

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2015 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, DEBDEN

Present:

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

In attendance:

Dist Cllr T. Knight	(TK)
Cty Cllr S. Walsh	
Mrs C. Griffin, Clerk	(CG)
15 members of the public	

15/064 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S. Luck (personal commitment)

15/065 Declaration of interests relating to items on the Agenda

The Clerk requested declarations but no interests were declared.

RF declared an interest at 15/076 as he is Chairman of the Tennis Committee

15/066 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

A resident requested item 15/077 (Report on the meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust) to be brought forward as there is concern about what appears to be another delay in the process for an agreement, in principle, for a land swap.

15/067 To receive a Report from Dist. Cllr Tina Knight

Cllr Knight reported that:

- She was grateful that the Parish Pump had organised an insert for her in the September Parish Pump.
- She is working with Cllr Walsh on the changes that ECC have made to their transport policy. There will be a meeting in Wimbish Village Hall at 11.00am on 30th September and it would be appreciated if members of the PC could attend.
- There are many anomalies with School transport and we are looking at Budgets. There is a major problem with the School buses for the children living at Carver Barracks and the MOD is now involved.

15/068 To discuss a number of issues with Cty Cllr Simon Walsh (list sent to Cllr Walsh in advance)

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Walsh to the meeting. He began by reporting that significant savings will have to be made as government support grants are being cut. There will be some impact when the national living wage is introduced and it will

have a considerable impact on the supply chain. However, ECC are not anticipating this will be passed on to them.

Winter closure of Byways - Cllr Walsh advised that the assessment will not be available until next Spring. ECC would like to see much wider winter closures in future.

A resident raised the condition of Sampson's Lane which was reported five years ago and suggested that road planings from near Carver Barracks could be used to carry out improvements.

Clarification on responsibility for the bridleway near Barnard's Riding School was requested.

Road closure signs – Cllr Walsh reported that all road closures in the area are marked on a spreadsheet which he will forward to CG. Water main replacements are being carried out at present and all the utility companies will be involved in the joined up scheme. The timings will be more constrained and if companies exceed the deadline they will be subject to a fine. The road surface should be reinstated to the same standard. If it is not, utility companies may be charged a fee. Road realignment works in Newport Road are scheduled for October 2015.

Superfast Broadband - This will be rolled out during this year. The fibre is in, the connection has been made to the fibre cabinet but the power needs connecting. Faster broadband could and should be available this year.

Scottish Power billing - Cllr Walsh said he has been unable to obtain any information as the Cabinet member responsible has changed. It is hoped this was just teething problems and has now been resolved.

Fox Crossroads - Cllr Walsh said the LHP allocated funding to improve the junction but speed checks indicated that traffic was moving at below 50mph, therefore ECC are unable to sanction any improvements as they have to work to their policy. No serious accidents have been recorded at the junction.

Residents present regarded this as nonsense. SW agreed to request another speed survey.

Cllr Walsh will also request the Rangers to cut back the vegetation obscuring the sign near the crossroads.

Crossroads at Debden Green - It was reported that a meeting was held with ECC many years ago and it was suggested that a mini roundabout should be installed. SW agreed to speak to ECC Highways officers about this again.

Potholes/Road resurfacing - ECC has allocated extra funding for repairs and the potholes in the village are scheduled for repair in the next 28 days. The average cost is £50 per pothole.

Residents present felt that many of the repairs are not carried out satisfactorily and in some cases one hole is filled but others, in close proximity, are left.

Quiet Lanes - Cllr Walsh reported that this initiative has stalled. A policy has not been established and funding may not be allocated in this financial year.

Drains - These are now listed as road assets and they are jetted and checked on an annual basis.

Residents advised that several drain problems have been reported to ECC and it appears that the pipes between the drains are blocked. These should be reported to ECC again and precise locations given. If the problems are not rectified he can arrange for a CCTV camera to be used to ascertain whether there is a blockage.

Footpaths - Cllr Walsh reported that one scheduled cut was carried out in July this year and in 2014, but not all paths are cut. The cutting is not carried out earlier because of re-growth. If other paths are added to the schedule they will be considered but ECC will only cut surface growth. It was reported that some paths have been cut at Hamperden End; others have not.

Enquiries will be made as to who is responsible for cutting back the vegetation on Church Lane.

Removal of hedge at Debden Green - ECC Report No. 2399594 regarding the removal of a hedge at Hamperden End was raised and it appears from the website that it is an encroachment and is under investigation.

Charges for School Transport - Cllr Walsh advised that all Schools were informed of the changes and every parent would have been made aware. Children are entitled to free transport to their nearest school providing the criteria is met. He is aware of the problems at Carver Barracks and will continue to pursue this.

Provision of School Places - Cllr Walsh reported that new school places have been created to deal with the increasing population. The Uttlesford district still has capacity for pupils at present, but as housing development occurs extra provision will be made at RA Butler and Katherine Semar School in Saffron Walden.

Cllr Walsh was asked what constitutes major development, particularly in view of the significant amount of additional housing in Saffron Walden. It was pointed out that regular meetings are held with planning officers.

Cllr Walsh was asked to look into problems experienced when using the 101 non emergency number for the Police. He advised that reference number should be given for all reports made to enable these to be followed up.

The Chairman thanked Cty Cllr Walsh for attending. He said he would be happy to arrange a time to walk round the village with members of the Council.

15/069 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1st July, 2015

Following circulation of the minutes SW requested alterations. CG advised her that the minutes were approved by the Chairman which was confirmed by RF. No corrections had been requested by the two other members present. CG attempted to go through the amendments which SW requested but it was felt there was insufficient time and the minutes were not signed. CG was requested to send to EB

and AliciaT a copy of the amendments requested by SW

15/070 To receive an update from the Parish Clerk

CG reported that all matters had been dealt with since the last meeting and highlighted the following:

- A letter has been received from Sir Alan Haselhurst regarding the School buses from Carver Barracks and he will be pursuing the matter
- There is an RCCE Meeting on 10th October, details available.
- The EALC Annual meeting is on 24th September
- She has registered for the Salt Bag scheme again this year but no additional salt has been ordered.
- There has been no further news regarding the Buffy Bus visiting the village.
- An email has been received today about the bullying mentality in the village following the last meeting
- The RBL have contacted the PC regarding the possibility of the word “memorial” being dropped when the new hall is named. CG will contact the RBL and suggest this is taken up with the Village Hall committee.

15/071 To receive a report on the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Pump held on 21st July

EB reported that:

- There is concern regarding the appointment of new Editors. To date, one person has come forward, one more is required.
- The production costs have increased because more colours are being used. Advertising charges will be increased and the PC and PCC will be asked to contribute £250 for this year (previous year £200)
- She raised the issue relating to the publication of election details and, for future reference, the Parish Pump should not print any information on prospective candidates particularly as the PC makes an annual contribution to the magazine.
- The 2004 Constitution is the most recent copy.

15/072 To consider quotations for the defibrillator cabinet and agree a suitable position on the Village Shop

RF reported that it has been agreed with the Village Shop that the cabinet will be located on the front wall of the shop between the door to the Store room and the window, under the light. CG has obtained three quotations ranging from £340.00 to £714.00 and it was agreed that an order should be placed with SADS UK for the cabinet, total cost £340.

Gill Lee, who organised the fund raising, reported that she attended the training session last week which was carried out by the First Responders. It has been suggested that contact details of people trained should be included on the back page of the Parish Pump. The First Responders will be very happy to arrange a further training session at a later date. The Chairman thanked Gill for dealing with the fund raising and confirmed that the balance, i.e. £400.00, will be ring fenced for future training, maintenance costs etc.

15/073 To consider the application for planning permission for the new Village Hall (amended plans) and decide whether or not this should be submitted in the name of the Parish Council

EB pointed out that the application should not be submitted in the name of the Council as we are both members of the PC and Trustees of the Recreation Ground. This would be a conflict of interest. No further discussion took place.

15/074 To receive an update and approve a contract for Spartak Under 11 Football Team

RF advised that Spartak have been liaising with Debden Football Club and will be using the ground on Saturday mornings. Spartak will not using the ground for training. The contract will be finalised as soon as we receive some additional information from them and a copy of their public liability insurance.

15/075 To discuss the renewal of membership of the Essex Playing Fields Association

It was proposed that the membership should be renewed.

Proposed: AT

Seconded: EB

All agreed

15/076 To receive an update on the Tennis Courts with regards to the repairs to the posts and the renewal of public liability insurance

RF said he wanted to make the PC aware of the annual report that he submitted advising that the external post and netting fence would be replaced this year. Some temporary repairs have been done to two broken posts adjacent to the children's playground. Quotes were obtained for various work and these were presented to other members of the Tennis Court Committee who decided not to proceed with any work until they had an assessment of what was necessary. I was concerned about the broken posts as it requires me to risk assess the courts before public liability insurance can be obtained. At the moment we do not have public liability insurance.

A contractor has been asked for a report and this is currently being prepared. ROSPA will provide a certified and documented risk assessment but we do not want to renew the insurance until this has been done. The coaches who use the courts have their own insurance cover but the courts should have been closed to other users until this matter is resolved. The committee should make that decision. I recommended it, but the committee did not agree.

RF reported that the PC is covered by their own public liability insurance.

(meeting closed)

A resident advised that a meeting was called shortly before the insurance ran out. A structural engineer carried out an unofficial inspection and commented that in his opinion the court's fence and posts were safe to use for the next five years. A self assessment is being carried out.

(meeting opened)

15/077 To receive a report on the meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust held on 1st September (item discussed after item 15/072 following a request from a member of the public)

RF read the minutes of the meeting. A number of questions will now be raised with a solicitor dealing in Charity law at Mills & Reeve, The minutes were approved by members present and will be signed at the next meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust.

(meeting closed)

A resident said the solicitor should be advised that the PC is also the custodian trustee of the Village Hall.

(meeting open)

SW said she would like to read a statement from the Village Hall Committee

TK pointed out that this was not permissible and was placing her in a very invidious position.

The Chairman allowed the statement to be read and SW requested that this was included in the minutes (*EALC advised after the meeting that this should not be included*)

15/078 To submit a planning application for the internal refurbishment and extension of the Pavilion in the name of the Parish Council, subject to the decision taken at the meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust held on 1st September.

SW requested that the PC submit the application based on the plans submitted at a previous meeting. The estimated cost will be in the region of £60,000 and it was confirmed that no work would commence until all the funding has been raised.

Proposed: AT

Seconded: AliciaT

15/079 To receive an update on the Allotments

CG reported that she has collected £427 in rents. Currently plot 8 and plot 17 are vacant plus three smaller plots which will be available once the area at the bottom has been cleared. RF reported that a new boundary fence has been erected to replace the hedge which was removed. The five vacant plots will be advertised more widely if these are not taken up.

15/080 To consider a request to cut down a tree in Mill Road and decide whether or not this should be removed

It was agreed that one tree on the edge of the field access opposite the entrance to the car park could be removed. The farmer will cut down and pay all costs involved.

15/081 To discuss the Internal Auditors Report

The Auditor suggested that the Fidelity insurance should be increased.

15/082 To review the PC's Insurance Policy

It was agreed that the Defibrillator and cabinet should be added to the policy and the Fidelity cover increased to £35,000. All other details to remain the same as last year. CG will make the necessary arrangements with the Insurance company.

15/083 To discuss planning applications received

The following have been received:

UTT/15/2149/HHF Little Garth, High Street

UTT/15/2142/FUL Debden Antiques, Elder Street

UTT/15/2557/HHF Woodruff Farm, Henham Road, Debden Green

UTT/15/2334/HHF 1 Rose Cottages, Henham Road. Debden Green

No comments submitted.

UTT/15/1864/FUL Hamperden End, material amendment to UTT/14/0073/FULL approved.

15/084 To approve accounts for payment

Tree Management Co.	£300.00	Clearing trees at Allotments
C. Griffin	£382.77	July salary + expenses
C. Griffin	£384.57	August salary + expenses
Ace of Spades	£156.00	Grasscutting – June
Ace of Spades	£92.40	Grasscutting – July
C. Griffin	£17.97	(Additional Pavilion keys)
C. Griffin	£8.21	Refreshments for Community
		Payback

15/085 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

085.1 CG referred back to item 15/077. The list of questions will be sent to Mills and Reeve, but at the Recreation Ground Trust meeting a visit to the solicitors was mentioned. If this is considered necessary it was requested that members should attend.

15/086 Items for the next agenda

To approve the purchase of two new flower tubs

To review the PC's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

To agree a suitable date for EALC to come to Debden for a training session.

15/087 Date of next meeting

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

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Dated: 07.10.15.