

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 2017 AT 8.00PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, DEBDEN

Present:

Cllr R. Forster	(RF) Chairman
Cllr E. Blackie	(EB)
Cllr S. Luck	(SL)
Cllr A. Roper	(AR) (From 17/154 – 17/161)
Cllr A. Tetlow	(AT)
Cllr Alicia Tetlow	(AliciaT)
Cllr S. Watson	(SW)

In attendance:

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

17/149 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Roper (arriving late) and Cty Cllr S. Walsh.

17/150 Declarations of Interests**To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda**

No interests were declared.

17/151 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)**Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included on the agenda**

The main points raised by members of the public were:

- Following the article in this week's Walden Local it was suggested the RG Trust makes an application to the Charity Commission to change its constitution to avoid any conflict.
The PC have been told it has nothing to do with the project. It will be passed to the RG Trust
- Will the PC take any steps to try and keep the MOD loan.
This is not a matter for the PC. It is understood the VH Trust and RG Trust have been working together and have asked for an extension.
The MOD are making their decision now and the public are asking the PC to support this as your name was on the bid.
The PC's name was included without their knowledge. The application was put in without the knowledge of the Council. The Chairman at the time, AT, said he signed the form after the grant had been allocated.

- If the alternative plan proceeds there is a risk the Post Office will close because it could only be housed in a temporary building for a short while. What do the PC see as their role and what support will the PC give.

This is not a matter for the PC.

The resident who is dealing with the alternative plan read a statement and advised of the situation regarding the Post Office. He also reported on meetings with the various user groups. A full copy of the statement is available on the notice board and village shop.

- I have been asking for information about the party wall between the Shop and the Village Hall for four months. I have now made a FOI request.

The wall will not be affected.

- Why did the PC make a statement to the Walden Local this week.
- For over 80 years everything has run smoothly. There is a problem with the land swap and the hall could be built on the existing site where there would be no legal problems. It appears the VH Trustees are happy to return the money rather than build on the current site.
- The land was left in trust to the PC and registered in 2002 in the name of the Councillors at that time. Meetings should have been held in public.

SW said a proper procedure is needed to answer the questions from the public as residents have not received replies. The Chairman said people can put their questions in writing to the PC. SW pointed out that all the questions should be answered by the Council, not individuals. EB said this should be considered when we discuss the Standing Orders later in the meeting.

17/152 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

The report from Cty Cllr Walsh had been circulated prior to the meeting.

No report from Dist Cllr. Knight as she was attending the meeting as a member of the public.

SL asked if a reply was received to the PC's request for closure of byways over the winter. The current situation is unacceptable, why can't Debden have byway closures like every other parish? The Clerk received an acknowledgement to her letter and will write to ECC again.

17/153 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4th January 2017

It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes as approved.

Proposed: EB

Seconded: AR

17/154 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that it has been brought to his attention by UDC and EALC that certain Councillors and others have taken up a great deal of their time dealing with complaints over matters which they have no influence. I have apologised to EALC and informed them that in future all communications with them will be through me or the Clerk..

SL said he had visited UDC and EALC to find out who Councillors are accountable to. EALC said it is not a straight forward answer but the conduct of councillors is dealt with by the principal authority, financial accountability is handled by the external audit regime. All other matters are self regulating and, ultimately, we are accountable to the electorate.

17/155 To receive an update from the Parish Clerk

The Clerk reported that:

- Many calls have been received from people complaining about the road closure. ECC have advised today that they will be carrying out patching works and surface dressing through the village in addition to unblocking the pipe on Ivy Todd Hill. Unfortunately no firm starting date can be given. It appears from investigations that the pipe is broken so they will have to dig up the road and put in a new pipe. Access will not be allowed during this period, but when they start work on this it should be after 9.00am to allow children to get to School, but the diversion may have to be used in the afternoon. During the pre-patching and surface dressing work the road will be closed from 8.00am to 5.00pm while the work is being carried out. Details of this will be sent to the School and posted on the notice board.
- A meeting has not yet been fixed with the Insurance company but we will do so during February.
- Some residents were very pleased the big hole in the car park near the entrance has been filled.
- The village hall has been booked for the 26th April for the Annual Assembly. All Councillors confirmed this was convenient.
- The sign for Church Lane should be fixed as soon as the road works have been completed.
- The new litter bins have arrived.
- It is still hoped that a defibrillator training session will be held in March. Owing to one of the First Responders being away during March I am endeavouring to fix a convenient date with another member of the team. For people have agreed to go on the contact list which will be kept in the Shop on the notice board and defibrillator.
- The Police & Crime Commissioners public meeting is tomorrow night, 2nd February at the Town Hall, 6.30 – 8.30pm.
- The lights at Yuva have been inspected; no action is necessary but a satellite dish must be removed.
- If you are going to continue recording meetings you will need a Social Media policy.
- I have today received a Freedom of Information request which has been circulated.
- Another request has been received regarding details of our Auditor. I will forward the details but all correct procedures have been carried out.
- EALC strongly recommend you adopt the NALC standing orders, although that is your decision.

A question was raised concerning Broadband., AT reported that he has a mast that has broadband on it, if you are interested please contact him. Fibre Wi-Fi..

17/156 To decide whether to review and approve changes to current Standing Orders or adopt the NALC Standing Orders

It was proposed that the NALC Standing Orders should be adopted.

Proposed: RF

Seconded: AT

AR. AliciaT, EB, SW agreed.

SL opposed.

The Clerk advised that the last addition to the Standing Order was in connection with the recording of meetings. EALC will be asked if there are any other recent additions.

17/157 To review the CCTV equipment

SL said he is concerned about crime in the area and will go along to the meeting with the Police & Crime Commission tomorrow evening. He suggested at a previous meeting that we should enhance the CCTV and proposed that one/two cameras on the School pointing down the road or the pond should be installed. The price for one camera would be a minimum of £400, but could be up to £1,000 to obtain an improved image. This will be raised at the meeting with the Police. SL will ask a number of residents for their views on local policing before he attends the meeting.

It was suggested by a resident that a “google group” could be helpful to alert people to incidents and other matters of interest.

17/158 To receive from the Chairman and Vice Chairman a report on the meeting with Cllr Howard Rolfe, UDC Leader, held on 13th January

RF and AT raised the following issues:

- Local Plan - UDC are awaiting a new government white paper because there may be a change in government policy. Once this is received and examined two rounds of consultations will be held during 2017 and they expect to submit the plan by March 2018, Three single settlements are being considered and small developments in “A” class villages would not have to wait for the plan to be finalised.
He said it could be worth us taking some pre-emptive action if we knew development was going to take place; more than 15/20 houses could bring financial benefit locally.
- UDC will be looking to put 600 new homes in the area each year and the area will feel the pressure. There will be a small ring road around Saffron Walden.
- It was agreed there is a lot of pressure on Secondary School places but this is coming from the wider area rather than Saffron Walden. Cllr. Rolfe felt there are sufficient places. There will be a new Primary School in Saffron Walden.
- We expressed our support for the Highway Rangers and agreed it was a very good service. A query was raised regarding the reporting procedure. UDC would like to expand the service but there is no additional funding available.
- The question of car parking for the village hall was raised and the fact that the Village Hall do not own land for parking should not be a problem. Planning permission does not depend on ownership of the car park.

17/159 To receive a report on the Parish Pump meeting held on 23rd January

EB reported that an anticipated shortfall in funds did not materialise because of reduced charges from Copycats. The minutes will be sent to the Clerk.

The group requires a new Treasurer as Alastair Donald is retiring.

17/160 To consider a response to the Stop Stansted Expansion Night Flights Consultation

The Council decided not to respond to the consultation

17/161 To review the contract and rental charges for the Allotments

SW said that whilst some of the Allotments are well kept, others are very overgrown; if you have an allotment it should be looked after. The Chairman said 29 out of 35 plots are rented out. Very little work is done at this time of year but all the people who paid for an Allotment last year kept their plots in a reasonable condition. There is no penalty clause in the agreement.

The rental charges were reviewed and will remain the same as last year.

A question was raised as to whether it would be possible to build on part of the Allotments and it was agreed this would be added to the next agenda.

17/162 To consider taking part in the Great British Spring Clean 3-5th March 2016

LCPAS notified Councils of the Spring Clean. The Clerk was requested to put a note in the next Parish Pump asking volunteers to turn up at the Village Shop at 10.00am on Saturday March 11th to help with litter picking.

17/163 To discuss planning applications received

The following application has been received, no comments submitted:

UTT/17/0005/FUL 55 & 56 Wash Cottage, Thaxted Road

Proposed demolition of existing rear single storey extension to No. 56 including the replacement of the cloakroom roof covering to No. 55

UTT/16/3693/FUL Woodruff Farm, Henham Road

Construction of a new 40M x 20M menage for domestic use

UTT/16/3617/FUL Ponside, Debden Green

Retrospective application for change of use from holiday lets to residential use.

UTT/16/3636/FUL Sibbards Farm, Debden Green

Conversion of vacant barns into 3 residential dwellings including demolition of storage buildings

UTT/17/0135/HHF Kellys Cotttage, Deynes Road

Demolition of rear extension erection of single storey rear extension and raising of chimney heights

UTT/17/0187/HHF Ruddlands, Henham Road

Proposed side extension and roof dormers.

Regarding planning application UTT/16/3337/FUL Land at Ivy Todd Cottage, Ivy Todd Hill, concerns were expressed regarding access and safety. In view of the proposed new access on a fairly steep hill, 1 in 6 gradient, the PC would like more information on the excavations that would be necessary to make the new access and detailed elevation drawings before this application is considered. Also, an independent speed survey should be conducted as the survey results used by ECC are for a different location further up the hill where the gradient is less and we are aware, from local knowledge, that vehicle speeds will vary.

17/164 To approve accounts for payment

It was proposed that the following payments should be approved for payment:

Proposed: EB		Seconded: AT	All agreed
C. Griffin	£736.71	Net salary + expenses (January) plus Transparency Code payment (£396.92 less £67.40 Tax)	
Debden Village Shop	£50.00	Annual payment for electricity for PC light and defibrillator	
* Mills & Reeve	£1,200.00	Legal advice following meeting held on 18 th November	
* Glasdon	£242.95	Two new litter bins and liners	

* Payments from Recreation Ground Account

SL asked if there would be any further invoices for legal advice following the meeting of the RG Trust last week. EB confirmed that the advice mentioned last week was provided free of charge.

17/165 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

165.1 SW said he was taken aback at the Recreation Ground Trust meeting last week. The meeting was not conducted in a professional manner. The Chairman said this should be raised at the meeting of the RG Trust.

17/166 Items for the next agenda

Update on CCTV equipment.

Pavilion Insurance Policy

To discuss arrangements for the Annual Assembly

To receive an update from the Chairman of the Village Hall Trust

To discuss future plans for the Allotments .

17/167 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 1st March, at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 01.03.17.

