

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2018 AT 8.00PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, DEBDEN

Present:

Cllr R. Forster	(RF) Chairman
Cllr E. Blackie	(EB)
Cllr S. Luck	(SL)
Cllr A. Tetlow	(AliciaT)
Cllr A. Tetlow	(AT)

In attendance:

Mrs. C. Griffin, Clerk. (CG)
 3 members of the public

18/096 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S. Watson (family commitment), Cllr A. Roper (unwell) and Dist.Cllr T. Knight.

18/097 Declarations of Interests

To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda

No interests were declared.

18/098 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

Members of the public are permitted to make representations, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included on the agenda

Residents raised the following issues:

- ECC have cut the bridleway from Scotts Farm to Widdington
- There are several bridges on footpaths at Debden Green which are in need of repair. Full details will be sent to the Clerk.
- A report was given on the Byway situation at Debden Green. The landowners will be asking ECC to review a decision made some years ago in an effort to get Byways reclassified as Bridleways. The Chairman confirmed that the PC would support their endeavours.

18/099 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Dist Cllr Knight had advised, by email, that:

- There was a serious accident at the Fox crossroads on Saturday afternoon 6th January. The Clerk will endeavour to obtain details.
- The speeding problems in Elder Street, near Carver Barracks, are getting worse.

- The Saturday afternoon parking problems were taken up with the football club. A photo was sent to them and they informed me that they had never seen the parking like that before and wondered if it could have been taken on a Sunday. The players do already car share.
- The ECC Arboriculturist has looked at the trees in Mill Road. She agreed the ash tree was in a poor condition and will investigate the elm. She came back again to carry out further investigations but owing to the weather these had to be postponed.
- We have received notification of one day road closures at Debden Green. In February and March work will be carried out in Wigmore Farm Road, Woodruff Farm Road and Scotts Farm Road. Residents have been informed.
- We have received notice of a cycle race which will be coming through the village on Sunday 25th March. This will be included in the Parish Pump.
- I have reported all blocked drains to ECC again.
- Andrew Tetlow attended a Village Hall meeting prior to Christmas.
- The school clock has been serviced.
- The hedge from the Old Chapel up to Deynes Road needs inspecting. The Chairman will look at this.
- LCPAS has advised that the Chairman is responsible for making the final decision on agenda items.

18/104 To formally adopt the revised UDC Code of Conduct

It was proposed that Debden Parish Council should adopt the revised UDC Code of Conduct.

Proposed: AT

Seconded: RF

Agreed: EB and AliciaT
SL abstained

18/105 To agree the total Budget and set the Precept for 2018/19

The total Budget was agreed and the Precept for 2018/19 set at £17,695.00.

Proposed: RF

Seconded: EB

All agreed

The necessary forms were completed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk

18/106 To receive a report on the meeting with ECC and the landowners regarding the Byway at Debden Green

The Chairman reported that on 10th April 2017 a meeting was held with ECC on site regarding extreme damage caused to Byway 37 by off road vehicles. ECC subsequently advised they were unable to make repairs as a section of the Byway did not follow the route shown on their official map.

A meeting was subsequently organised at ECC in Chelmsford with the Cabinet member for Highways, our County Councillor and the landowners to discuss why the Byway had been moved in the 1970's and if this route could be adopted by ECC. They agreed to study their records and get back in touch. A further on site meeting was arranged by ECC with the landowner when it was explained that ECC are not in a position to adopt, repair or maintain that section of the Byway until it is legally re-routed on their official map around the edge of the field. ECC are keen to find a

solution and suggested the landowner submits an application to have this section of the Byway legally re-routed. ECC and the PC would support this. On successful completion of this application ECC offered to provide the necessary labour and machinery to fill in the large holes with rubble, provided by the landowner, and adopt and maintain in the future.

It was agreed that the landowners would decide whether they wanted to pursue that route. To date this has not been done. ECC regard this as a matter between them and the landowner.

A relation of the landowners, who was present at the meeting, will try and ensure a decision is made.

18/107 To discuss a request from the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance regarding the possibility of a clothing donation bank in the village

A response will be sent to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance advising that, at the moment, it would not be possible to accommodate this on the recreation ground in view of the amount of building work which is planned. This decision could be reconsidered at a later date.

18/108 To discuss arrangements for footpath cutting during 2018

The Clerk will contact the Footpath Warden, Mrs. Nicola McCahill, regarding arrangements for footpath cutting during 2018.

18/109 To review the Allotment contract and hire charges

The Allotment contract and current prices had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the hire fees should remain the same as last year, i.e Single plot £25.00, single plot (senior citizen) £15.00. Double plot £40.00, double plot (senior citizen) £25.00.

The Chairman will inform Saffron Walden Town Council that we have a number of vacancies.

18/110 To agree a date for the Annual Assembly.

It was agreed that the Annual Assembly should be held on Wednesday 25th April.

The Clerk will reserve the Village Hall.

18/111 To receive an update on the progress of the co-ordinating group for the new Village Hall

The Chairman reported that both pieces of land have been surveyed and valued at the same amount. A number of meetings have been held to discuss the legal document for the exchange but there are still some issues outstanding which require further discussion and a meeting has been planned for 25th January. The solicitors have put forward suggestions and it is up to the two sets of Trustees, i.e the RG Trust and the VH Trust, to agree. All Trustees have received an update and a further one will follow after the next meeting.

SL said the PC should discuss this and the concerns expressed by the Village Shop some time ago should be considered. It was pointed out that the Village Shop had

The Clerk pointed out that she has not made a claim from the Transparency Fund this year and will do so before the end of the financial year. Another application will be made for funding for this year.

18/116 To discuss the possibility of having an Extraordinary Meeting to review the suggestions received for improving communications within the Parish Council

The Chairman reported that Cllr Watson forwarded some suggestions for improving the way we conduct our meetings which were appreciated and we have endeavoured to incorporate some of these ideas this evening. No other members of the Council have sent suggestions.

SL said that four months ago he asked for a peer to peer review and sent an item for the agenda. The Chairman pointed out that he had written to SL advising him that his request should state specific issues; a wide ranging review is not specific.

AT said he felt the views of other Councillors should be respected and all members should be more tolerant, but there is no need for another meeting although additional training could be considered.

SL said all members have a role to play but he is not involved because he is being excluded and would like to discuss that further. Residents are being kept in the dark – they do not know what is going on regarding the Pavilion project or the Village Shop and the PC has no long term policies.

EB explained that if everything goes according to plan the Pavilion will be demolished so it would be futile to spend time and money on refurbishing this. The Village Shop were invited to a meeting but were unable to attend.

Members agreed that there have been problems and many controversial meetings in the past but it was agreed that these were caused by matters relating to one subject; the Village Hall. This is now being dealt with by the Co-ordinating group.

At the end of a heated discussion no conclusion was reached.

18/117 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

117.1 It was agreed that reference will be made in the next Parish Pump to the Extraordinary PC meeting in November.

117.2 It was agreed that RF would keep the strimmer at his house. This should only be used on Council property.

117.3 Referring back to item 18/110, the Clerk will invite Dist. Cllr Tina Knight, Cty Cllr Simon Walsh, the Commanding Officer from Carver Barracks and Rev. John Saxon to the Annual Assembly.

All the village groups that submitted a report last year will also be invited and asked to send a report, but these will not be read out at the meeting.

18 /118 Items for the next agenda

No items were requested.

18/119 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7th March, at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.10. pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 07.03.18.