

Dedham Parish Council
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Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 7th September 2020

Attendance: Cllr Kevin Taylor (Chair), Cllr Nicola Baker (Vice-chair). Cllr Sheila Beeton, Cllr Ann Follows, Cllr Jeffrey Herbert, Cllr Jane Meakin, Cllr Jonathan Smith
Emma Cansdale- clerk

County Councillor Anne Brown, Borough Councillor Nigel Chapman

20.085. Apologies for absence
Cllr Christine Frost

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

Cllr Ann Follows- Non pecuniary interest as a resident of Long Road West

Cllr Jeffrey Herbert- Non pecuniary interest as a resident of Long Road West

20.087. Minutes

The minutes of meeting 03.08.2020 were accepted as a correct record

20.088. Have Your Say.

Report from Cllr Nigel Chapman. Ward Councillor.

Cllr Chapman reported the following key points:

- CBC are working on understanding the income the borough has lost following covid- it is approximately £3M.
- Reforms of Local Government are being discussed, and further information will be sent out as it becomes available. Cllr Baker asked what stage of the process it is in. It will happen, but the details are still being discussed.
- Planning white paper is being released, with 1600 houses needed for the borough.

Report from Cllr Anne Brown. Essex County Councillor.

Present but no update.

Ann Follows reported on the installation of 30mph roundels, on LRW, in the 40mph speed limit. This was replaced with a 40 roundel

Stephen Redmond- There has been an increase in speed checks on Grove Hill, and has come forward as a speed watch volunteer.

John Goldsbrough- Broadband question. Are they starting installing fibre in Parsons filed, going up Crown St towards the Meade. This is part of the Essex run project, being carried out by Gigaclear.

Colin reported that there were police officers at the Meade carrying out speed checks.

He also reported the poor state of the road surface on Stratford Road, High Street and Birchwood Road. These have all been reported. Cllr Anne Brown has allocated the first 2 under her pothole scheme.

Colin also reported that as they came across the cricket field towards the Drift on Saturday morning, there were cars parked on the cricket field (past the pavilion) Tried to walk through the Drift to the High Street, footballers were on the path and wouldn't move off to allow social distancing

Nicola Bakers advised that the football club were responsible, and will not do it again.

Murray Aiktins was sad that there has been a complaint about the Old Bakery van. The fact the Old Bakery is closed does give the other cafes the opportunity to capitalise on the food that they cannot offer at the moment. They hope that the Old Bakery are able to continue with the arrangement.

Murray also asked what's the PC's view on the last few months on anti-social behaviour is, and asked for guidance on how residents can engage in a discussion to reduce the antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Taylor reported that as far the behaviours are concerned, they are terrible. DPC been doing as much as they can with the appropriate people, but private land, plus being in Suffolk has made taking actions difficult. DPC has engaged with every authority who does have power to make changes. One of the intents to bring forward is a DPC Strategic Development Group meeting, to look at number of visitors and how to control it. We do not condone it, and are not doing anything to increase those numbers but there is little we can do to prevent and control it

Murray would like to bring a group of people together to find gentle ways to reduce the situation next year.

20.089. Update on items from last meeting, not reported separately and other updates and reports.

- **The Drift Improvement Project- Cllr Smith.** We have a landscape architect who has looked at some preliminary schemes for Royal Square. The group have reviewed those options, and agreed a way forward, however, it is still very fluid.

The Drift- we have the lights we want to use, and are awaiting a response from the CBC tree officer. Looking a re-surfacing The Drift, with possible a resin bound material, or something more natural, plus drainage measure. A land drain is included in the lighting works. The timetable as it stands still has the lighting completed this year, and will try and tie in the lighting work at the same time as the football pitch work. Cllr Beeton asked about the moleing system. We are awaiting feedback from the moleing contractor and the tree survey. Although, trenching does go hand in hand with land drainage works. If it's conservation approval, it will be published on the website? Is this being treated this way. DPC are awaiting the CBC officers comments and report.

- **B1029 and river issues- Cllr Taylor reported on the outcome of the multi-agency meeting, and briefly reported on the topics covered at that meeting.**

Councillors have had copies of the notes taken at the multi-agency meeting.

B1029: Cllr Taylor recapped on all the issues on this stretch, including the car park and roads full.

Footpath access: How the access to the field is being managed (veering off the footpath onto private land). Discussed fencing.

Parking on farmers field: Benefit or hindrance? The Suffolk, Babergh and Stratford st Mary Parish (SsMPC) Councillors are the view that it is a benefit, as it gets them off the road, but allows them to visit the AONB. Whilst not formal policy, DPC are generally not of the same view.

Possible solutions: SsMPC only in favour of intermittent double yellow line, and will extend the existing lining too. Suffolk will support what SsMPC ask for, but think further discussion with them is needed.

Dedham Car Park advance signage: Agreed to look into placing a sign on the Suffolk side, on the approach to Dedham, stating there is a car park in Dedham

Parking enforcement: Ipswich do not have enough staffing to manage everything. Asked if NEPP could work on the Suffolk side too. NEPP have been fantastic during this period.

Tombstoning: Suffolk would take it away and look at options to prevent this.

Suffolk Highways have agreed to pay for the double yellow lines. Babergh councillors agreed to look into increasing litter and parking enforcement.

Extension in the conservations area: This was not supported by Suffolk or Babergh. Their view is with the growth of housing we need to cater for more visitors.

- **Complaint relating to the siting of the Barista van adjacent to Royal Square- Cllr Herbert, Cllr Taylor.**

A complaint was raised about the siting and process of the barista van. Informal procedure followed- not accepted by the complainants. Formal hearing. Complainants represented themselves, Clerk represented the Council. Decision based on the verbal account, documented evidence provided by both parties.

Finding of the committee are as follows:

- 1) *The barista van was purchased on 5th June 2020 purely as a private initiative by Gerald and Lynn Barnard.*
- 2) *The first request for assistance from the Barnard's was made by email on 6th June 2020 to Christine Frost in her role as Chair BDG.*
- 3) *Councillors were made aware by various emails from 6th June onwards of the plans relating to the barista van.*
- 4) *Appropriate license have been granted by CBC for trading until 12th September 2020. The license application was supported by Parish Councillors.*
- 5) *The committee are not aware of the licence situation post 12th September 2020. If there is a request to extend the licence beyond 12th September 2020 it should be formally reviewed at the next PC meeting.*

- 6) *The plan to park the barista van on Royal Square was not considered as a formal agenda item by DPC. This was incorrect and an appropriate apology should be made.*
- 7) *However, even if it had been formally agreed at a PC meeting, the complainants accept that they would still have complained. The basis of their complaint being unfair competition and preferential treatment.*
- 8) *At the time of the Barnard's request, 5th June 2020, the Old Bakery was unable to trade as normal.*
- 9) *The barista van is not an additional retail outlet in the village but a relocated existing outlet.*
- 10) *The barista van was not given preferential treatment. All businesses were contacted on 12th June 2020 asking them, amongst other things, to contact Christine Frost if any further assistance was required. Any request made at the time by the complainants would have received constructive consideration.*

The committee wish to emphasise the very difficult circumstances that Covid-19 had generated and ALL organisations/individuals were facing in May/June 2020. In all walks of life most situations were new, many decisions/rules had to be made quickly without face to face meetings and without the benefit of benchmarks. In hindsight perhaps things would or should have been handled differently, however we are satisfied that all decisions have been taken in good faith.

SUMMARY

For the reasons outlined above the committee do not believe it would be either fair or equitable to uphold the complaint.

Cllr Taylor thanked the committee for carrying out that process and fully apologised for not bringing it as a full agenda item to the parish council. Any further applications will be considered by the PC. There is a meeting tomorrow with CBC, will look at street trading, where DPC will find out policy/process. The Strategic Development Group will be developing a policy to deal with street trade applications

Cllr Beeton raised a question about the complaints procedure that was used. When was it agreed? Who carried out the procedure? Cllr Baker did the initial, informal investigation. This was followed up by the formal hearing and investigation by Cllr Herbert and Cllr Meakin..

The clerk advised that the policy was adopted early in her time as clerk at Dedham, as part of the CiLCA qualification, and was adopted alongside a number of other policies that were developed at that time, following the election of an entirely new parish council.

- **Playing Field and play area update- Clerk.** The play area has been cleaned, sign erected and re-opened. The goal posts have been removed, and will be reviewed at the October meeting.
- **Note from Councillors following the sad passing of ex-councillor and chairman Roy Laverick.** Cllr Baker will put a piece in the next magazine.

20.090. Accounts.

To receive accounts and agree payments **

Proposed: Cllr Taylor
Seconded: Cllr Follows
Agreed by all

20.091. Planning Advisory Group. Cllr Jonathan Smith.

- a) To receive and agree recommendations on the following planning applications:

201596 - 3 Crownfields, Crown Street, Dedham Colchester CO7 6AT

Erection of rear single story flat roof extension.

Recommend no objection

Proposed: Cllr Smith
Seconded: Cllr Baker
Agreed by all

Bell Cottage, Stratford Road- Enforcement issue on listed building.

New owner (leasehold Nat Trust grade 2 listed) completing a lot of demolish work without any form of planning. CBC have been out a number of times, and they have issued a stop notice.

6 Houses Coggeshall Road- appeal has been refused.

6 pods Coggeshal Rd- not yet decided.

Lower Lufkins- done a lot of work under various approvals. The last application rejected. Appeal also rejected.

20.902. Sports Pavilion refurbishments

To agree the proposals for the work on the interior to be provided by the Sports Club

- Paint the exterior of the rendered section of the building with white masonry paint. Within the next month.

- Power wash and re-treat the decking, handrails, balustrates and steps to the front of the building. Next spring.

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Seconded: Cllr Makin

Agreed by all

20.093. Easyspace renewal

It is resolved to renew the email package with Easyspace at £273.53 for 2020/21, plus £30.95 for the domain name.

Proposed: Cllr Herbert

Seconded: Cllr Baker

Agreed by all

20.094. Correspondence. Clerk

The clerk reported a number of complaints from residents regarding the possibility of losing the Old bakery barista van adjacent to Royal Square.

20.095 Matters of continuing reference

Long road West/East/Ardleigh Rd traffic issues.

Meeting is booked to discuss the next steps. There is a form on the website inviting residents to log traffic issues in the village (widen out to the whole village, not just the Long Roads)

Cllr Brown reported that she had 24 complaints from Long Road and 5 complaints from Ardleigh rd, and she has written again to Kevin Bentley. Must have a meeting with them.

Date and Time of the next meeting. Monday 5th October

Forthcoming events

N/A

Meeting closed: 20:32.

** reports available on the website or from the clerk