



## Draft minutes of Dedham Parish Council meeting

10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 6:30pm at Duchy Barn

**Attendees:** Cllr Bourn, Cllr Sneddon, Cllr Harrison, Cllr McLaughlin,  
Cllr Beeton, Cllr Andrews, Cllr Main, Cllr Haines, Cllr Halsall

**Present:** Clerk - Carol Harbach  
6 Members of the public

**25/174 Welcome and apologies**

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

If there anything the public wish to raise about individual councillors then write to the Chair directly, or email the Clerk to pass on.

**25/175 Declaration of Members interests**

None were declared. Any other declarations are to be brought up as they arise on the agenda.

**25/176 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)**

A resident asked about an update on water on Castle Hill which is now pouring down and could become a problem, also the lack of kerb on the corner of Crown Street, Kiln cottage and the hedge that is growing over the pavement

There was also a question about extending the double yellow lines (DYL) on Crown Street near the junction with Manningtree Road.

The question was asked if there any control of over the buses.

There is also a lot of dog fouling in Crown Street and High Street and overflowing dog bins.

The council replied that we will be keeping the things that are on-going and are being worked on, by the infrastructure group they will report on an action list that will be worked on in the future and reported at meetings.

Cllr Beeton answered the questions with:

Castle hill –is a real problem and has been for a long time . The Council has been in touch with Highways and they did come out and cleaned around the village but only cleaned the tops and did not clean the drains out properly.

Further contacts to be made with Highways and Cllr Barber

Action Cllrs Bourn & Beeton.

Kiln cottage hedge in front that is overgrown will be looked at by the village warden.

Cllr Bourn will call in to see if we can contact with someone

It was also noted that a resident of Stratford St Mary stated that there is a risk of the lines being extended which would make it harder for patients to get to the surgery in the future and did not wanting the lines extended.

Bus service – Bus Company will be contacted

Action Cllr Beeton

Dog fouling on Drift – new notices will be put up by the village warden and it will be put on social media.

A question was raised by a member of the public regarding the last draft minutes,

She will write to the chair to ask for the wording to be changed.

A resident asked if is it possible to have disabled bays in the High Street. as well as the car park. The infrastructure group will look at this.

Pot holes were also a problem with the weather we have had and there are some works to repair these in Long Road West next week.

**25/177**

**To approve the minutes of the last meeting (12<sup>th</sup> January 2026)**

These had been circulated and were then agreed and signed. Proposed Cllr Haines seconded Cllr Harrison. All agreed with the following amendment concerning comments at December meeting. A resident wanted it noted that she found the comments made by the Vice Chair hurtful.

**25/178**

**Matters arising from the last meetings**

Parish Plan update will be on the next agenda

Rest of items are on this agenda

NEEP have now cancelled another meeting so a new date between them and Cllr Bourn and Cllr Beeton will be made.

The Post van was not there over the Christmas period as the van had failed its MOT so could not come as there was not a spare one to provide a service. The van is now back at Monday mornings 9 to 11 Tues 1,30 to 3.30pm Cllr Beeton will follow this up with the Post Office manager.  
Action: Cllr Beeton

**25/179**      **Visitors Report (Colchester City Council (CCC) Thomas Rowe/ECC Lewis Barber)**

No councillors were present and no report had been received.

**25/180**      **Follow up and review of Royal Visit**

The visit by the king and Queen to Dedham went very well despite the weather and late notice of it happening.  
This was a good event and enjoyed by the village.  
An email was received from the Lord Lieutenants office thanking the council for their help with the event.  
Particular thanks were made to the school for their singing.  
Unfortunately, the British Legion contingent was missed in terms of being introduced the King and Queen.  
It was felt they should be involved in the event to plant a tree in memory  
Particular thanks were also given to Cllrs Haines and Harrison for their work on the carparks and organisation of the activities in the High Street.  
Cllr Bourn was thanked for the work he did before the event.  
Thanks were sent from the Council to Colchester CC and Essex Police.  
Cllr Bourn thanked the rest of the council for their help on the day.  
Thanks to Dedham Works and the photographer for the work they did on the day. The photos will be circulated soon.  
The visit to Munnings Museum – A person who was there stated that they spoke with the King thanked him for the BEM medal and had a short discussion with them. They toured the museum and then went to the studio and met the people who worked there, their majesties unveiled a plaque of visit and given an umbrella and a copy of the black knight book each as presents. Everyone was thanked for they help on the day.

**25/181**      **Sports Centre update**

Various works have been undertaken recently regarding repairing the plumbing to get the Sports Centre up and running again. Thanks to Cllr Harrison and Cllr Haines for their work on that and Cllr Beeton thanked the infrastructure for the group effort on this.  
Some electrical work still to be completed.  
The drains by the Club have been cleaned  
The football club are now playing at another ground until March.  
It was agreed that the Parish Council should work with the Sports Club to have a well publicised re opening when all the work is completed.  
It was agreed to proceed with the proposal of a strategic meeting between the Sports Club and the Parish Council.  
Action: Cllr Main to investigate dates for April

**25/182 Dedham- Munnings and Constable update.**  
Training took place in January and detailed training begins later this month. 250 constable anniversary there is a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb of events that are going to be planned and there will be some environmental work groups.

**25/183 River update**  
183.1 Information update  
The next River meeting moved to March and date to be confirmed.

**25/184 Local Plan Consultation update**  
Nothing to update at moment.

**25/185 Finance, Standards and Procedures**

185.1 To approve payments in accordance with the Budget Payments for January 2026

Just Drainage – sports centre repairs	£3,410.00
Colchester City Council – parking permit for warden	31.00
Village Warden Jan 26	1,095.17
Moser Groundcare – Inv 0273	120.00
R J Osborn Printers & Stationers flyers for visit	181.60
Mike Rich playground inspections	200.00
Clerks’ salary	594.80
HMRC Tax/NI	197.79
Capel Plant Holdings Ltd toilet hires for visit	498.00
Dedham Works – IT Support and support for visit	625.00
Hudson Media Partnership Hi-viz jackets for visit	66.00
EALC Councillor course for Cllr Haines	300.00
Dunmow Training/CouncilWise Training subscription	180.00
Dunmow Training/CouncilWise Training AI Training	72.00
Colchester City Council dog waste bins	200.88
DPCC Hire of Duchy Barn	240.00
Clerk Mileage	41.60

Total £8,053.84

Income and expenditure – income slightly ahead as VAT covers 2 years.  
Minor overspends in some budgets balance at end of year likely to be 5% as of last year

Sports centre – finance side – Discussions are taking place with insurance company to clarify what is covered in the policy.

185.2 Audit report update  
Couple of items of outstanding audit.  
PKF will be looking at external audits.  
The Asset register is to be updated soon and will be circulated.

Other policies are being looked at to be adopted next month which are the IT Policy and Investments/reserves policy.

The external audit had the same questions as the internal audit and we have worked on these through the year, we still meet the criteria of the General Power of Competence as all the councillors are elected apart from two, and the Clerk has the CiLCA qualification.

Bank account applications with 2 other banks who are being looked at to move money to FSCS criteria.

**25/186**

**Report and Recommendations from Planning Group Meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**186.1 Planning Applications –since last meeting.**

No new applications were received before posting of agenda

The committee was contacted by resident who wanted to convert a conservatory into a bedroom due to mobility issues and had trouble with the CCC and had nothing from them since October

This needs to be raised personally to Lucy Monden regarding the issues regarding this application. Cllr Bourn will follow up on this.

**186.2 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting**

None at time of posting of agenda

**25/187**

**Infrastructure and Community areas**

187.1 There has been a request from the Cheese and Pie man to Trade in Dedham will be on the next agenda. This will allow time for the street trading policy to be looked at. The policy needs to be agreed by infrastructure group and the council and hard to progress the request until this has been completed and passed.

187.2 Update on lights in Mill Lane

Works are going to be starting tomorrow and Cllr Beeton and Cllr Haines will look at this when they start.

187.3 Street Trading Policy updated – on next agenda

187.4 Christmas Fair update on next agenda

187.5 DPC Media video (You tube) Capital Project

The papers on this have been circulated by Cllr Haines.

Cllr Haines explained this in more detail and answered questions that were raised. This should be under communications section and we need to enhance communications with media and video blogs; it would be useful to follow up on the King and Queen visit and Munnings for example and help to highlight what we have in the village. We could do a blog on the business for example and a walk through of the village and this could be used for the school. It was discussed further and although it was thought to be a good idea but it was felt at this stage, we did not need to purchase the equipment suggested as phones would be adequate.

This to be taken forward by Communications group

- 25/188**      **Communications**  
188.1 Information Update on website and emails  
Steph is being brought in on this to update the website but due to her work on the royal visit this has been delayed.  
Wider issues regarding images of the village and how we present the village to be on the agenda for next meeting.
- 25/189**      **Training/Events**  
189.1 Report on attended events  
Cllr Haines has attended councillor training and Cllr Andrews is due to attend Councillor training shortly. Clerk is attending AI course this week. Cllr Main is also going to attend some training. All  
189.2 Nominations for new events  
It was noted that Cllr Halsall is due to attend training.
- 25/190**      **Clerks Report**  
  
Mainly covered by the items above.  
  
The Clerk received a requested from Boxted council to support the crowd funding they are raising for the barrister that is working for them on Boxted Bridge. The email that was sent had been circulated to all the council previously. This was noted.
- 25/191**      **Items for next agenda**  
See above  
Parish Plan
- 25/192**      **To confirm date and time of next meeting**  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 6:30pm
- 25/193**      **Chairmans closure of meeting.**  
The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:00pm