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CO11 2PT

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at The Duchy Barn on Monday 7th July 2014

Meeting open at 19.30

Present:

Chair: Cllr Sheila Beeton

Councillors: Cllr Nicola Baker, Cllr Jane Hughes, Cllr Kevin Taylor, Cllr Tony Regan, Cllr Chris Clark, Cllr Ann Follows, Cllr Peter Gibbins

Acting Clerk: Brian Hindley

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Sue Vintner
Cllr Mark Cable

2. Declaration of interest:

Cllr Gibbons re Hallfields application.
Cllr Taylor re planning application Monks Lane Farm.

3. Minutes

IT WAS RESOLVED that Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2 June 2014 (with a minor amendment on Item 12b to include 'Request by Friends of the Church to use Royal Square') are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Update on items from last meeting:

Cllr Regan regarding planning; that quarterly meetings with CBC will be held in January, July, and October. It was noted that there were now four signatories of cheques; Cllr Baker Cllr Regan, Cllr Clark and Chairman Sheila Beeton.

5. Have Your Say part 1

None

6. Accounts

Cheques approved and signed by Cllr Regan, Cllr Beeton and Cllr Baker.

Brian Hindley Clerk's salary: July £247.52

Dedham PCC- Duchy Barn Hire: June £15.00

Dedham Sports Club grass cutting: First quarter £500.00

AJ Lighting Solutions annual maintenance: £157.25

Accent Stationers: £13.00

Iris Hindley Litter Picking £168.00

Ann Follows: Expenses: £4.00

Nicola Baker: Plants planted at War memorial: £55.49

7. Crime report

Cllr Sheila Beeton reported that there had been little crime in Dedham of late.

8. Report from County Councillor

No report due to the absence of Councillor Ann Brown

9. Reports from representatives

Sports field -Cllr Hughes

Cllr Hughes said that the play area equipment was in need of refurbishment and that the way forward should be a comprehensive evaluation of the equipment. It was agreed that Cllr Hughes, Cllr Baker, Cllr Clark and Cllr Beeton would assist. Cllr's Clark and Gibbons endorsed this action stating that the costs would be considerable. Cllr Baker then mentioned the Community Initiatives Fund that could help with finance but that any application would need to be made by the end of September with at least an expression of interest. We would therefore need to know the level of finance required. Cllr Gibbons said that he and Cllr Clark would be meeting with possible contractors later this week. It was pointed out that Dedham Parish Council did not have any funds and that the precept may have to be increased next year to assist. It was agreed that the future of the play area would be discussed at the September meeting as an agenda item.

Cllr Gibbons reported that Blands, the tree surgeon, had not completed the work in the playing fields near Mr & Mrs Drui's home and he will chase them up to get the work done.

Communications Group - Cllr Taylor

Cllr Taylor said that he had attended a meeting with our Chair Sheila Beeton, our Clerk and Connie Kerbst Essex County Council Senior Programme Manager for Superfast Broadband in Essex. The meeting had been requested in order to improve the information being published about broadband. An article will appear in the Parish Magazine about the plans and progress of the project can be obtained via <http://www.superfastessex.org/> through which residents can enter their postcode and check the current position. An entry will also be made on the Parish website which will include a map of the expected coverage. In summary the village is broadly split into three areas:

- Autumn 2014 will see an area broadly from Brook Street going out of the village centre via Castle Hill to Long Road, taking in Manningtree Road, half of East Lane and Coopers Lane
- 2015 will see progress from Brook Street, through the village centre and up towards Lamb corner, taking in Stratford Road and Coles Oak Lane

The remaining area has no current plans for upgrading. It is understood that more funding is to be made available and further coverage is expected across Essex after another evaluation exercise. If you live in an area with no current plans it is essential that you visit the Superfast Essex site and complete the "Make the Connection" survey. If we all do it then that will help in the next evaluation round - no guarantees though as there may be technical reasons preventing the coverage.

Cllr Taylor also briefed Councillors on John Goldsborough's offer to assist the Council with improvements on the Dedham Parish website to include local clubs, businesses and organisations. He has been requested to contact the Clerk. A vote of thanks to John was endorsed by all.

Note from Clerk: John Goldsborough has made contact and progress will be reported upon at the September meeting.

Media and Public Relations.

Cllr Hughes let the meeting know that discussions were continuing to include a monthly item in the Parish Magazine and will include arrangements for late changes.

Community Safety and Infrastructure Group-Cllr Vinter

Due to Cllr Vintner's absence other Councillors were able to update the meeting.

Cllr Beeton reported that she had received complaints of potholes which had been passed to Highways, but Coggeshall Road may improve now that resurfacing there might help the situation. Cllr Beeton mentioned that a sign had been put up at the Birchwood mini roundabout advertising the Wheelers Wine cellar. Cllr Taylor said he would speak to the Company concerned. In addition he will enquire as to the general principle about sign requirements for planning consent with ECC and Highways.

Ann Follows updated the meeting with the current efforts to complete a survey of all Dedham residents enquiring their interest with Neighbourhood Watch. This should be completed soon with each household being surveyed.

Footpath and Tree Group.

Cllr Beeton spoke about the lack of progress on the clearing of footpath 34 which she would chase. Cllr Chris Clark said that the contractors were more than four weeks behind with their work due in part to the weather and the late granting of the contract. Cllr Follows, Cllr Clark together with Cllr Beeton would meet with the contractor to question the lack of progress.

A member of the public also made the point regarding footpaths 34 and 29 which had not been cleared. We could not walk through 34 to 29 she stated. Another member of the public asked who was responsible for footpaths that went across farmer's fields. It was the farmers' responsibility to keep the footpath open said Cllr Beeton. Cllr Baker said that land off of Boxhouse Lane had not been reinstated either. All matters concerning footpaths will be attended to by Cllr Beeton, where necessary. Cllr Gibbons said that he would attend to the

hedge near the Boathouse Restaurant, which was overgrown as the footpath was almost impassable. Councillors made several points concerning footpaths and hedge and tree work that required attention which would be seen to, bearing in mind the constraints of finance limitations. A report will be given at the next Parish Council meeting.

Tree Warden

Cllr Baker. Nothing to report.

Dedham Primary School.

Cllr Regan. Councillors attention was drawn to the excellent initiative by schoolchildren of Dedham Primary School with their actions to try and tackle the continuing parking problems of parents taking children to school. It was explained that the children had composed a letter, which was handed to the driver of the parked vehicles in the morning and afternoon. In all cases except one each recipient gave a positive reaction. This action would be repeated. The Clerk was asked to compliment the school on this initiative and to write to the Headmistress with her thanks.

Emergency Co-ordinator

Cllr Clark informed the meeting that he would attend the Emergency Coordinators meeting on the 27.07.2014 and will report back in due course. Clerk to confirm attendance. Cllr Clark told Councillors that the Defibrillator which had been hoped to place on or near the Sports Club had not met with the approval of the authorities due to difficulty in access and the situation now was it will be placed in a suitable place on the outside of the Craft Centre.

Transport and Environmental Work:

Cllr Follows explained that for the time being the 247 bus is safe. The ECC had offered the contract to Beeston who had declined to provide a service. Despite there being an offer of tender to Beestons they were not prepared to tender. The ECC are changing the tendering process which may or may not be more acceptable to Beestons and we await the outcome. The footpath near the end of East Lane and towards Brook Street was cause for concern, with stinging nettles overhanging the footpath and Cllr Cable has asked the Rangers to attend to this. Councillors were united that this was the responsibility of the ECC. Ann Follows said she will speak to Cllr Brown and again to Cllr Cable.

Cllr Baker informed Councillors that there would be no bus depot at Harwich and that a new complaints logging system was being introduced by the ECC.

Car Park Update.

Cllr Beeton was pleased to say that an article will appear in the local paper and parish magazine about the damage to the machines. There had been no repetition since the 2nd of June. The point of the articles was to bring to the attention of whoever was responsible that it was cutting off the Council's income stream.

PC Underwood, our local Constable, has reiterated his view to CBC that security should be strengthened with CCTV and he was awaiting a response.

10. Planning.

For this item Cllr Taylor left the meeting.

Cllr Regan reported upon four planning applications to all of which there was no objections and agreed by Councillors present.

10 (a) Application 144971: 8 Kiln Cottages Crown Street. Demolition of garage and conservatory, replaced by two storey side extension (including garage) and single storey rear extension.

Application 145109: Lower Park, Colchester Road, removal of rear window and replacement by external door.

Application 145221: Monks Lane Farm, Monks Lane single storey extension, first floor side extension and new porch over front door.

Application 145229: St Margarets, High Street, Dedham demolition of conservatory and erection of rear extension.

10(b) Hallfields Development. Cllr Beeton said she would address Councillors about this matter under correspondence.

11. Report from Borough Councillor.

No report in the absence of Cllr Mark Cable

12. CBC Contract for bin collection on the Drift/Playing field.

There was considerable discussion between Councillors on this issue. The Parish Council litter picker, Mrs Hindley informed Councillors she was certain that probably the litter bins on the playing field could be reduced by just over half and the open topped bins were not really fit for purpose. Cllr Beeton did not accept the response from CBC which was agreed by all Councillors. The reduced cost of £671.00 was still not sustainable, in particular as the Council had budgeted for only £300.00. It was agreed by all and proposed by Cllr Beeton that the Parish Council write back to CBC, copying in Cllr Cable, to investigate the increase in costs for this service by CBC. The Association of Local Councils would also to be copied in.

13. Salt bag scheme.

After some discussion on this item and to finalise matters it was proposed by Cllr Regan, seconded by Cllr Clark that Dedham participate in the scheme and one tonne of salt bags be stored for the winter. Clerk to inform CBC.

14. DPC Small Grants award

Councillors were in agreement following an article in the Parish Magazine regarding applications for the above grant which had only recently been published and that applications were asked to be submitted by the end of July. Any decisions concerning applications would be made after the end of July. A group consisting of Cllr's Regan, Hughes and Clark would examine these.

15. Correspondence

(a) Church View - Trees

An email had been received from Jane Headford of 1 Church View Dedham concerning a letter she had received from English Rural. The letter was read to Councillors and it alleged English Rural had been contacted by Dedham Parish Council that they were concerned about the size of trees at the front of Church View. Cllr Beeton expressed her concern that as far as she and all Councillors and Clerks past and present had emphatically not contacted English Rural about any trees. Cllr Beeton asked that the Clerk write to all the residents of Church View informing them of this fact.

(b) Use of Dedham Playing Fields.

Cllr Taylor read a letter from Mark Dempsey of the Dedham Youth Club requesting use of the playing fields on August Bank Holiday on 25th August 2014. The letter contained the usual caveats concerning health & safety issues which Councillors were satisfied with. It was proposed by Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr Baker that the Youth Club be permitted to use the playing fields on the 25th August and this was carried unanimously. Clerk to confirm this request.

(c) Letter from Hills Building Group regarding Hallfields.

Cllr Beeton referred to this letter which in the main asked for public consultation of their proposed application to develop Hallfields. Cllr Beeton had had a meeting with Jonathon Hills Managing Director at which it was agreed that the public consultation should take place before any formal planning application was made. The application determination of thirteen weeks will fit into their timetable if the public exhibition, where the developer presents his plans of the development, is held on the 9th September 2014, giving ample time to include any feedback in the application. Colne Housing will also be involved and attend the meeting on the 9th September 2014. Arrangements have been made to book the Duchy Barn and the public meeting will be held between 2.30pm and 7.30pm. An article will appear in the next Parish Magazine informing residents.

16. Have Your Say Part 2

No Matters were raised.

17. Matters for Information.

a) Mark Sycamore has been requested to attend to the broken glass in the Jubilee Notice Board in Royal Square.

18. Date and Time of next meeting:

1 September 2014 at 7.30p.m.

Signed:

Dated: