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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Held in the Assembly Rooms at 7.30pm on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Attendance: Cllr Sheila Beeton (Chairman), Cllr Tony Regan, Cllr Kevin Taylor, Cllr Nicola Baker, Cllr Christine Frost, Cllr Ann Follows.  
Emma Cansdale (Clerk), Brian Hindley (Asst-clerk)  
Apologies from Cllrs Clark and Gibbins.

1. Introduction of Councillors  
Councillors and Clerks introduced themselves
2. The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were agreed by all (excluding Cllr Baker who was not present on the 27/04/15), and duly signed by the Chair.
3. To receive the Report of the Chair of the Council, Cllr. Sheila Beeton\*  
Cllr Beeton read her report and took questions and comments as they arose. *Detailed in 3.1*
  - 3.1 To receive comments from members of the public regarding matters arising  
*\*\* denotes items to be addressed at a future Parish Council meeting.*
    - Question/comment from the floor
    - DPC response
- A resident asked if the parish council knew why, despite upgrading to superfast broadband, they had noticed no increase in the speed
  - The residents were advised to speak directly to their service provider.
- Lighting in the Drift was raised as a safety concern, to include improvements to the Duchy Barn and Sports Pavilion lighting, and perhaps additional lighting through the Drift. The feeling was PIR (motion sensor) lighting was most appropriate.
  - DPC are already looking into additional lighting through The Drift, including on the Duchy Barn and Sports Pavilion.
- The poor surface on the footway in Brook St was raised. This has been reported to ECC Highways on a number of occasions.
- A resident inquired about lighting in the new Hallfields Development. The area will be incredibly dark without any.
  - Cllr Regan advised that lamp standards were in the original planning application, which were objected to, with low level lighting being more appropriate. However, recent contact

with the developer suggests they are no longer planning any lighting at all. The DPC planning advisory group are investigating the matter with CBC.

- A resident commented on Housing Association properties not being exempt for the 'Right to Buy', which will potentially lead to further problems later on, when more social housing is needed, because the existing had been purchased.
- Cllr Regan advised the Hallfields site is different, as it is an exception site, due to its location outside the village envelope and within the AONB, and the Section 106 agreement stating it must be for renting. Additionally, the Housing Bill has not been finalised yet
- A resident asked of the oak removed from the play area site will be replaced?\*
- HGV and large farm vehicles are driving through the village. Should the weight limit prevent them? Additionally, they drive quite fast for the size of vehicle and type of road.
- Generally, these vehicles have access, either for deliveries or to access the farm land they are serving. The parish council could write to the farmer's/business owners and ask them to ensure the vehicles attending their sites are driven more considerately. Evidence is required- licence plates/vehicle details.\*\*

4. Open Session: Further comments, questions and suggestions from the public were received.

- Sustaining the businesses in the High Street is key to ensuring the continuing vitality of Dedham. Can the Parish Council help in any way?
- DPC have been looking into forming and maintaining a good relationship with the businesses, and doing what it can to help. However, establishing what that is, is difficult, particularly if the businesses are not willing or able to 'join in'. The Parish Council could place an article in the Parish Magazine encouraging people to use local facilities and services.
- With the apparent rise in crime within the village, could the Parish Council fund the PCSO again?
- The rise in rural crime is a national trend, not specific to Dedham. The model used previously was not satisfactory, and could look at how to reduce crime going forward. Neighbourhood Watch is a good starting point, and signing up means residents will receive timely and useful information regarding current crime and crime prevention.
- A resident reported high police presence in areas of the village, due to known criminals/ex-criminal living in the vicinity.
- Who receives council houses when they become vacant? Local people on the list or people from Colchester/Clacton etc.
- Cllr Beeton advised she would contact CBC Housing, to see if some communication between CBC and DPC could be established when council housing becomes available, and to investigate the possibility of the parish council having some say over the tenants.
- Issues were raised over the increased housing pressures in neighbouring villages such as Langham, East Bergholt, Lawford and Mistley. This could place increased pressure on the services Dedham provides.
- DPC could make enquires into the infrastructure for these developments.
- Public services funding is decreasing and will continue to do so.
- A resident raised an issue with the Parish Council regarding the hedge surrounding his property being cut back without him being present at the time. He has requested the hedge should not be cut back again without him being there. The hedge in question was over hanging the children's play area.

5. Chairman's closing remarks.

Cllr Beeton closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, and invited resident to stay for refreshments

\* *Copies on website*