

Dedham Parish Council
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting in the Duchy Barn on Monday 7th November 2016

Present: Cllr Sheila Beeton (chair), Cllr Nicola Baker (Vice-chair), Cllr Chris Clark, Cllr Kevin Taylor, Cllr Ann Follows, Cllr Jane Meakin, Cllr Christine Frost, Cllr Jeffrey Herbert
Emma Cansdale Clerk, Brian Hindley Asst-Clerk

176/16. Apologies for absence.
None

177/16. Declaration of Interest. Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests, and non-pecuniary interests not already declared.

Cllr Clark-Chairman Sports Club,

178/16. Minutes

Acceptance of minutes of 3rd October 2016. To note an error on the minutes, item 1164/16 Figure for the Street Lighting. Corrected and agreed, duly signed by the chairman.

179/16. Update on items from last meeting. Not reported separately.

- Dog bin move – **in progress.**
- Parish Council precept capping- consultation response **submitted to the EALC and the DCLC**
- Dog Fouling. Public Space Protection Order. **Commenced 31.10.2016.**
- A & J Lighting Mill Lane LEDs- **in progress**
- Parking Restrictions and LHP applications- **submitted to CBC and ECC respectively.**
- Website update- **Cllr Taylor reported that progress has been made on investigating use of the Essex Info website. Councillors are asked to review the email sent by John Goldsbrough and feed comments back to the Communication AG.**

180/16. Have Your Say

Report from Cllr Nigel Chapman. Cllr Chapman was not present, but sent the following report:

Planning is the major topic just now! There was the Planning Committee's decision that should conclude the 15 year saga surrounding the greenhouse site at Gt Horkesley by building a small hamlet that will enhance the setting of the church and remove the unsightly, redundant agricultural buildings as well as guarantee the future of the land surrounding the

site that's in the AONB. Currently all the Rural North councillors are heavily engaged with residents across the ward discussing the Local Plan. Remember the concept of the garden community at West Tey includes part of the ward and development in many of our other villages, including Dedham, is proving controversial. There are conflicts between the east and west of the ward but we are doing our utmost to ensure that everyone's views are represented to the Committee fairly and robustly.

The clerk will ask when we will get feed-back on the Local Plan consultation.

Report from Cllr Anne Brown. Not present

181/16. Accounts:

- a) The list of cheques for payment was agreed, including the setting up of a direct debit for the litter collection payment to CBC. Total expenditure £1236.87
- b) **Budget:** Call for potential budget items for 2017/18. Councillors are asked to feed any budget ideas to the clerk and Cllr Herbert, before the end of November.

182/16. Planning Advisory Group. Cllr Kevin Taylor.

a) The following planning applications were received.

162480 . Bloom House, The Heath. Change of use of an area of paddock to domestic curtilage.

The property owner and applicant was present, and made the following comments and provided a visual aid to demonstrate the lay of the land.

- The land in question is already surrounded by domestic land, so they are looking to continue the run.
- Land has not been used as a paddock in the last year.
- They made substantial improvements to the land since taking ownership, removing weeds, and planting native trees.
- They have substantially improved the drainage on the piece of land.
- All except one neighbour is supportive of the application.
- The reason for wanting the change is to allow their children to play on the piece of land. CBC enforcement officers have told them under its current classification, they cannot.
- They are happy to accept with caveats preventing structural building and want to preserve the area.

Cllr Taylor pointed out that any protection offered by a commitment from the current owner is lost when it is sold on.

Recommendation: *Objection. This is AONB land, Similar applications have been refused in order to ensure that the nature of the land is preserved and to protect neighbouring properties. Dedham Parish Council recommends refusal of the change of use.*

Proposed: Cllr Taylor
Agreed by all

162537. Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Proposed demolition of redundant agricultural building and replacement with a single two bedroom affordable dwelling.

Residents in attendance made the following comments:

- In the original Hallfields plans, Hallfields House and Crown House gardens were secluded and protected by the existing building. This building is due to be removed in the application, removing the protection.
- Issues with the look of the property, not being in keeping with the closest buildings, at Hallfields House.
- The green amenity area is significantly reduced.

A resident reported that the house on the corner of the entrance road, should have vehicular access round to the back, but is no longer there. Cllr Taylor reported this application has been through the processes and was agreed.

Recommendation: *Refusal. Full comments available on the CBC planning portal*

Proposed: Cllr Taylor
Agreed by all

162517. Hewitt Hall Cottage, High Street, Reduce beech by 30percent and crown lift. Small holly and cherry remove. Either heavily reduce the top of the leaning silver birch or remove the tree.

No recommendation on tree applications

162590. Gould House, Brook Street, Crown reduce small Acer Large of the two firs fell Fir in the middle top down by one third but in the future possibly fell.

No recommendation on tree applications.

162024. Littlegarth Cottages. Princl Lane. Installation of a summerhouse.

Planning portal does not have the documents, and cannot comment without having seen the documentations.

b) Saunders Feld Update.

Cllr Beeton commented on a number of issues relating to this site including the lack of transparency on the development.

The clerk reported that she had been in contact with CHP and CBH, regarding the housing allocation. This is the response from CHP:

“Please be advised that we are currently advised that there is a delay at the development. The revised handover date advised by the developers that we are now working towards is 8th November 2016. This would be a provisional handover date to CHP – we would hope to then sign tenancies with successful applicants by the end of that week– this date is not confirmed yet. I will update you when I am given further information.

We are still working with Colchester Borough Council (CBC) to allocate the properties. I can assure you that we are working to the agreed eligibility criteria as outlined in the Allocations Agreement and we are passing all information to CBC regarding successful applicants. When this process is completed I am sure CBC will be able to advise you accordingly”

CBH have not responded.

183/16. War memorial cleaning. Update Cllr Baker.

Cllr Baker reported that the proposed date is sometime at the beginning of December. DPC will need to decide whether the tubs are put back on the war memorial after cleaning. The Clerks are to talk to residents of Royal Square regarding water and electric for the cleaning.

184/16. Business Breakfast- Cllr Frost

Cllr Frost gave a brief introduction to the agenda for the Business Breakfast on 10th November 2016 and reported that she hopes to get a better understanding of the business requirements within the village after this event.

a) To approve expenditure of £10.00 for the hire of a microphone, from Dedham Church.

Proposed: Cllr Baker
Agreed by all

185/16. Mobile phone Coverage

To request the Communication AG investigate the possibility of improvements in cellular coverage.

It was agreed that the Communications group would investigate.

186/16. Matters arising from the residents meeting 24.10.16. Cllr Meakin/Cllr Follows

Cllr Follows made the following comments regarding the meeting:

A few residents turned up, however, the 2 speakers pulled up at the last minute.

It was reported that the anti-social behaviour in Parsons Field and Forge Street has improved.

- a) Supervising School Car Parking. – Munnings Museum have offered an hours parking am and pm to use as a drop off for a walking bus.
- b) 20 mph speed limit through village was requested.- We do not meet the criteria for this.
- c) Introduction of bollards on the greensward in Parsons Field.- Correction Forge Street, not Parsons Field.
- d) Playground on Parsons Field- this could be used as potential car parking.
- e) VAS sign Grove Hill- to investigate

These will be investigated by the Environment, Safety and Infrastructure AG, and reported on at the December meeting. .

187/16. Footpath Cutting.

Cllr Follows reported that:

- The cutting for this year has been completed.
Cllrs. Beeton and Follows will meet with ECC to establish SLA and funding provision to feed into the budget process.
- It was agreed to re-tender the grass cutting contract for 2017/18.
Proposed: Cllr Follows
Agreed by all

188/16 Framework Contractor Village Handyman and Report from Personnel Meeting.

Cllr Beeton gave the following report on the outcome of the Personnel Meeting on 26/10/2016 as follows:

- a) To agree to make the Personnel Committee an Advisory Group- **Agreed**
- b) To agree the circulated advert for a village handyman- **Agreed subject to changes**
- c) To advertise the framework contract role, with a closing date of 19th December 2016- **Agreed**
- d) To advise the two interested parties, that formal applications can now be received.- **Agreed**
- e) To agree an hourly rate of £15.00 per hour.
Cllr Baker proposed an amendment to withdraw item e). This was seconded by Cllr Clark
Agreed.

189/16. Crown Street Bus Shelter. Cllr Beeton.

- a) To report that the Dunstons Alms-houses Trust have refused DPC request to site the Crown Street bus shelter within the curtilage of the Alms-houses land.
- b) To request ECC continue with the removal of the brick bus shelter- **Agreed**

190/16. Stratford Road. Repairs. Clerk

The clerk reported that repairs had begun of the drainage issue on the Stratford Road bridge, which has repeatedly caused carriageway defects. During the initial repair, a full drainage system was located, but was damaged. A revised 'job' to repair the drainage system will be programmed in by ECC

191/16. Leases. Update Cllr Baker.

Cllr Baker reported that DPC now have all the information regarding the leases and she will be meeting with the relevant groups to discuss the leases.

The clerk will seek advice from the Internal auditor about the asset register and insurance.

192/16. Local Crime Report. Asst.Clerk.

Arrest of a man in Munson Piece, following a robbery of 2 betting shops in Colchester.

193/16. Correspondence.

- Annual Village Quiz 27th January 2017. DPC will be entering a team
- Essex Playing Field awards for Dedham. Cllr Clark reported that Dedham won the following awards:
Gold football pitch, gold play area, silver cricket pitch, silver playing field.
Record of thanks to Iris Hindley for all her work on keeping the area tidy is noted. .
- The clerk reported that 3 letters regarding the proposed parking restrictions on Crown Street have been received, all asking for changes to the submitted request to CBC. Following a discussion it was agreed that the clerk respond advising the residents that the request has been submitted to CBC, however, the formal consultation has not yet taken place. CBC will carry out this consultation, and they will have the opportunity to raise their concerns and requests with CBC directly.

194/16. Matters of continuing Reference.

195/16. Date & Time of next meeting: Monday 5th December 2016 7.30pm.

The meeting to be closed to the public in accordance with the Public Bodies Admission Act 1960 due to items of a commercially sensitive nature

Closed session

196/16. Lighting – Duchy Barn. Clerk/Cllr Follows.

Duchy Barn- To review the quotes and appoint a contractor to install a PIR light on the Duchy Barn shed.

2 quotes were received and following a discussion it was agreed to appoint BH Electrical to install 3 lights on the Duchy Barn shed, 2 with PIR sensors, which will activate all three lights from either end.

Proposed: Cllr Follows

Agreed by all

197/16. Japanese Knotweed- Duchy Field Clerk

To review the quotes for the treatment of the Japanese Knotweed on the Duchy Field and to appoint a contractor and appropriate treatment.

This work carried out on the Duchy Field is done without prejudice to the interpretation of the lease, subject to the discussion with the sports club on the arrangement for the next financial year.

2 quotes were received for the herbicidal treatment of the Japanese knotweed, however, further clarification is required on costing from one of the contractors. It was agreed to give the clerk delegated power to appoint the appropriate contractor once the clarification has been received, up to a value of £2000 for the work (over 5 years)

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Agreed by all

Cllr Herbert raised the question of who is responsible for this area. It is on Duchy land, leased by DPC and sub-leased by Dedham Sports Club. Given the ongoing work on the leases, it was agreed that DPC would take on the work at this time, but it would not prejudice any discussion or responsibility in the future following the final outcome of the lease discussions.

To note: Winter planting flower tubs.

As the budget had been set, it was agreed to plant up the 5 flower tubs in the village for the winter.

Emma Cansdale- Clerk