

Dedham Parish Council
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Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 8th
February 2021 at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Clerk to the Council: Emma Cansdale 2 Goose Green Cottages Colchester Road Wix, Manningtree CO11 2PD
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clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk
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Tel. 01255 871483

Record our condolences at the passing of Peter Gibbins.

21.014. Apologies for absence

None

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

Ardleigh Rd and Long Road West- Cllr Meakin, Cllr Follows and Cllr Herbert.

21.016. Minutes

The minutes of meeting dated 11.01.2021 were accepted as a correct record.

21.017. Have Your Say.

Maximum of 3 minutes per person/group to make representations to the Parish Council, to a total of 15mins

A resident made an observation that the much-reported potholes have still not been repaired.

Rob Ferguson-Beech House, adjacent to Duchy Field raised concerns regarding the lighting proposals. Urbanisation in the village is a concern and the addition of lights may give city car park attributes to the location. It sets a dangerous precedent for other villages in the Vale and wider community could follow suit. Mr Ferguson also reported that there is a significant amount of bat and owl activity in his garden, and an ecological assessment should be completed.

Charles Clover stated that he disappointed that the lighting scheme is going to be decided tonight, as the Dedham Vale Society (DVS) is against it. He went on to say that he wrote on July 7th, saying a legal challenge would be held unless DPC could prove all appropriate considerations were taken. Relevant considerations include: alternative proposal in email October, CROW Act, S85, tree preservation orders, tree report. Mr Clover stated that he does not think it can be done lawfully. Where are the reports? Tree report? Wildlife report?

Cllr Taylor- Enquiries regarding the solicitor letter are being made, as the DVS solicitors should have received the response by now. They have confirmed that it has been sent.

Report from Cllr Nigel Chapman. Ward Councillor.

Local Plan- part 1 agreed by Colchester Borough Council, however there is a 6 week challenge period before it is accepted. Cllr Chapman still concerns about the Tendring Garden Communities that is included, due to the traffic impact that may cause.

CBC have a budget meeting at the end of the month. Looks like the CBC council tax will be increasing by £4.95 on a band D property

Cllr Baker-When does the 6 week clock start ticking? After the final council agrees it? (Tendring and Colchester have agreed it, awaiting Braintree) Cllr Chapman agreed to find out.

Cllr Herbert- Is there anything in the plan that comments on areas such as Colchester and Tendring getting together to talk about cross borough/district impacts? Cllr Chapman- no, it's a national issue.

Report from Cllr Anne Brown. Essex County Councillor.

Cllr Brown confirmed that Cllr Chapman is correct. When she spoke to Cllr Bentley about the issues, until Tendring has its Local Plan, there is no defence. Highways planners are siloed with the Colchester planners and Tendring planners acting independently. This is a long-term issue to get sorted, but must get it started. now

Essex full council on the 23rd, discussing increases in council tax, proposing a small increase of 3%. Unlikely therefore to see increased spending on issues like highways.

There have been problems with COVID immunisations. The area was falling behind, however, really pushed and increased the percentage of those immunised.

Cllr Taylor- to note in light of the comments above regarding council tax increases from Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council, there is no precept increase from Dedham Parish Council.

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

- **Flooding Shoebridge Hill area-** DPC are working with residents and various relevant authorities to try and resolve the issue.
- **To note the resignation of the clerk, effective 26th March 2021**
- **Local elections.** It looks as though the local elections will be going ahead in May. Most councillors will likely be standing down. 3 councillors will be required to be quorate, 6 for General Power of Competence (GPC).

21.019. Accounts

To receive accounts and agree payments **

Proposed: Cllr Baker

Seconded: Cllr Herbert

Agreed by all

21.020. Planning Advisory Group. Cllr Jonathan Smith.

a) To make recommendations on the following applications:

210120. Saddlers Cottage, The Heath, Dedham Colchester CO7 6BT. Two storey rear extension, single storey side and replacement outbuildings.

Recommendations: No objection

Agreed by all

210091. Darbys, High Street, Dedham Colchester CO7 6DE. Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed use of privately owned rental property for occasional holiday letting.

Recommendation: Dedham Parish Council note and fully support local residents' and neighbours' concerns about potential inconsiderate parking, excessive noise, especially from visitor's dogs and rubbish being left out on the wrong day and not collected, should the lawful certificate for holiday letting be granted.

We also support the concerns about the increase of smaller properties being used for holiday letting in the village centre, thus reducing the number of smaller properties available for downsizing and for starter homes, which the Parish Council identified as a priority in it's review of housing needs for Dedham, during the CBC 'Call for Sites' exercise.

210243. Brook Farm House, Grove Hill, Dedham CO7 6DT. Locating of a mobile Shepherd's Hut in the garden of the property.

Recommendation: No objection unless neighbour and residents raise issues

210110- The Drift, Dedham Sports Field, Dedham CO7 6AH. Work to trees in a conservation area- no comment

210002- Meadow Cottage, Mill Lane. Works on trees in a garden- no comment

210210: The Cottage, Grove Hill, Dedham. CO7 6DT Alterations to improve bedroom space and create safe access to the first floor. Listed Building Application.- no comment

Recommendation submitted 29th Jan 202883 Shelley Glebe Barn, Grove Hill, Dedham Colchester CO7 6DT

Conversion and alteration of existing barn to form detached dwelling. Objection- full details available on CBC planning website.

Michael Archer advised that this went to appeal when the previous owner tried to get a house on the site. Also, it is a serious flood risk.

b) Notable Planning Decisions issued by CBC this month.

The following applications, mostly for rear single storey extensions and some work to garages and stores, have been approved:

202670 Wheatfields, East lane, Dedham. CO7 6BE

202384 1 Park Cottages, Birchwood Rd, Dedham, CO7 6DB

202504 The Hamptons, Coggeshall Rd Dedham, CO7 6ET

202365 The Limes, Coles Oak Lane, Dedham, CO76DR

Also approved:

202098 Dedham Oak, Coles Oak Lane CO7 6DN. Swimming pool and pool building.

Lighting and Drift Project**

20.021. Lighting

To receive a report from Cllr Smith and to resolve to install bollard lighting adjacent to the Drift for a distance of 100m from the Sports Pavilion Car Park to opposite the toilet block. To agree bollard type.

Cllr Taylor reported on the work to date. Dealing with issues on this for 4-5 years. Middle of last year it started to take more form, Cllr Jonathan Smith was asked to take it forward to move things forward, along with the lighting group consisting of Cllr Smith, [Cllr Taylor], Cllr Follows and Cllr Frost. The objective was to cover off all the legal planning requirements, dealing with everything in a professional manner. We have come to the end of the journey. DPC have appointed a landscape architect to ensure it is appropriate for the area. Arboriculturist has been appointed to carry out an assessment of the trees there, draw up of the plan for the protection of them during the works, and a plan for how the wiring could be successfully installed without any disturbance to the tree, or roots. DPC applied to Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Planning, Certificate of Lawfulness, and discussed other requirements to ensure we have everything in order for this project. The outstanding element on that is the tree officer approval of the reports from arboriculturist and landscape architect. Due to COVID this has been delayed but the officer is in the process of finalising his views on that.

DPC have engaged with the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project providing the team with reports on where we are to keep them up to speed with the developments. DPC have received informal comments, but would ask Cllr Chapman, as Chair of the DVAONB&SVP to make a formal comment. CLLR CHAPMAN- we are not wholeheartedly in favour of the lighting scheme, but accept the village and Parish Council have sensible, good reasons for installing them. They have taken the trouble to get it right as far as the dark skies and area is concerned, and we accept that is has being done.

With regard to the technical solution, we are minimising light exposure, and the amount of time those lights will be on. With regards to the Drift resurfacing, we have confirmed no planning is required, but a TTRO is required for the temp closure.

DPC has explored numerous lighting options, all focused on no up-lighting, side-lighting, only lighting focused on to the path with no objectional spill. We believe we have come up with the best solution, that corresponds to the dark skies initiative. DPC produced a mock up prior to the meeting to ensure councillors are happy with how they look-conscious of how they look in the environment, given it is an AONB and conservation area. From the initial stages of this project DPC have ensured any lighting complies with the CROW Act, in particular S85 and the visual impact on an AONB.

A comprehensive ITT has been pulled together and sent to contractors, 3 responded. Councillors have all the plans necessary for tonight's discussion. Councillors and the public have had monthly reports on the progress of the project. DPC believe we have done everything in the obligations and power to address the concerns of the residents that have raised the dark area across the Drift as a safety issue and great concern.

COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS: Cllr Herbert asked for the proposed time frame for the project. DPC intend to offer the contract out within the next 2 weeks, to finalise and orders put in place. Solution completed by the end of April.

The lights are very controlled; they only operate between a timer, with a dusk till dawn sensor, and a good quality PIR sensor that will not be tripped by leaves etc. They will not be on except for when they are need to ensure residents feel safe when crossing.

It is resolved to install bollard lighting as above subject to relevant documentations being received.

Proposed: Cllr Smith

Agreed by all

It was agreed to install the Klu bollard.

Proposed: Cllr Taylor bollard.

Agreed by all

20.022. The Drift resurfacing

To receive a report from Cllr Smith and to resolve to resurface the Drift from the Sports Pavilion car park, to the Duchy Barn. To agree edging type, and cross path finish.

It is resolved to resurface the Drift from the Sports Pavilion car park, to the Duchy Barn

Proposed: Cllr Smith

Secoded: Cllr Follows

Agreed by all

Edging type will be discussed under the closed item

20.023. Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) on The Drift

It was resolve to submit a TTRO for the duration of the above works, at a cost of £1,119.66

Proposed: Cllr Taylor

Agreed by all.

21.024. Correspondence. Clerk

Street trading

Memorial bench

21.025 Matters of continuing reference

Long road West/East/Ardleigh Rd traffic issues- Meeting arranged with Kevin Bentley. 20minute slot.

BT manhole cover- water

Date and Time of the next meeting. Monday 1st March 2021, 7pm

Forthcoming events

N/A

** reports available from the clerk/online

Closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

21.026 Lighting and Drift Surfacing quotes

Subject to items 20.021 and 20.022, to receive quotes and appoint contractors for the Lighting and Drift Resurfacing scheme.

Following a discussion, a contractor was appointed.

Proposed: Cllr Smith

Agreed by all.

21.027 Payroll Service Provider

To receive quotes and appoint a payroll service provider for 2021/22

Following a discussion, it was agreed to appoint DM Payroll

Proposed: Cllr Herbert

Agreed by all