

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 5TH OCTOBER, 2016 AT 8.00PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL,
DEBDEN

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| <u>Present:</u> | Cllr R. Forster | (RF) | (Chairman) |
| | Cllr E. Blackie | (EB) | |
| | Cllr S. Luck | (SL) | (from 16/058-060) |
| | Cllr Alicia Tetlow | (AliciaT) | |
| | Cllr Andrew Tetlow | (AT) | |
| | Cllr S. Watson | (SW) | (from 16/058-060) |

In attendance:

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

16/058 Apologies for absence

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

16/059 Declaration of interests

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

No interests were declared.

16/060 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

The main questions and comments made were:

- The Chairman of the NVH group read a statement from the group referring to a request made by Cllr Alicia Tetlow at the last Parish Council meeting under items for the next agenda “To discuss a vote (Referendum) asking whether the majority of the village would like the new Village Hall located on the site proposed (exact wording to be agreed)”. This is not on the PC agenda this evening so will that be reinstated and will the Chairman allow the public to attend the Recreation Ground meeting this evening as this is usually closed to the public? *The Chairman advised that items for the next agenda are requests and are not agreed. We have been informed by all our advisory bodies that topics relating to Parish Council business must be kept and discussed separately from those of the Recreation Ground Trust. As the discussion about the proposed location of the new village hall is entirely a matter for the R.G. Trust this item cannot be added to the PC agenda for this evening or any other meeting of the PC unless we receive advice to the contrary.*

AliciaT said that with her "PC hat on" she had requested an item "To discuss organising a vote (Referendum) asking whether the majority of the village would like the new Village Hall located on the site proposed (exact wording to be agreed)" as a way of gauging what members of the village, which we represent, would like. SW said she understood it would go on the agenda for the PC meeting.

EB said R.G.T. Trustees had taken the decision in December 2015 not to allow the exchange of land on the proposed location after taking legal advice from a solicitor specialising in charity law and following due procedures. The proposed location would be against the benefit of the Trust and therefore contrary to Charity law. The R.G. Trust has been advised that once a decision has been made on a particular subject that matter cannot be the subject of a referendum, but we are awaiting further advice on this from UDC.

At the Recreation Ground meeting on 7th September, that followed the PC meeting, it was agreed to send a letter to the Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees stating the R.G. Trust is unable to consider putting the Village Hall in the proposed location as it is not in the best interests of the Trust and the Trustees were not prepared to consider the proposal any further.

- The Chairman of the Village Hall read a statement advising that he disagreed with the piece in last month's Parish Pump stating that the Hall is not being run in accordance with the governing document and requested an apology. *(This matter was raised following the AGM of the Village Hall in April and the Charity Commission has provided the information on the governing document)*
- We need to know the questions that are being asked; it is important to know the question before you look at the context of the answer. *EB advised that a leaflet was circulated with the Parish Pump in December 2015 which listed all the questions sent to the charity law solicitors and their replies.*
- Who are the Trustees of the R.G. Trust, are they appointed and is the Trust Deed available. If the Trustees were able to support the proposal would they be in favour in principle? *The Parish Councillors become de facto Trustees of the R.G. Trust when they are elected to the Council. The Trust deed is available. Some members responded to the question but others felt it was irrelevant.*
- You cannot say it is against the law at this stage because it has not been to Queen's Counsel.

SL said he felt the R.G. Trust should be dissolved. The Clerk advised that in 2001 the PC's solicitors said they had no alternative but to set up a Trust to protect the open space.

After stating that the process is not democratic, Cllr Luck and Cllr Watson left the meeting together with most members of the public.

16/084 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

The report received from Cty Cllr Simon Walsh was circulated prior to the meeting to all members of the Council. No report from Dist Cllr Tina Knight,

16/085 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7th September, 2016

A minor amendment was made to item 16/065. With this amendment it was resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minutes as approved.

Proposed: EB

Seconded: AT

All agreed.

16/086 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing further to report. The advice received on parish polls would be forwarded to AliciaT.

16/087 To receive an update from the Parish Clerk

The Clerk highlighted the following matters:

- More photographs of the current state of the Byways at Debden Green were sent to Simon Walsh. I have since sent a couple of reminders and he is chasing the report which is being done by the PROW team. It is understood we may have a new footpath officer.
- Another allotment has been taken. There is now only one invoice outstanding for allotment rent.
- I did not receive a reply from Trailscape so I assume they will not be coming to the village this year.
- Our insurance policy expired on 30th September but we are still covered. This is the final year of the three year agreement.
- A date needs to be arranged to review the Council's documents.
- I have spoken to ECC regarding all the outstanding issues. With regard to Ivy Todd Hill, the engineer overseeing the jetting programme has raised this again with the drainage engineer and I have been told it is near the top of their list.
- There is a UDC Forum on Monday 10th October.
- I have received a request for a new sign at the top of Church Lane as some transport companies are unable to find the lane. A formal application will be required to the Local Highways Panel and will be included on the next agenda.
- I have now received the Annual Return back from the External Auditor. No queries were raised. I can now complete the requirements for the Transparency Code which will involve making some modifications to the website.
- Paul Doe, Saffron Walden First Responder, has said that we should remind the people who have been trained that if the defibrillator is removed it must be returned to the cabinet straight away. I will contact SL for a list as it was stated these would be included in Parish Pump.

16/088 To receive a report on the Parish Pump meeting held on 3rd October

EB reported that the financial situation is relatively healthy. The printing costs have been reduced by cutting down on the number of colour pages; colour is now only used on the front and back cover.

16/089 To consider responding to the Consultation on Council Tax Referendum principles, details circulated 25th September

Members felt that increases in Council Tax should be capped but at a higher rate and 5% was suggested. The Clerk was requested to send this response via the on line consultation.

16/090 To discuss planning applications received

The following applications have been received, no comments submitted:

UTT/16/2511/HHF Raymonds Cottage, High Street

Retrospective application for the installation of calor gas bottle below ground.

UTT/16/2534/HHF 2 Rose Cottages, Henham Road, Debden Green

Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension.

Installation of roof lights to rear elevation. Erection of detached single storey garden store/residential annexe.

The following applications have been conditionally approved:

UTT/16/1890/HHF 22, Highfields

Erection of single storey side extension

UTT/16/1972/HHF Sibbards, Debden Green,

Removal of swimming pool and flat roof pool structure; erection of detached cart shed

The following application has been refused:

UTT/16/2124/OP Land adjacent to Wash Cottages

Outline application for 2, three bedroom detached dwellings.

16/091 To approve a donation to the Royal British Legion for poppy wreaths for the Remembrance Service

It was proposed that a donation of £60.00 should be made for the wreaths.

Proposed: AT

Seconded: EB

All agreed.

16/092 To review the 2016/17 Budget

The actual figures from April to September had been circulated prior to the meeting. The subscriptions are above budget mainly due to membership of LCPAS.

16/093 To approve Accounts for payment

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|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Ridgeons | £11.83 | Posts for litter/dog bins |
| Community Action Suffolk | £1,640.74 | Insurance renewal |
| C. Griffin | £397.39 | Net salary + expenses (September) |
| HMRC | £313.80 | PAYE (July/August/Sept) |
| PKF Littlejohn | £120.00 | External Auditor |
| Debden Village Hall | £34.00 | Hall hire (July & September) |
| ICO | £35.00 | Data protection renewal |
| B. Griffin | £100.66 | Annual website hosting |
| Essex Playing Fields Ass. | £30.00 | Annual membership |

16/094 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

No matters were raised.

16/095 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2nd November, at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....(Chairman)

02.11.16