

DENGIE HUNDRED GROUP OF PARISH COUNCILS

Althorne, Asheldham & Dengie, Bradwell-on-Sea, Cold Norton, Latchingdon, Mayland, Mundon, North Fambridge, Purleigh, St. Lawrence, Southminster, Steeple, Stow Maries, Tillingham, Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh, Burnham-on-Crouch Town Council.

Minutes of Meeting held at Latchingdon Village Hall, Burnham Road, Latchingdon, CM3 6EX at 8.00 pm on Thursday 18th January 2024

Attendees: Cllr. Joanne Luck (Cold Norton PC), Jackie Lines (Mundon PC), Cllr. Una Siddal-Norman (BOC Town Council), Cllr. Roert Roe (Nth Fambridge PC), Cllr. Geroge Minish (St Lawrence PC), Cllr. Gordon Harrold (Althorne PC), Cllr. Terry Inkpen (Althorne PC), Linda Haywood (Mayland PC), Cllr. Peter Spires (Mayland PC), Cllr. Tony Fittock – Chair (Latchingdon PC) and Linda Gemmill – Clerk (Latchingdon PC). We were also joined by ECC Cllr Wendy Stamp later in the proceedings.

1. Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and this was followed by a quick introduction from everyone present.
2. Apologies: Apologies were received from Stow Maries PC, Cllr. Jayne Rumary (Tillingham), Kelly Andrews(Tillingham) and Cllr. Matthew Neal (Bradwell On Sea)
3. Nominations and appointment of Chair: Tony Fittock was nominated by assent as Chair with no other nominations received. There were no nominations for Vice Chair and the position remains vacant.
4. Agree last meeting minutes (12 Dec, 2023): The minutes of the meeting of 12 December, 2023 were agreed by assent.
5. Funding of DGPC (Cllr Fittock)
 - a. Costs of employing clerk/secretary:
It was agreed that the clerk would be paid on a self-employed basis a £100 (approx.5 hours) per meeting and that this would be covered by an annual subscription at a cost of £40 per member council. Cllrs/clerks will need to report back to their councils for consent to the subscription.
 - b. Locations and costs of hosting meetings:
It was agreed that these would run quarterly eventually but that there was a need to run bimonthly while the group was getting established. Tillingham and Althorne offered venues without costs.
6. Discuss and agree appointment of clerk/secretary and terms.
After the clerk asked if the post should be advertised, it was agreed that Linda Gemmill should be take on the position of Clerk and that an honorarium would be paid as per item a).and that the clerk would invoice for services, being responsible for any tax etc as self-employed income.

The question of a bank account was also discussed, and it was agreed that the Chair would put up the money to enable the group to open an account with Unity Bank. The

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clerk stated that the roles of Vice Chair and Treasurer or Secretary would need to be formalised in order to facilitate the opening of an account.

7. Discuss and agree redrafted Aims and Objectives document.

The redrafted Aims and Objectives were agreed by assent.

8. Core items agreed for discussion (and to agree any actions):

- a. Infrastructure (considered a number one priority and to include public transport, cycle paths, roads & schools).
- b. Road Network (traffic flow and road safety)
- c. Speed Watch (as one area where the parishes could collaborate)
- d. Climate
- e. Community cohesion and inclusion (inc wellbeing)
- f. Health Services
- g. Communication
- h. Local Development Plan (LDP)

It was agreed that the core items would be merged as follows:

1. Communication
2. Road Network (traffic flow and road safety) to include Speed Watch (as one area where the parishes could collaborate)
3. Community cohesion and inclusion (inc wellbeing) and Health Services
4. Infrastructure (considered a number one priority and to include public transport, cycle paths, roads & schools) and Local Development Plan (LDP)

It was also agreed that the LDP would be a running item on the agenda for updates and discussion regarding any further news or progress.

It was also agreed that the Chair would provide an update at the next meeting on what work has been done and is currently being undertaken regarding the LDP.

It was agreed that the Chair would provide an update on monies from developers for infrastructure sitting with ECC with a view to lobbying them to use the money to provide the necessary infrastructure.

It was also agreed that a MDC Planning Officer would be invited to attend a future meeting to present on how the officers came to the conclusion of harm versus benefit to better enable us to respond to planning applications and influence decision making.

It was agreed that the Chair would provide a contact list for the parish councils to enable them to lobby district councillors around planning when developments are proposed.

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9. Other matters arising. Note that clerk has postponed until next meeting engaging speaker (Dan Doherty) due to the number of agenda items.

Agree date of next meeting or approximate timing and that poll of alternative dates be sent out by clerk/secretary:

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held sooner rather than later in February while the group got established. It was agreed that Althorne would host the next meeting (clerk to liaise with Cllr Inkpen regarding dates).

It was also agreed that Dan Doherty from the NHS would be invited to attend the next meeting.