

Dedham

Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 10 August 2011

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th August, 2011,

in the Assembly Rooms

Present: In the Chair: Cllr. R. Laverick

Councillors R. Appleby, Mrs. A. Cannon, R. Cannon, M. Dempsey,

B. Hindley, A. Stock, S. White.

Ward Councillor: C. Garnett

Parish Clerk Mrs. J. Flewin

PCSO Mark Hibben

Electors 4

The Chairman introduced Mr. Gili-Ross, Chairman of West Bergholt Parish Council and Colchester Association of Local Councils who had kindly agreed to talk to Councillors on the subject of a more efficient Broadband Service for rural areas. He outlined in some detail the necessary general procedure followed by West Bergholt which in the main would also apply to Dedham in the event that a decision was made to go forward in this matter. He also gave details of costs and stated that at the present time there were approximately one hundred subscribers in West Bergholt.

This insight into a better Broadband Service was greatly appreciated by members and the Chairman thanked Mr. Gili-Ross for giving the Dedham Parish Council much food for thought.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None.
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING having been circulated were approved.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Garnett back amongst us and it was agreed that he should give his report early in the meeting.

3. REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Under a new contract

CBC will become totally responsible for Highways throughout NE Essex. A new car parking scheme is being piloted in West Mersea which if successful may be extended elsewhere. The possibility is that a charge for the car park in Mill Lane will be pursued. So far as the Dedham walkabout is concerned all items raised have been logged and work on new rails and signs for the car park are already under way. So far as general parking problems in Dedham are concerned CBC are happy to advise on the possibility of “designated parking” areas in the village, and Cllr. Garnett suggested that a representative from CBC be invited to attend a future Parish Council meeting in order to discuss this and other matters. Cllr. Garnett has emphasised the necessity for yellow lines at the junction of Southfields with Crown Street. Colchester Park & Ride will be up and running towards the end of the year.

Cllr. Garnett reported that further grants were available through the DV&SV small grants scheme. A training programme was planned in respect of 106 Money allocations. At present the Dedham/Langham allocation was £16,818.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Duchy Barn Shed So far the sum of £10,500 has been promised towards the rebuilding cost of the Duchy Barn Shed leaving a balance of £6,000 to be found. The Chairman proposed a targeted letter campaign to shops and business premises and suggested that names of sponsors be incorporated on a laminated manuscript which would be framed and placed in the Duchy Barn. Cllr. Mrs. Cannon has spoken with Neil Weston who confirms that the Cricket Club will remove their equipment by 1st October.

(b) Broadband Service In the light of Mr. Gili-Ross’ comments it was obviously essential that a survey be carried out. Cllr. Hindley will take the matter forward.

(c) High Street Smells The problem was still evident and Cllr. White advised that odour logging will take place commencing at the corner of Stratford Road/Colchester Road.

(d) Public Toilets Special opening arrangements for August Bank Holiday Monday have been requested. Cllr. Mrs. Cannon asked that a key to the toilets be made available to the Parish Council which could be kept at a central location. Cllr. Garnett will look into this matter.

(e) Use of Mill Pond Following complaints that kyaks, canoes and trailers were making full use of the Mill Pond to the detriment of other visitors the Chairman had ascertained from Simon Amstutz of DV&SV that they had no precedence over the general public in the use of the car park or Mill pond. CBC has been asked to suspend the installation of the new sign until the matter has been clarified. Cllr. Cannon will check if planning permission was obtained for limited or commercial use.

(f) Picnic Table for Play Area Cllrs. R. and A. Cannon have kindly donated a picnic table for use in the children’s play area. Cllr. Laverick

agreed to help Cllr. Cannon cement it in place.

(g) Safety Measures – Dedham Run Following concerns expressed over the safety of participants in the Dedham Run the organisers have promised a better arrangement at the Manningtree Road/Crown Street junction.

(h) Overgrown Trees – Mill Lane There had been some confusion on the part of CBC over the area where the problem is, but this has now been cleared up and we await the findings of their representative following a visit to the site.

5. HAVE YOUR SAY A resident of Princel Lane was unhappy that work had been carried out on the footway in Royal Square when for over a year residents and councillors had tried to get the surface of Princel Lane repaired. with no success. Members felt that the work in question was a reinstatement following previous work on the culvert. Cllr. Hindley promised to try once again to get Princel Lane repaired but was not very hopeful in view of the Borough's current financial restraints.

6. PARISH PLAN Cllr. Stock has listed all action points allocating them to individual councillors who might help to take them forward. They will then be asked to provide Cllr. Stock with an update of actions taken, problems encountered and results achieved for entering on to a Monthly Parish Plan Progress summary which can be presented at the monthly meeting.. It is appreciated that not all suggestions can be implemented but at least councillors can justify this and villagers will know from a proposed quarterly update that their comments have not been ignored. Cllr. Stock is quite happy to co-ordinate the plan and indeed some items have already been progressed. Members were asked to peruse the draft action plan and contact Cllr. Stock with any suggestions or amendments.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Revenue Grant Funding from CBC A letter from CBC outlined proposals for a two year transition period for grant funding for Parish Councils. Currently using the current formula Parish Councils would get 75% of their grant on the submission of a statement showing how the projects and work currently in hand meet the laid down criteria. The remaining 25% would be apportioned as decided by a Community representative panel. Year 2 would see a bidding process where Parish Councils would bid on the basis of projects meeting the criteria but which would include voluntary sector/community groups able to bid for projects of their own. Grant allocations would therefore not be restricted to the Parish Council. It was felt that the systems envisaged were unwieldy and time consuming. For a small village like Dedham all monies available to the Parish Council are used for the benefit of the village and its residents and meet all the criteria laid down by CBC. The consultation letter with details of the proposals has been circulated

to all members and Cllr. Laverick will respond by 30th September, 2011.

A Guide to the Localism Bill is also being circulated but is available on the internet.

(b) Recycling Centres – Changes ECC advise that it is proposed the Recycling Centre at Lawford will be open on 5 days a week instead of 7 (closed Tuesday and Thursday) as from the end of 2011.

(c) Review of Polling Stations A review of polling stations is being undertaken by CBC. The Parish Council is happy with the present arrangement for Dedham using the Assembly Rooms.

8. REPORT OF PCSO Mark Hibben reported on a few minor incidents in July which had required his attention. The first Beat Surgery held on 22nd July had received no callers. The next one will be held on 25th August at 3 p.m. Residents are invited to drop in if they have any matters they wish to discuss with the PCSO. Parking in and around Parsons Field/Crown Street is an ongoing problem.

9. FOOTPATHS/PLAY AREA/SPORTS FIELD An Arboricultural Planning Officer will look at the dead tree on The Drift on 15th August after which it is hoped that it can be removed. It is understood that this should be replaced by a chestnut or lime tree. Cllr. Mrs. Cannon gave details of three quotes for the proposed work. It was proposed by Cllr. Hindley, seconded by Cllr. Cannon with all in favour THAT the quote of £408 including VAT received from Bland Landscape be accepted.

The gate to the children's play area has finally been correctly repaired and Cllr. Cannon has re-hung it. Mr. Bob Penny of CBC had requested photographs of the play area, outdoor gym and allotments as examples of 106 money used in Dedham. This was for a for a presentation he is to give in September and photos have been provided by Cllr. Cannon.

Bad parking outside the sports pavilion has again brought forth complaints from members of the public unable to use the footpath. Mr. Bower brought the matter to the attention of the Sports Club at the AGM with little result. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the club once again requesting some form of stewarding on match days and the placing of a notice as before at the entrance to Southfields advising that parking was limited at the pavilion.

10. ACCOUNTS It was agreed that the following accounts be paid:

Mr. A. Hodson – Hours worked in July Maintenance
150.00

PPP

218.54

Mrs. O.M. Ruff – Litter

210.00

Duchy Barn Community Centre

10.00

Armour Engineering Ltd. – Gate

45.60

G.K. Argent – Sports Club Tractor

84.00

Income: Sports Club - £70.00

11. PLANNING None.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS The **hedge bordering Colchester Road** needs cutting back. This was National Trust property and Cllr. White will contact them. **The hedge at the junction of Long Road with The Heath** was also in need of attention. Cllr. Laverick will contact the owners. **B.T. have replaced the trees** in the vicinity of their Exchange which they cut down a few years ago. Cllr. Hindley reported **several potholes in Bargate Lane**. Matters of this nature can now be reported via CBC website.

13. DATE TIME OF NEXT MEETING This will be on Wednesday, 14th September, 2011, in the Assembly Rooms. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. when Sgt. Horsecroft of Essex Police will be in attendance.

There being no other matters the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

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