

MINUTES OF ASHELDHAM AND DENGIE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD on Monday 1st July 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Cllr Mrs C Faulkner, District Cllr Richard Dewick, & Cllr Lisa Brown

In attendance: Mrs. S Sayer (Clerk)

Members of the public: 6

The “Declaration of Acceptance of Office” was signed by Lisa Brown and witnessed by the Clerk. Newly appointed Cllr Brown joined the other members to take part in the meeting.

Cllr Faulkner welcomed everyone present to the meeting and read out the paragraph at the start of the agenda pertaining to the meeting being recorded by members of the public. The meeting started at 7.00 p.m.

19-20/045 – APOLOGIES

- District Councillor Adrian Fluker as he was attending the Local Government Association Annual Conference representing Maldon District Council.
- Cllr Nick Kelly was on annual leave which he had informed the council prior to his appointment.

19-20/046 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) No declarations were made at this point in the meeting other than the usually global declaration that all members live in the village(s)
- b) Members noted that it was their responsibility to register any changes in their Register of Interests on the Maldon District Council website.

19-20/047 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(S)

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 1st April & 13th May were unable to be reviewed & approved due to the fact that there were not enough members who were present at those meetings present as at 1st July 2019 to be able to sign them off. This item to be deferred until 2nd September 2019.
- b) The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2019 were reviewed, and proposed by: Cllr Dewick and seconded by: Cllr Faulkner as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **AGREED**

19-20/048 – CO-OPTIONS – VACANCIES

- a) Cllr Faulkner was pleased to announce that Mrs Sally Russell had put her name forward to fill the vacancy by Co-option and it was proposed: Cllr Faulkner and Seconded by: Cllr Dewick - **AGREED**. Mrs Russell would be representing Dengie effective from the 2nd September 2019, after she has signed the “Declaration of Acceptance of Office”.

19-20/049 - ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Finance –
- b) Transport –
- c) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils (DHGPC) –
- d) Bradwell Power Station Local Community Liaison Committee (LCLC) –
- e) Police –
- f) Tree Warden – Mrs J Griffiths
- g) Footpaths –
- h) Asheldham Quarry Liaison Committee (AQLC) –
- i) Highways –

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j) Personnel Committee (requires 3 people)

It was agreed that this agenda item minute reference 19-20-049 is deferred until Monday 2nd September when the Parish Council is expected to have a full complement of members (5).

19-20/050 – QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The points raised as follows:-

- Resident stated that he felt that a “Recording of the Parish Council Meeting” should be put on the website, otherwise could infer that trying to hide something.
- Resident against the 20 mph speed limit put forward by the Parish Council on the Asheldham bends, as believes that the 30 mph is already not enforced, so not being realistic to try and introduce a 20mph speed limit which he said would also not be enforced.
- Resident suggested having the markings on the road for 20mph speed limit.
- Resident requested that the “Poppy Wreath” for Remembrance Sunday is put on the agenda in good time prior to November. Clerk did inform resident that this item was usually on the agenda for approval and was on the majority of Parish Councils agenda. The Resident stated that this was not the case last year and he as the current Chairman of the Parish Council at that time paid for it himself.
- The problem with the cleaning of the blocked drains and gullies was raised again and the resident acknowledged receipt of the email from the Clerk stating that the drains on Southminster Road would be sorted within 6-8 weeks of the email received from ECC Highways. Resident stated that the Hall Road had been done. Clerk requested resident to let her know if Southminster Road cleaning of the drains and gullies happened in the near future. It was thought that this should happen twice a year during spring and autumn.
- Cllr Dewick mentioned that speed/volume checks were occurring in and around the district and thought it might have something to do with Bradwell B.
- Cllr Dewick further stated that the verge cutting had not been carried out yet this year as they are very behind. Chelmsford City Council only does twice a year and do one width cut and leave the rest of the verge to flowers. Clerk to make enquiry as to when the cutting of the verges should be happening for future reference.

19-20/051 – HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC FOOTPATH ISSUES

- i) Clerk informed those present that a Local Highways Panel request form needed to be completed to request the 30mph limit from triangle/bennet junction with Tillingham Road (B1021) and Foxhall Road to 20 mph through the Asheldham Bends.
- ii) Clerk went back to Tillingham Village Council to request the reason behind their refusal to support the speed reduction from Reddings Lane junction to the 40mph speed limit already in place along that part of the Dengie Straight, but no reply to date. It was further discussed by members and it was agreed to see if the change in council members at Tillingham Village Council might have a change in support for this project. Clerk to pursue a response.
- iii) It was agreed that Asheldham and Dengie Parish Council would take part in the Salt Bag Partnership subject to confirmation by Cllr Flucker that the stock had reduced. Clerk then to ascertain, storage area and name of Councillor willing to receive delivery.

- iv) Cllr Fluker was understood to be looking into what the temporary 7.5 tonne environmental weight restriction was. It was agreed that a letter should be written to Highways to complain about this restriction and why an earth carry out this work at the busiest time of year i.e. Harvest Time.

19-20/052 – PLANNING MATTERS – no planning applications to review this month.

a) Correspondence received over the course of the month and circulated via e-mail:

- i. List of planning applications 22/23/24/25/26 – **NOTED.**
- ii List of planning decisions and appeals 22/23/24/25/26 - **NOTED**

b) Planning enforcement updates

Clerk to chase Enforcement team yet again as no response is considered not to be good enough.

Request of exactly what they are enforcing on the site and the anticipated time it will take as it has already been 2 years.

Caravans etc. – Land east of bungalow – 16/00421/CU

c) At the request of the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils.

Members were requested to discuss and decide whether a proposal to make a vote of no confidence in the Maldon District Council Planning Department is deemed necessary, as it is said that MDC Planning do not appear to be following the policy laid down in the Local Development Plan, and it is believed that they are not robust enough in fighting the appeals made by the developers as the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol are always voting against the decision(s) MDC has made, and the district ends up with more houses than stated in the LDP. The decision should be sent to Miriam Holden the Clerk at Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils to collate with other Parish Councils replies.

In answer to this request a discussion took place and Cllr Dewick informed those present that in fact out of 90% of appeals, very few are being won by developers. Houses are required by Central Government and therefore regardless of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, it is likely that the area will end up with more houses than designated in the LDP.

Since the LDP was approved it is thought that there have not been any large developments, other than the retirement development which the LDP did not cover. This development ticked all the right boxes. Objections were sent to the minister. Proposed developments in Southminster and Tollesbury by Gladwins will test the LDP and they will have to produce evidence to support their applications. It was also stated that these big developers have the funds to employ expertise QC's to fight their cases, something that MDC does not. It was also mentioned that Maldon District Council has at least a 5 year to 6.2 year land supply.

MDC argue with the developers that the infrastructure needs improving/expansion but again cannot compete with the developers who can afford to employ top quality QC's to argue their case.

Whilst members agreed that the Planning Department needs to improve, it was not agreed to send a letter of support for a "Vote of No Confidence" but it was proposed to send a letter reiterating that the policies laid down in the LDP need

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to be followed more closely so that all planning applications in the areas across the Maldon District totally adhere to the policies stated in the Local Development Plan.

Proposed: Cllr Faulkner. - Seconded: Cllr Dewick. **AGREED**

19-20/53 - FINANCE

- a) Members approved the payments for June 2019 totalling £281.37.
- b) Members received the financial information to the end of June 2019, reviewed and signed off reconciliation to the Barclays Bank Statements up to 30th June 2019. Clerk pointed out that on the bank reconciliation the amount reserved for Elections has been reduced to £250 rather than the £1000 as per discussion at a previous meeting regarding this and will be increased annually over a four year period to 2023 by £250. Members noted this change **AGREED**.

19-20/54 - DEFIBRILLATOR PROJECT

- a) Clerk stated that all requests had been sent to the people who had kindly pledged a donation for the installation of the defibrillator and was awaiting a response.
- b) Electrician stated that he needs to know the model that the Parish Council is ordering before a quote can be given as the defibrillators are known to be wired differently.
- c) No news from First Responders regarding the new model that is an upgrade from the one originally going to be ordered as it is still undergoing final tests. Clerk to keep in touch with John Cleary in this regard.

19-20/55 - REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- a) Cllr Richard Dewick stated there was nothing further to report at this time.

19-20/56 - VILLAGE BEACON

- a) Clerk informed members that no further progress had been made in regard to the Village Beacon, but would ensure information is collated before the next meeting so that the members can make an informed decision in regard to whether to pursue this project or not.

19-20/57 - SECOND PUBLIC FORUM

- a) Mr. Bob Turner of Dengie Crops Ltd informed everyone that the weight restriction being imposed on a temporary basis was due to a gas main being laid for Dengie Crops Ltd. The reason for this is that Dengie Crops Ltd is using 4000 tonnes of coal a year, which in turn are 400 lorry movements a year carrying the coal. Therefore by having a gas line installed it will reduce 400 lorry movements in and out of Dengie Crops which is considered to be a good thing for the local area. It was stated that Dengie Crops do not have any control as to when road restrictions are imposed, as Dengie Crops had to apply 3 months in advance, timing down to highways.
- b) A discussion took place regarding the Retirement development in Burnham on Crouch and the question arose as to whether the LDP had been followed in line with the Burnham On Crouch Local Development Plan – and MDC's LDP.
- c) Also a discussion regarding the Latchingdon ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) and it was stated that out of a million vehicle movements, 40,000 vehicles were of interest. It was stated that it is working as there had been rumours that it was not. In fact it was stated that it was working so well that operators were unable to keep up with the vehicles being reported for one reason or another.
- d) Resident suggested getting in touch with the Community Protection Officers to get them to carry out speed checks with the TruCam along the Tillingham

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Road/Dengie Straight. Clerk stated that the TruCam service costs £31.44 per hour and this can be split into two half hours so that monitoring can be done in two different spots. Clerk to contact Adrian Rayner at MDC who will liaise with the police to establish various spots that can safely be used along that stretch.

19-20/58 - "FLY THE RED ENSIGN FOR MERCHANT NAVY DAY" ON 3RD SEPT.

- a) Village Hall very happy to have a flag pole installed and will discuss with Mr. Pond where to locate it. Apparently the flag pole can be removed when not in use.
- b) It was agreed to spend up to £65.00 if a suitable flag could not be obtained from Cllr Fluker who had said he might have one. Lyn Moull said that Dengie Village Hall would go halves. Size of flag to be determined after consultation with Mr. Pond.

It was further decided that after the Parish Council meeting on 2nd September that a ceremony would be held to raise the flag in readiness for the anniversary of "Merchant Navy Day" and a raffle to raise funds to the veterans and refreshments would be served.

19-20/59 - AUDIO RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

- a) Members had received information relating the cost of the recording equipment that Maldon District Council use and this was for £164.00 plus various attachments to improve sound quality were available. No decision was made at this time regarding the purchase of this equipment.
- b) It was decided that in order to be able to make a properly informed decision on the recording of Parish Council Meetings that the guidelines needed to be drawn up in draft format to ensure that everything was covered and agreed before purchasing any equipment.

19/20-60 - CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the short list of correspondence, in addition to what has previously been circulated via email and is not an agenda item.

Clerk mentioned a couple of emails received from a resident.

19/20-61 - EXTERNAL MEETINGS

To receive reports on any external meeting attended by Councillors or Clerk.

- Cllr Faulkner attended the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils and gave a brief report of the proceedings, the main points being the request for councils to put on their agenda regarding the "Vote of No Confidence" in the Planning Dept., and planning problems in general in the district, highways problems and speeding.
- Also Wendy Stamp informed everyone that Southminster Pool, which was under threat of closure is not closing at the moment but the Academy that owns the school and therefore the swimming pool as it is on their land has trebled the rental from £40,000 per year to £120,000 per year.
- Also it was mentioned at the meeting by Wendy Stamp about various groups forming to try and combat the problems experienced with car service/buses to and from hospitals and medical centres, but since the meeting this has been changed to requesting people to contact their own medical centre regarding any problems they are encountering.
- There are also new drop in Medical centres at South Woodham Ferrers and Maldon. Local GP will have the details.
- The path running alongside the Power Station at Bradwell that Bradwell PC were trying to get approved as a designated PRoW, has been declined by ECC stating that more evidence is required. Support from local people who have used the path would be welcomed.

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19/20-62 - INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

No additional items were raised.

19/20-63 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING –

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd September 2019 at 7 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.20 and The Chair thanked everyone for coming.