

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL, 2016 AT 8.00PM 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. Roper	(AR)	
	Cllr A. Tetlow	(AliciaT)	
	Cllr A. Watson	(SW)	

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

16/191 Apologies for absence

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

16/192 Declaration of interests

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

EB declared an interest in planning application UTT/16/0677/HHF by virtue of the fact that the applicants are neighbours.

16/193 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)

The following issues were raised:

The Interim Chairman of the New Village Hall Group advised that:

1. The planning application for the new village hall has been approved.
2. The NVHG would like to request that an update on the Village Hall is included on the agenda for the Annual Assembly.
3. The statement included in the notes in the April Parish Pump, namely “it is understood that the grant cannot be ring fenced as has been stated” is incorrect as this decision was taken by the V.H. Trust and Section 6 of the Community Covenant states that “Replace (the existing hall) with a building that is larger, more flexible, multi-purpose and environmentally sustainable, on a new site with a larger main hall opening on to the village recreation ground”.

The Chairman of the V.H. Trustees said he had contacted UDC after the last meeting and wished to correct two points made in the March PC minutes:

1. That Certificate B was incorrect (this states that the landowners were notified on the 20th January but the notification was received on the 26th February).
2. That Dist Cllr Knight said there was no need to submit the planning application again as this was a non-material change. This was incorrect because of the time scale and the PC was the named applicant on the first application.

Also, in the sequence of events which was published two Trustees did not resign from their position; only one was a Trustee.

A resident raised the following issue:

- Why did you think it was not right for Cllr Luck to have his Surgery; I thought it was a good idea and it seems that one Councillor cannot have a voice if he is in a minority. (EB referred to the minutes which explained the situation accurately. The Best Kept Village Competition had been discussed at the January meeting and Cllr Luck said he would discuss this with residents. However, Cllr Luck decided to use the Surgery to raise questions about the village hall without the permission of the Parish Council. He explained in his flyer the “The current project is going nowhere because the Recreation Ground Trustees won't agree a land swap”. By doing this he was acting against the Trust and bringing the Trust, of which he is a Trustee, into disrepute. SW pointed out that this was raised at the training session and the PC were advised that you could do this but if you are undertaking this as an individual you must make it clear and this was made clear by Cllr Luck at the meeting. Cllr Luck said he was amazed that he was not allowed to report on the second part of the meeting concerning the debate on the village hall.

16/194 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Dist Cllr Knight was unable to attend owing to an urgent commitment.

Report from Cty Cllr Simon Walsh

Cty Cllr Walsh submitted a written report which will be circulated.

He also advised that the Local Highways Panel has agreed to fund part of the work on Byways 30, 31 in Debden and Byway 36 in Wimbish. Their contribution will be £40,000 and the remainder will come from the Public Rights of Way team's budget. The total estimated cost is £88,000. An additional £3,000 has been allocated for a feasibility study at Debden Green crossroads

16 /195 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 2nd March, 2016

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

Proposed: EB

Seconded: RF

All agreed

16/196 To receive an update from the Parish Clerk

CG highlighted the following:

- An Engineer at ECC has confirmed that their Asset Management team have been looking for sites for resurfacing treatments and Rook End Lane has been placed on the preliminary list for the 2016/17 programme. However, there is

no guarantee that Rook End Lane will be selected for this forthcoming financial year. I have gone back to ECC, copy to Cty Cllr Simon Walsh, and said that as there is no guarantee that it will be selected or, if it is, when the work would be done, will anything be done to the large potholes which need attention now. Two residents who have been in touch regularly will be contacting the Cabinet member for Highways Maintenance at County Hall, Chelmsford.

- There is no further news on the clearing of the blocked drain on Ivy Todd Hill. The job needs to be programmed within a road closure and the PC will be informed when they have organised a date.
- Essex Air Ambulance have two initiatives; they are asking people to organise an afternoon tea to tie in with the Queens 90th Birthday, and also Open Gardens. Details have been posted on the notice boards.
- There is another consultation on the Joint Waste Local Plan regarding the quarry at Newport; no response was sent to the first consultation.
- Affinity Water have offered to come and meet with the PC concerning their planning application for a new storage reservoir in Chicken Road. The condition of the road has already been reported to ECC and Affinity Water will speak to him concerning this.
- Trailscape have now paid the vet's bill for the residents dog that was attacked last October.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner Election is on 5th May, details are on the notice boards.
- Last month I attended a seminar at EALC regarding the new Audit regime and Transparency Code. The PC has now received a cheque for £997.80 which can be used to fund the work involved. Public land and building assets owned by the PC need to be made available and RF will assist with details for the Allotments. Councillors' responsibilities also have to be documented.

16/197 To receive an update on the Annual Assembly

The Chairman has been in touch with Vicky Ford MEP to invite her to the Annual Assembly. Regretfully she is too busy, but suggested asking Sir Alan Haselhurst. Contact has been made with him this week and he hopes to attend. Some members felt the Annual Assembly should concentrate on village issues only.

Following discussion, it was proposed that Sir Alan Haselhurst should be invited to the Annual Assembly on 4th May.

Proposed: AT

Seconded: EB

5 members in
favour, 2 against

Sir Alan will be asked to speak about development in the area including roads, traffic, schools and the impact this will have on local communities such as Debden, plus the M11 corridor.

The Clerk will request the usual reports from village organisations and a few copies will be available at the meeting. They will not be read out but will be loaded to the website with the minutes after the meeting.

16/198 To receive an update on the Accounts at the end of the financial year

The bank statements up to the end of March have not yet arrived but it is estimated that the balances will be as follows:

Nat West Parish Council Account (current and deposit) - £27, 338.91

Nat West Recreation Ground Account - £527.09

Accounts will be available at the next meeting.

16/199 To receive an update on the Allotments

RF reported that contact has been made with Widdington, Newport, Thaxted and Wimbish to inform them that we have vacant allotment plots but. to date, we have not received any replies. Contact has been made with Saffron Walden Town Council as they did have a waiting list. If all their plots are taken this year, people requiring a plot will be referred to us.

The Clerk has sent out the invoices and some payments have already been received. One tenant drew attention to the fact that the rent has increased by 34%.

16/200 To receive a report on the Footpaths and discuss the details received from the Conservation Volunteers, circulated 8th March

SL reported that Nicola McCahill, Footpath Warden, had not received the email from Shirley Aglin at Public Rights of Way, ECC. She is happy to continue as the Footpath Warden but does not wish to attend PC meetings. She has put in the request for the paths to be cut again this year but was not informed when the path along the Spinney was cut and does not know who carried out the work.

The Clerk will keep the details received from the Conservation Volunteers on file.

16/201 To receive an update on the Best Kept Village Competition

SL reported that the application forms have arrived. As reported at the last meeting a "clean up for the Queen" session was held with the children from Debden School. It is hoped that another session can be organised this weekend, weather permitting.

16/202 To discuss planning applications received:

The following applications have been received, no comments submitted:

UTT/16/0351/FUL Barn at Sibbards Farm, Debden Green

Demolition of old barns for the construction of four new residential units

UTT/16/0657/HHF Broctons Farm, Rook End Lane

Proposed rear single storey and two-storey extensions and garden room. Demolition and rebuild of existing cat slide extension.

UTT/16/0672/FUL Reservoir, Chickney Road

Construction of a second ancillary reservoir cell with 9Ml capacity in the vicinity of the existing Sibleys Reservoir, on land west of Chickney Road, including new underground pipework and valve chamber, new access road, perimeter fencing, vegetation clearance and planting.

UTT/16/0677/HHF Whitecotes, Thaxted Road

Proposed demolition of existing shed and erection of cart lodge and garage

The following application have been conditionally approved:

UTT/15/3719/OP land adjacent to Foxwood House

UTT/16/0011/HHF Brightways, Debden Green
 UTT/16/0395/HHF Silver Gleam, Thaxted Road
 UTT/16/0174/FUL Debden Village Hall
 UTT/16/0389/HHF Millers Farm, Smiths Green

16/203 To approve accounts for payments

The following cheques were approved for payment:

C. Griffin	£388.17	Net salary + expenses (March)
HMRC	£271.80	PAYE (Jan – March)
Debden Village Hall	£68.00	(Hire fees January – April '16)
RCCE	£60.00	Membership fee

16/204 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

204.1 Rev. Hilary Davey has been in touch with the Chairman and Clerk regarding the events which are being planned for the weekend of 10-12th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. The PCC is organising a service and tea on Sunday, 12th June but Hilary would like to know if the PC would be prepared to commemorate this in some way in the village.

It was suggested that a small plaque could be put on the side of the Shop or mugs could be distributed to the children. Before making a decision the PC would like to know what other groups are arranging. Further information will be obtained and a report will be give at the next meeting.

204.2 SL said that after the last meeting he put in a request for an item to be included on tonight's agenda, i.e. “The PC engage the services of the Local Public Advisory Service to deliberate on unresolved issues regarding the land swap requested by the Village Hall Trust for the purpose of building a new village hall”. This was requested a month ago and I feel the Council has done me a disservice.

EB directed SL to point 16/185 in the minutes of the last meeting.

SL said the LPAS deal with charity issues and they have solicitors who can give advice if they cannot deal with a matter. EB pointed out that they are not charity law specialists and felt the Trust should not incur more expense; the Parish Council has no issues and the decision taken by the Recreation Ground Trustees had been made after obtaining advice from charity law solicitors and following correct procedure. SL disagreed and said the matter has not been settled. EB reiterated that the Recreation Ground Trustees do not have any issues.

204.3 The Clerk confirmed that the remaining funds raised for the defibrillator cabinet have now been withdrawn from the PC's bank account and she understands that Gillian Lee is responsible for these. The Clerk will speak to Gill regarding future use of the remaining funds and report back at the next meeting.

16/205 Items for next agenda

Election of Chairman

The Queens 90th Birthday celebrations

16/206 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Council and will be held on Thursday, 5th May at 8.00pm. (venue to be arranged).

The meeting closed at 09.30pm

Signed.....(Chairman)

06.04.16

