. A copy of the minutes had been circulated. The main thrust of the meeting was a presentation by Insp. Sharn Taylor of Essex Police who was there to talk about the community meetings, which were designed to replace the presence of the Police at NAP meetings. There was much dissatisfaction about the lack of publicity about the meetings; one held in December in Dedham did not encourage one member of the public to attend. The Police were requested to improve the publicity about these meetings and to let Inspector Taylor know that CALC members were not impressed by the demise of the NAP meetings. The only response from the police was that the details were published non the website.

**16. Boundary Commission.** Cllr Beeton gave an informative briefing upon the Boundary Commissions (BC) proposals for Colchester and after studying the West Bergholt proposals she had put together a report (attached) which largely supported West Bergholts with some reservations. Our proposals were due to be submitted to the Boundary Commission by the 12.January 2015 but they have conceded that we could submit our proposals by the 16 January 2015. Langham Parish Council were due to hold their Council meeting on the 15 January 2015 and they were to consider our proposal with the possibility of a joint submission to the BC.

**17. Bosted Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Regan has studied this very full document at some length and was reluctant to comment further. It did not affect Dedham.

**18. Dedham Village Quiz.** Members were reminded of the Dedham Quiz on the 31 January 2015 and that we had entered a team.

**19. Correspondence.** There was nothing to report.

**20. Matters for Information.** No matters to raise.

**21. Matters for continuing reference:**

- a) Notice Board Replacement, Provision has been made in the budget for 2015/16.
- b) 'A' Boards – High Street The ECC has supplied us with guidance on these and this will be circulated amongst local businesses in the High Street. **Action: BH.**

**22. The next meeting will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 in the Duchy Barn at 7.30pm**

**23. Closed Meeting.** The public was excluded from the meeting.

**DPC to resolve** to obtain preliminary advice pertaining to CBC's decision to no longer maintain the Public Toilets in the Drfit. This matter was debated and it was proposed by Cllr Beeton and seconded by Cllr Taylor that DPC instruct a solicitor to a budget of £750.00, plus disbursements. This was carried unanimously. **Action: SB**

**Meeting closed at 10.20pm**

**Signed.....**

**Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015.**