

Dedham Parish Council



Dedham Annual Parish Meeting for residents

Monday 18th May 2026
Held at the Duchy Barn, Dedham 6:30pm

Attendees: Cllrs Bourn, Sneddon, Harrison, McLaughlin, Andrews, Beeton, Main, Halsall, Haines

Present: Clerk – minutes

Sara Naylor Ward County councillor

Residents: 10

Welcome and apologies

Cllr Bourn welcomed everyone to the meeting

Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held in 2025 agreed at LPC June 25 meeting

Chairmans report

Cllr Bourn read out his and Councillor Harrison reports for this year. A copy of this will be on the website.

Finance Report

See above

Open Forum discussion (Matters raised by residents)

Residents asked the following questions;

Sara Naylor introduced herself to all the residents.

A resident who is involved with the Dedham run locally talked about padel tennis – this has been started in the village and we now have 18 people in the group. The group is having trouble hiring a court locally and this currently is the fastest growing sport in the UK. This is a good social event for everyone who play padel tennis and the social aspect of the game. Is a good opportunity for all residents and families. Is there a chance we can put a court in the field. Rough approx. figures are £40k for a court if this is hired out for 2 hours a day @ £24 hr and hired for 6hr at weekends it would generate £20K a year. So, it would take 2 years to

recover costs. Currently the Parish Council only has 1 income stream and need more income streams in the future if NEPP stop the funding. There are social, good health mobility and mental health benefits for residents. The down side is the noise of this, this could be overcome and mitigated if the court was near the Tennis courts as the noise would not be much more than already is. Other residents agreed with this. The resident was asked to send things through to the council to look at and for the item to be placed on another agenda. The resident was thanked for this contribution,

The progress on up grading the village sign in car park was asked about and the village warden will be doing repairs on this shortly and is being followed up, the greenery has been reduced and we have had quotes from a company about the repairs and this will go to infrastructure meeting.

Cutting of footpaths – we have a new contractor this year and he is due to start the footpaths this month. A resident would like to see the schedule on line and the dates it is going to be cut, can, this be made larger on the notices so we can see it.

Ardleigh surgery – representative was present and invited anyone who would like to join the surgery of the patient’s participation group to get in touch with the surgery. There is going to be councillor’s representation in the future on this.

Following Highways problems are still not resolved i.e. Water on Castle Hill, footpath outside East Street, speeding in village, buses etc. Now the elections are over can we get some feedback as to what is happening with these. Cllr Naylor will look into this.

The sign at bottom of Castle Hill needs to be taken down as it refers to the Royal visit this will be taken down soon.

Potholes are getting worse and will also be on the agenda for Highways in the future.

The stretch of road towards the sports club is maintained by Highways and is very bad at the moment, Cllr Naylor was asked to look at this.

A resident was asked if there could be respect towards each other and this goes each way both to councillors and residents, this will be followed up through our policies.

Parish Plan – timescale was asked about and is on the agenda for meeting monthly.

The document structure is coming up at next meeting in June and discussed then and how this will be produced for the future. This will also go out again in the Autumn.

A resident asked about the local plan and asked if this is going to be soon as it has been a nearly a year now. Will have something to look at by the end of the summer. We are following the standard production of parish plans and we are on target at the moment.

Weight restrictions requested for Coopers Lane in the future. This is going to be followed up.

Traffic – this is part of the parish plan and what options do we have for the control of increasing traffic and joy riders in the village. It was noted that we have mentioned the hope

of imposing 20 mph in the future and we need to look at this sooner rather than later as things are getting worse. Sara Naylor said she would also look at this.

Wheelie bins – there are not the space for all the houses in the village to have these and we managed to get Colchester City Council (CCC) to get Dedham exceptions in certain areas, where there is exemption available and you can log on to CCC website and register your postcode and see if it has been assessed. It not you can register this and they can tell you when it is looked at when it is assessed. This is being monitored by the council.

The bus service was mentioned and as a council we have very little influence on the bus service. It was mentioned that there is a bus on a Sunday at Coggeshall Road every Sunday which goes through the village and it was asked if they can do this through the week as well. This will be followed up.

Thanks were given to all that had come along to the meeting.

Meeting closed 7:10pm

Signed

Cllr Bourn

Date