

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE, 2016 AT 8.00PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL,
DEBDEN

Present:

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

In attendance:

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

16/015 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Roper, Dist Cllr T. Knight and Cty Cllr A. Walsh.

16/016 Declaration of interests

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

No interests were declared

16/017 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

The following issues were raised by residents:

- Will the statement I made at the last meeting regarding the Annual meeting of the Council on 5th May be summarised in the minutes.

The Chairman advised that the PC's advisory body have said that statements should not be included in minutes, therefore it will not be included. At the last meeting you reported that you had submitted a letter to UDC so I suggest you send it for their judgement.

SL and SW felt the PC should decide whether statements should be included in the minutes.

- The side of the road has collapsed into the ditch at Hamperden End and this could cause a serious accident.

This has been reported to ECC but the Clerk will send another report. As it is understood the damage was caused by large lorries travelling to the housing development at Henham, the Clerk will contact them and also Affinity Water who will shortly commence work on the reservoir at Chickney Road.

- What are the Council's views on supporting the Village Shop
It was suggested that the PC could make a donation and encourage other people to do so, It was agreed that this should be added to the agenda for the July meeting and the Chairman of the Village Shop will be invited to attend.

16/018 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

No report from Cllr Knight but she continues to chase issues reported to her. The Clerk highlighted the main points in a report received from Cllr Walsh this evening. Cllr Walsh has been appointed ECC Cabinet member for Environment & Waste. The full report and also reports on Newport Road and Rook End Lane will be circulated to members.

The Clerk was requested to send a letter to Cllr Walsh pointing out that the PC feel they are not getting good service from ECC and are disappointed that additional responsibility is being taken on when questions which were raised two years ago have not been dealt with.

16 /019 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 18th May, 2016

SW proposed the following addition to 16/005:

“SW said that another AGM should be held before the end of May in order to keep within the PC rules, accepting that the result, i.e. the appointment of the same chair etc., could be the same”

Proposed: SW	Seconded: AT	4 members in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention (not present)
--------------	--------------	--

It was resolved that with this addition the Chairman should sign the Minutes as approved.

Proposed: EB	Seconded: AT	1 abstention. All other members agreed.
--------------	--------------	--

16/020 Chairman's Report

No report from the Chairman

16/021 To receive an update from the Parish Clerk

The Clerk highlighted the following matters:

- The majority of allotment rents have been paid; I will continue to chase tenants who have not paid. Another plot is now vacant.
- ECC have sent the usual information concerning the Winter Salt Bag programme. Clerk will continue the membership but no salt required this year.
- The reports to ECC are all being chased. Some repairs have been carried out in Rook End Lane. ECC has advised that a quarterly routine safety inspection will be carried out on Newport Road; the most recent was in April. At this time the defects were assessed and do not pose sufficient risk to necessitate a priority repair. Therefore these defects have not been programmed for repair in the foreseeable future. Still chasing the blocked drain on Ivy Todd Hill.

16/022 To review Councillors' Roles and Responsibilities

Members agreed the following:

Open Spaces (trees, benches, grasscutting etc)	RF
--	----

Proposed: RF

Seconded: AT

SL against, all other members agreed.

16/035 To discuss planning applications received:

The Clerk will contact the UDC Case Officer concerning the PC's application for an extension and refurbishment of the Pavilion

The following applications have been received, no comments submitted:

UTT/16/1147/HHF 2 School Cottages, Church Lane

Erection of single storey front extension

UTT/16/1348/FULL and west of the Old Chapel, Deynes Road

Proposed dwelling

The following application has been conditionally approved:

UTT/16/0677/HHF Whitecotes, Thaxted Road.

16/036 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

36.1 AliciaT pointed out that at the last meeting she asked for the meeting with the Village Hall Trustees to be included on the PC agenda as she believes the PC does need to discuss this with the V.H. Trustees. The Chairman explained that advice had been obtained and read an email received from EALC advising that the Trust is not a PC matter and should be kept completely separate as advised by the solicitor. SL said the PC have a duty to provide facilities for the village. The matter will be discussed at the Recreation Ground meeting which will follow this meeting.

36.2 SL said that an AGM has not been held in May and therefore a new Chairman has not been elected. We have not complied with the PC's Standing Orders and everything is null and void. The AGM on 5th May was abandoned. EB pointed out that the election of the Chairman had taken place in accordance with correct procedure, i.e. nomination followed by seconder. The reason why the Annual meeting was closed was because SW and SL insisted on holding a vote that subsequently was established as not being necessary for the election. As the election of a Chairman is the only item that has to be on the agenda for the Annual meeting and acted upon, the fact that the remaining items on the agenda were postponed, does not invalidate the election of the Chairman.

36.3 The recreation ground is being used again by a group of Polish footballers. It is an organised game, therefore a charge should be made and the PC should have sight of their insurance. The Clerk will ask a local policeman for advice on how to handle the situation.

36.4 SL said the advice that is being obtained is not circulated to all members. It was agreed that if the Clerk or Councillors' seek advice this should be circulated to all members.

36.5 RF advised that the membrane on the mound in the children's playground has been identified in the Rospa report and requires attention.

36.6 In future all membership and affiliation fees will be included on the agenda for approval.

16/037 Items for next agenda

To discuss comments received on the PC's Standing Orders.

To discuss and agree a co-option policy

To review the Rospa Report.

To discuss ways of supporting the Village Shop.

16/038 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6th July at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
The meeting closed at 09.57pm

Signed.....(Chairman)

06.07.16