



Minutes of the meeting of Dedham Parish Council (DPC) held on Monday 13th January 2025 at 6:30pm at the Duchy Barn

Attendees: Cllr Bourn, Cllr Harrison, Cllr McLaughlin, Cllr Sneddon, Cllr Martlew, Cllr Main.

Present: Clerk - Carol Harbach
10 Members of the public

24/147 Welcome and apologies and Declaration of Members interests

Cllr Bourn welcomed everyone to the meeting and there were no apologies.

Cllr Main Declared an Interest in the Tennis club item.

24/148 By-election

The residents have requested a By-election for the vacancies on the Parish Council and the timetable has now been published by the Election team. If more than 3 candidates apply to the council then there will be a By-election and then then this will be on the 20th February 2025. If only 3 candidates come forward for the vacancies, then they will be elected to the council. If you are aware of any candidates that are interested in this and wish to talk to members of the council, they are welcome to contact the Parish council.

24/149 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)

Angling update were given and there are new members and they are now part of the Angling Trust. The representative thanked the council for supporting this club. The club has now been registered.

There are lots of interest in this club and members going up and all members are keen to keep the river clear.

A resident stated that the Coop has a cash dispenser but it has been out of action for approx. 8 – 10 weeks and it is an inconvenience to the residents. It appears that this is run by BT and if it could be possible to contact BT to restore this from the council. The parish council stated that this is operated by Cash Zone and there appears to be problems in other areas as well. The engineers were there but the problem has not been rectified. Cllr McLaughlin will take this on and get a letter sent to the operators. **Action Cllr McLaughlin.**

A resident raised the updates of the National Grid – This report will be reported to the planning expectorant and should be presented soon. The contact for information on this to the council will be to Cllr Bourn. The resident will contact Cllr Bourn when he has more information. It was noted that the National Grid are now trying to get the masts over the AONB area.

Update on Munnings meeting– under matters arising.

24/150

To approve the minutes of the last meeting (2nd December 2024)

These minutes had previously been circulated to the council an amendment was made and then signed.

Proposed Cllr Harrison seconded Cllr Sneddon All Agreed.

24/151

Matters arising from the last meeting

Cllr Bourn spoke about the Munnings meeting and reported the questions that were asked and then gave general updates on this meeting. Cllr Bourn has spoken to the trustees since. There is a meeting with DPC/trustees of Munnings again this Friday to try and move this forward. The chairman was thanked for his help in this matter. The donation money agreed last month will be sent soon.

Parking signs at Royal Square and outside Art's centre – Cllr Main was looking into this and there will be a No Parking sign to go on the barrier which has been purchased and will be put on the gate. The Village Warden will be asked to put this up. Cllr Main will speak to the resident about signage outside their property near the Art's Centre regarding parking signs and bring back the information back to the next meeting. **Action Cllr Main.**

New Recycling Bin queries – ongoing with Cllr Rowe. Cllr McLaughlin has drafted an email on this subject to be forwarded to Cllr Rowe which he read out at the meeting. This showed concerns for people who only have access through the front door for the bins and no space to house 3 or 4 bins at the front of their property. The High Street houses along with other properties in the area also have a problem with the bin storage and the email also mentioned the problems for the lorries in small roads such as Boxhouse Lane. There are residents in other parts of the village who do want these bins and these were also be mentioned. It is hoped to have an exception in certain areas where this is not practical. **Action Cllr McLaughlin**

Minutes -later on agenda

Dog bins - where and how many bins will be purchased is being looked into.

Cllr Sneddon will complete some mapping as to where they are currently and look where the council can identify areas where they are needed. Bargate Lane and East Lane were suggested and it appears where people come off walking trails is where the bins are mainly needed. Ongoing

Blue Plaque unveiling – this took place and was unveiled by Vice Lord Lieutenant Roy Clare as unfortunately the Lieutenant was unable to attend the event at the last moment for personal reasons, but the unveiling was well attended and a reception was held in The Rose tea room after the event. Everyone was thanked for their help with this event.

NEPP – meeting planned for later this week ongoing

New Roles and responsibilities – these will be looked at again after the By-election has taken place. Ongoing

Horse in field – this is still being followed up but it appears there are now notices warning of the horses in the field and the owners are trying to find new grazing for these horses. It is believed that the owners have been requested to move the horses.

Visitors Report (Colchester City Council (CCC) Thomas Rowe/Essex County Council (ECC) Lewis Barber)

Cllr Barber reported on the recent meeting at CCC regarding the reform and devolution white paper.

Cllr Barber reported that from the local authority had voted to go ahead with this.

Cllr Barber reported on the meeting as follows

On 10th January, Essex County Council (ECC) agreed to submit a proposal to government to be included in its priority programme for devolution and local government reform. If accepted, it would begin the process of a mayor being introduced, who it is anticipated would be elected in May 2026. They would have new powers devolved from government. Simultaneously, the process for local government reform would take place, with introduction expected to be May 2028 for the new authorities. They are expected to commence in 'shadow' form alongside the existing authorities in an election in May 2027. They would then formally assume existence in May 2028, with existing authorities being abolished. The reforms are expected to see 2-5 unitary authorities across Essex, with it widely anticipated to be 3. These would combine responsibilities from both county and district councils, with some additional devolved powers likely.

A timeline from our meeting agenda to assist:

Early 2025 - National consultation on devolution, including devolution in Essex.

- February 2025 – statutory instrument made to postpone ECC elections and boundary changes, initially by one year.
- March 2025 – Government would expect the Partners to submit interim reorganisation proposals to them.
- May 2025 – by elections held for any vacancies in membership of the council which may arise at that time.
- Summer 2025 – Spending Review to confirm Investment Funds
- Autumn 2025 – Government would expect full LGR proposals to be submitted.
- Early 2026 – Orders made to abolish the fifteen councils from 31 March 2028, state that no further ordinary elections are to be held to those councils, create shadow authorities and set out shadow and interim arrangements, create the combined authority.
- May 2026 – Mayoral elections.
- May 2027 – A new set of councillors are elected to shadow authorities which can then start to plan operations and recruit staff.
- April 2028 – new unitary authorities come into operation and councillors elected to the shadow authorities are members of the new authority. At the same time, all 15 current councils would be abolished.

There are no anticipated direct changes to parish or town councils.

Norfolk not submitted a bid and Suffolk has put in a bid. Essex and Suffolk likely to be accepted. It is unknown of what will happen with Parish Council at the moment. **This will be on the next agenda.**

Locality budget – cricket club will be in this budget and there are some budget requests from the Therapy Farm and Dedham Primary School and the timeline has expended by end of March.

Group 1 - Finance, Standards and Procedures

136.1 Approve 2025 Budget and precept

Cllr Harrison presented the proposed budget and precept figures for the forthcoming year to the meeting. These papers had been prepared and were circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. Questions that were raised were answered and then the budget was explained in more detail. Proposed by Cllr Martlew seconded by Cllr McLaughlin. All agreed.

The Precept was explained in detail at the meeting by Cllr Harrison. Cllr Harrison proposed the precept of at £43,574 which is the same as last year. Proposed by Cllr Sneddon seconded by Cllr Main. All agreed.

The questions regarding the capital are going to stay on the agenda in the future.

There will be a new parish plan which will be completed shortly.

The precept will be forwarded by the Clerk to CCC by the required date. **Action Clerk**

These will be published on the website.

Questions from the residents were answered and consideration of a mandate from the village in the future would be considered. There will be more details in the future on capital expenditure and there may be more details to consider once the new councillors have been elected. A new strategic plan will be part of the parish plan in the future. **Action Cllr Harrison to look at the Parish Plan draft**

Cllr Harrison was thanked for his work on these items.

Capital expenditure will be on as an agenda item next month

136.2 To approve payments in accordance with the Budget

Payments for December 2024

Warden invoice	£916.50
Clerk Salary	595.00
HMRC payment	148.60
LMC Media Dedham Notes	120.00
C. Harbach Mileage for meetings/notices	22.56
Royal British Legion Invoice for Wreaths	50.00
Moser Groundcare	390.00
M. Rich playground inspections	200.00
Andy Slocombe – repairs to portage at Mill Pond H&S	810.00
Colchester City Council for street lights	71.40
Essex Association of Local Councils	720.00
Dedham Vale tree Surgery – survey of line tree	540.00
Business Supplies Group – stationery	65.03
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Total	£ 6,057.77

Proposed Cllr Harrison seconded Cllr Bourn All agreed.

Balances end of December 24

Community Account £978.60

Business Account £291,849.54

Income £37,723.29

Expenditure £86,709.69

136.3 Grants applications received to be discussed

Cricket Club application for new mower and cutters for £5,102.61

Details of the questions raised by the Parish Council were given by Cllr Main who has spoken to the cricket club regarding this grant.

The Club are currently not collecting fees from all members. It may be a way of encouraging them to try and gain some money themselves. It was noted that this has been pushed back for 2 months and the council assessed how this was in the past, with how the teams were now and the club is looking to enter in a new league next year and supporting women's cricket, The club have replied on each point the council raised and it was thought to support this now.

Proposed to agree this grant Cllr Sneddon seconded by Cllr Martlew and to request that the club tries to obtain some fees Action **Cllr Main to contact the club.**

Vote For: 6 Against: 0

Electrical mower Grant Approved.

Dedham Tennis Club – New path from car park to Tennis courts £2000

This request has been followed up by a few councillors and the villagers are in favour of this. This was discussed in more detail and it was thought to be of a mesh design which allows the grass to grow through.

Proposed Cllr Sneddon seconded by Cllr Martlew Cllr Main abstained

Vote For: 5 Against: 0 Abstained: 1

Grant Approved.

Dedham Primary School – new pond project £7,500.

Lots of plans in place for the anniversary at the school and there have been visits by 2 councillors to the school regarding this project. The school hope to build the pond as part of their anniversary project with environmental issues and initiatives available to get involved with in the future. They would like to go ahead with project soon so it will be of benefit this year.

The school are involved with other local environmental projects and groups.

Questions were asked around this project and has been compared with other schools in the area and the school also part of forest schools. Pretty Gate school was visited to see how they achieved their new pond and they stated that this is a real attraction for the local community. This project will make it available to all years of the school and the risk factors have been taken into consideration.

Vote For: 6 Against: 0

Grant Approved.

These approved grants will be on this month's payment list.

24/137

Group 2 – Community Environment

137.1 Dog fouling – new bin update

Discussed earlier

137.2 Blue plaque unveiling update

Discussed earlier

137.3 White lines in High Street

To be followed up by Cllr Sneddon.

137.4 Time line for Parish Plan

On agenda for March

137.5 Quote for Lime tree work £1140 + VAT

This was a H&S issue.

Proposed Cllr Sneddon seconded Harrison All agreed.

Action Clerk to contact the contractor to complete work.

139.1 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting

241965 - Pound Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AE
Removal of conservatory and erection of a rear extension; replacement

Decision by CCC: Approve conditional

242072 - Hegeston, Long Road West, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6ES

Replacement porch, replacement timber windows, replacement roof tiles

Decision by CCC: Approve Conditional

242152 - 16 Parsons Field, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6BZ

Single storey front extension

Decision by CCC: Refuse

242162 - Great House, High Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6HJ

First floor bathroom 2. Removal of bath and installation of shower

Decision by CCC: Approve conditional

242163 - Great House, High Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6HJ

Second Floor Bathroom 3. Removal of bath and installation of shower

Decision by CCC: Refuse

138.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed under delegated authority since last meeting

242501 - 4 Crownfields, Crown Street, Dedham Colchester CO7 6AT

Small extension to rear of existing house

DPC Comment: No comment

242529 - Monks Farm, Coles Oak Lane, Dedham Essex CO7 6DR

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 7. (241466)

DPC Comment: No comment

232386 – Petalo Lodge, Boxhouse Lane, Dedham Colchester CO7 6HZ

Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed rebuilding of existing wall and piers and replacement gates.

Petalo lodge – there have been ongoing issues and concerns over the past few years with this property. Cllr Bourn met with the resident of the neighbouring property and owner of Petalo Lodge and spoke to both parties. Cllr Bourn has seen the impact on the area and visited the site to see what things have been occurring.

Cllr Bourn has had a conversation with one of the planning officers regarding this property and there will be continuing ongoing conversations on this with both parties and the planning department.

DPC will meet with the planning officer and enforcement officers on a regular basis and the appeal will be monitored. An objection to the dog noise on the property has been sent in. The issues raised have been noted by the enforcement officer and DPC. DPC will be writing to the owners regarding the ballads outside the property **Action Cllr Bourn.**

It was noted that delivery drivers park in the road and stop access in the road.

DPC proposal is for the rebuilding of the existing wall and it is in consultation with the other residents and that the gates are lower and in keeping with other properties in the road. The resident is happy to have a meeting with the enforcement officer, DPC and the neighbour. **Action Cllr Bourn to respond directly to planning department of council's comments.**

Planning generally – DPC are going to re-think the planning committee and how the residents can be part of this. DPC will be having a planning committee so the residents can then attend these meetings and put forward their thoughts on the planning applications that come up. The planning officer is willing to meet up with the DPC on a regular basis.

This committees and groups will be restructured once the new councillors have been elected.

250009 - Pound Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham Essex CO7 6AE

Application to discharge condition 4 (additional detail on windows) and 5 (details of brickwork) of planning consent 241965

DPC Comment: No comment

250007 - Pound Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham Essex CO7 6AE

Application to discharge condition 4 (additional detail on windows) and 5 (details of brickwork) of planning consent 241966

DPC Comment: No comment

24/139

Group 4 – Traffic & Parking (NEPP Sub Group) To discuss latest updates

139.1 20's Plenty

There is a NEPP meeting this week and Cllr Bourn will bring up issues the main car park and the reorganisation of marking spaces and vegetation in the area. The maintenance agreement will be also discussed. **Action Cllr Bourn**

There has been a discussion with the primary school re safety around the school area and within that area it has been suggest the 20mph signs that could be implicated. A traffic survey will be completed for this but there are not a lot of funds available at the moment but Cllr Barber stated that this would be around the £300 to complete and the councillors agreed that they were happy to pay for this to get this moving. Cllr Barber stated that hopefully there will bet funding for a traffic survey for Dedham, Langham and Boxted again. A purchase order will be raised for the DPC to pay. This was agreed in principle by the council and Cllr Barber will progress this forward. Cllr Barber stated the current policies regarding traffic are from 2010 and that these have not been updated for a while and the mean average is not reasonable at the moment. Highways are looking at changing this. There are now new developments in Lawford which encourages drivers to go through Dedham to gain access to the A12.

There is a 20mph zone outside Fordham School and hopefully this will be obtainable outside Dedham school.

This item will be kept on the agenda and the school will be contacted regarding a new competition for the signs for speed reduction at the school again this year.

Pot holes will be looked at again at Lamb corner and these have been raised before with Highways. Cllr Barber will look in to this.

24/140

Group 5 - River Management Impact

140.1. update

This is ongoing and meetings are currently moving things forward and details will be forwarded at the next meeting. **Action Cllr Bourn**

- 24/141 Liaison with local police**
Cllr Bourn has spoken to the local PSCO's who were in the village last week and is keen to encourage conversations with them. Cllr Bourn has been in contact with them since and will be inviting them along to the next council meeting.
Up to now there has been no regular monitoring around the village. PSCO Emma Wright will be invited to come to the council meeting and answer any general concerns that the residents have in the area. There will be a section on the agenda for this.
- 24/142 Format of meeting and minutes of meetings.**
Cllr Bourn stated that the council are looking at the minutes and format of meetings for the future. These will be made more transparent and agreed by the council. Any issues that are raised are to go to the Chairman directly.
- 24/143 Councillor Co-option update**
This is dependent on how many people apply to be candidates at the By-election. This will be updated when more information is known.
- 24/144 Training/Events**
144.1 Report on attended events
No training attended this month

144.2 Nominations for new events
Cllr McLaughlin is still to complete his councillor training and will be looking at the dates for availability later in the year. Any training requirements are to be sent to the Clerk to source course availability.
- 24/145 Clerks Report**
The Clerk has received thanks from the Dark Skies campaign and the Dedham Vale Society for the support the Parish Council have given to them.
- 24/146 Items for next agenda**
Review and approval of Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Finance Regulations
VE days
Parish Plans
Short term plan for council
- 24/147 To confirm date and time of next meeting**
Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd February 2025 at 6.30 p.m.
- 24/148 Chairmans closure of meeting.**
Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:20.