

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr A. Tetlow	(AT)	(Chairman)
	Cllr R. Forster	(RF)	
	Cllr E. Blackie	(EB)	
	Cllr S. Luck	(SL)	
	Cllr A. Tetlow	(AliciaT)	
	Cllr S. Watson	(SW)	

In attendance:

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

15/114 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Roper (work commitment) Dist Cllr T. Knight and Cty Cllr Simon Walsh

15/115 Declaration of interests

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

RF declared an interest in 15/124 as he is Chairman of the Tennis Committee

15/116 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

Residents raised the following issues:

- Was the PC aware of the Trailscape running event which took place on Saturday, 31st October. RF advised that the group carried out a survey of the course and he requested information in order that it could be published. Nothing was sent but he saw them the day before and pointed this out. He was given a copy of the event notification which CG circulated to as many people as possible in the village. It is understood that the only permission they required was from a local landowner and this was given. The resident reported that one of the runners was running with a dog which savaged a dog which was being taken for a walk in the village by the owner. It was a really nasty attack and the Police and Animal Warden are now involved. The organisers have refused to give names. SL said he sent an email when he heard about the incident and has a mobile 'phone number for the organisers. The Chairman confirmed that the PC would write to them concerning this and request that if they should do this again adequate warning is given so the event can be published.
- It was disappointing to note that Sampson's Lane will not be closed as part of the winter Byway closures

15/117 To receive a report from Dist. Cllr Tina Knight

Dist Cllr Knight was delayed at another meeting.

The following report received from Cty Cllr Simon Walsh was read:

The Leader of the County Council is working with the leaders of the Districts, Southend and Thurrock to develop a devolution proposal for submission to the government later this year. Finer details have yet to be agreed, but it could lead to a Greater Essex Combined Authority with more joined-up services and subsequent cost savings. Of particular interest will be the adoption of some government services at the local level, such as economic growth and back to work training.

Secondary School place applications have now closed as of October 31st.

GCSE grades continue to improve across Essex, with the County now ranked 53rd in the local authority rankings, up from 85th.

The October's Cabinet meeting agreed to building a new primary school at Great Dunmow in order to meet increasing demand.

The County's Flood Prevention Capital Programme is offering a Partnership Grant to Parish Councils to help reduce flood risk in their communities. Further information is available from the flood team on floods@essex.gov.uk

The County will from November 2nd start using an 0345 prefix for its public enquiry lines, making it the same cost as an 01 or 02 call.

A New Chief Executive has been announced, he is Gavin Jones who will be leaving his post at Swindon Council. He joins the Council in January.

Some documents of interest: the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2014-2015 was presented to Council in early October. Recently the Cabinet agreed the Highways and Transportation Asset Management Policy, and the flood team's guide to ordinary watercourse maintenance.

All documents are available via the ECC website.

15/118 To receive a report on the Recreation Ground Trust meeting held on 22nd October 2015

EB reported that the Trustees discussed two matters at their meeting on 22nd October - the advice from the solicitor and a request from the Village Hall Trustees for a land exchange.

1. The advice from the solicitor was discussed at great length. The non conflicted Trustees all agreed with the solicitors advice, but it was agreed (three in favour, two against) that a letter should be sent to the Charity Commission regarding the reply to question 1 (Is there anything in the Trust Deed that prevents the Trustees from voting for a land exchange to build a new village hall?) which stated "from an initial consideration of the facts, I would advise that the Trustees do not have the necessary power to enter into the proposed land exchange. In order to enter into a land exchange the Trustees would need to seek the Charity Commission's consent, which may not be forthcoming"

2. The request from the Trustees of the Village Hall for a land swap was discussed but the Trustees had not specified how much land was needed and the Recreation Ground Trustees made it clear that they would definitely not agree to a land swap until all the funds have been raised.

15/119 To receive a report on the Village Hall public meeting held on 26th October 2015

EB reported that she represented the Recreation Ground Trustees at the meeting organised by the VH Trustees and the NVHG and a report was given based on what the solicitor had stated in his reply of 13th October.

Three users of the Village Hall gave presentations including the dance class, pre-school and the history recorders. The dance class and pre-school stressed the importance of keeping the current hall open while the new hall is built, the history recorders pointed out that several venues were available for use by these groups should the existing hall be pulled down and rebuilt on the same location. They listed various possible alternative venues in the village that could be used instead such as the New Room at the Church, the Church itself, the School and the Pentecostal Church who are willing to offer their facilities for the various groups to use.

SW said she would like to take issue with the content of the report because several issues were incorrect. The School and the Pentecostal Church are unable to offer their premises. Enquiries have been made with the Pentecostal Church and they will only give permission for religious meetings not others, and the School are unable to hire their premises as their insurance policy would not cover this. EB felt confident that the School and the Pentecostal Church would be available to hire.

SL said that Dist Cllr Knight had given incorrect information when she said that the pre-school could move to the Barracks. There is no way the children can be accommodated at the Barracks. These are the facts and SL said he wished people would not state facts which are incorrect.

15/120 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7th October 2015

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

Proposed: RF

Seconded: EB

All agreed

15/121 To receive an update from the Parish Clerk

CG highlighted the following:

- The Defibrillator cabinet has been fitted. The registration form has to be sent back to the Ambulance service to confirm the code. Although this will use very little electricity perhaps the PC should perhaps increase the payment we make to the Village Shop in February in respect of electricity. The battery will need to be checked in one year's time and will be added to the action list.
- The password for the CCTV has been reset.
- The LCPAS has organised a Rights of Way & Byway course at Widdington on 20th November, cost £25.00. The Chairman said he would like to attend if he is available, if not CG will contact the Footpath Warden.
- The response received from EALC regarding the training was circulated and the earliest date for a training session in the village would be February 2016. The LCPAS, Suffolk branch, does a course for new Councillors. CG will make enquiries and report back.

- There is a consultation on the management of waste in Essex and proposed new site at Newport Quarry. The PC and residents can respond, notices on the board. It could involve 100 lorries per day visiting the site.
- ECC advised that they had many requests for forms for the bus service consultation.
- The road realignment works in Newport Road have been suspended.
- EALC is holding a Transparency Code briefing in connection with changes to the Accounts and Audit process for smaller councils on 24th November, cost £15.
- Spartak will be chased as the contract has not been returned.
- I am still chasing ECC regarding the dead tree outside Water Hall
- ECC have confirmed that the drains in Thaxted Road and Debden Green have been inspected, and registered as defective, but are unable to give a date as to when they will be rectified.

15/122 To receive an update on the planning application for the Pavilion

CG advised that she has completed the application as far as possible but larger plans and a tree survey may be necessary. A resident present at the meeting kindly offered to go look through the application at the end of the meeting.

15/123 To consider a request to plant a tree in memory of Tony Hynes

A request has been received to plant a small tree either on the recreation ground or in Mill Road in memory of Tony Hynes. The PC advised that there is a space at the far end of the recreation ground and it was decided to include this on the agenda of the next meeting of the Recreation Ground Trustees for approval.

15/124 To receive an update on the ROSPA inspection of the Tennis Courts

RF reported that the ROSPA inspection report has now been received. A meeting has been arranged for Monday, 9th November, which AT has kindly agreed to host. At the meeting the Tennis Court Committee will discuss and agree the works which need to be carried out before the public liability insurance can be reinstated.

At the moment the PC is covered and also the professional organisers who have their own insurance, but there is no public liability insurance for members of the public.

15/125 To consider a response to the Uttlesford Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation

The Issues and Options document which is the first of three public consultations on the Local Plan is now available. Notices are on the boards and leaflets will be put in the Village Shop.

CG will contact Dist Cllr Knight regarding some guidance on responding.

15/126 To discuss planning applications received

The following have been received:

UTT/15/3076/FUL Lovecotes Farm, Debden Green

UTT/15/3122/FUL Debden Antiques, Elder Street

UTT/15/3280/HHF 1, Rose Cottages, Henham Road, Debden Green

No comments submitted.

15/127 To review the 2015/16 Budget and discuss the Budget and Precept for 2016/17

The actual figures from April to October had been circulated prior to the meeting. The cost of street lighting from E-on has increased and this will need to be increased in the 2016/17 Budget. The budget will be reviewed again at the December meeting and the Precept can be agreed if it should be decided not to meet in January. The Precept for 2015/16 was £16,450.

Questions were raised regarding the funding for the recreation ground and whether the Trust should have a budget. The solicitor has pointed out that Trust should be completely separate from the Parish Council. It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting of the R.G. Trust.

15/128 To approve Accounts for payment

C. Griffin	£391.67	Net salary + expenses (October)
Syigma Ltd	£95.00	CCTV - resetting password
M.G. Howard	£150.00	Internal Auditor
R. Forster	£13.98	Compost for flower tubs
SADS	£335.00	Defibrillator Cabinet
C. Griffin	£5.99	Pavilion key (for Village Shop)
UDC	£97.50	Planning fee (Pavilion)

15/129 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

129.1 SW offered to get in touch with the ladies who are using the recreation ground on Sunday morning and report back.

129.2 SW reported that the team from Saffron Walden County High were due to use the recreation ground today, but the game did not go ahead. CG is holding the invoice for the first game until December.

129.3 SW requested a new sign "No dogs are allowed in the playground". RF will organise.

129.4 SL advised that the Band will not be able to come to the village on Remembrance Sunday afternoon.

129.5 EB reported that we now have two new Editors for the Parish Pump - Tony Vernon and Jan Crawley. EB expressed her thanks to Mike Fairchild, who has been Editor of the Parish Pump for almost four years, for all the hard work he has done.

15/130 Items for the next agenda

To discuss the financial arrangements for the Recreation Ground Trust (R.G. Trust meeting)

To consider a request to plant a tree in memory of Tony Hynes (R.G. Trust meeting)

Update on Defibrillator Training Session

Update on Training Course for Councillors

To receive a report on the Public Rights of Way course.

To further review the Budget and set the Precept for 2016/17.

15/131 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 2nd December at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Dated: 04.11.15.