

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at 8.00pm on
Thursday, 1st May, 2014 at the Memorial Hall, Debden**

<u>Chairman:</u>	Cllr A. Tetlow	(AT)
<u>Present:</u>	Cllr R. Forster	(RF)
	Cllr. S. Jasper	(SJ)
	Cllr S. Luck	(SL)
	Cllr J. O'Brien	(JO'B)
	Cllr R. Simmonds	(RS)
	Cllr S. Watson	(SW)
	Dist Cllr T. Knight	
	Cty. Cllr S. Walsh	
	C. Griffin, Parish Clerk	
	19 members of the village	

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from P.C. Hannah Griffiths and Mrs. J. Gibbons, Debden Primary School.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 1st May, 2013

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

3. To receive reports from District and County Councillors and other village groups

Cty Cllr Simon Walsh had submitted a report in advance which was circulated. He highlighted the main issues:

- The Council Tax has been frozen for the fourth year running
- Substantial savings have been made in previous years but the Care Bill will have a substantial impact
- Extra funding has been allocated for repairing damaged roads, flood management and youth services
- The number of Primary Schools rated as outstanding has increased to 70%. There will be extra investment in school buildings.
- The number of children in care has been reduced by early intervention
- High speed broadband will be rolled out across the county over the next three years.
- Essex Energy Switch has been set up to help residents reduce their energy bills
- Recycling centres across the county are being reviewed
- The Tour de France will be taking place on 7th July which unfortunately will cause some disruption.
- Funding is available from the Community Initiatives fund
- I chair the Place Services Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Board and serve on the Planning Committee and Lea Valley Park Authority.

The following questions were raised:

You mentioned support for Youth Services, will this have an impact on the Fairycroft Road site and Copy Cats?

Cllr Walsh advised that the Fairycroft Road site will become an Adult Learning Centre and the Youth facility will be in a new location. He will make enquiries regarding the situation on other occupants and advise the Clerk.

Can we have a contribution from the C.I.F.towards our Village Hall?

Cllr Walsh advised that the capital sum available is around £15,000 per project. Applications should be submitted quickly.

Could we have an update regarding the road from Elsenham to Debden Green?

The road was reclassified in 2005 and is now a PR2 which means it can be used by HGV's. J'OB advised that Fairfield, the developers for the Elsenham housing scheme, show the road as an existing route. It was pointed out that it is difficult, in places, for cars to pass on the road and it is used by many horse riders and therefore totally unsuitable.

Cllr Walsh advised that there are ways of restricting lorries.

The problem we had with the manhole in the village has now been resolved. The metal plate and light on a cone was totally inappropriate and it took a considerable time to deal with this.

Should there be some warning signs at Cutlers Green where there is a very large crater in the road?

Dist Cllr Tina Knight reported on the following matters:

- I have been chasing ECC to repair the numerous pot holes. The holes marked with white and yellow lines have been marked by the Cycle Club. ECC mark with purple, which indicates "be aware" and orange which means they should be rectified within 28 days. She urged residents and the Parish Council to make complaints. Elder Street is particularly dangerous and I have been assured that this will be repaired in May. ECC are now using a more porous material which does not last. (Cllr Walsh advised that ECC are rethinking this procedure).
- Following the recent floods, I received some horrific photographs of the damage caused by the 4 x 4's. I have made a formal complaint as I don't see why we should have to tolerate these particularly on Sundays. Some farmers deposit old machinery in strategic areas.
(Cllr Walsh pointed out that ECC has sympathy regarding the closure of byways during the winter and this should go forward)
- A considerable amount of my time is spent on planning applications. There is no consistency in the UDC planning department. A large number of applications are dealt with by the Case Officer, but if residents are of the opinion that their application will be refused and they have a valid reason why that should not be the case and require an application to be called in please let

me know in plenty of time in order for me to do this. You can then go and present your case when the application is discussed at the UDC Planning Committee.

- I have been working with the Barracks regarding high speed Broadband. This should come to Debden and Wimbish before other areas.
- In view of the current economic situation I am dealing with a number of domestic problems. If you are aware of anyone who needs help please let me know and this will be handled on a strictly confidential basis.
- As you know I do not agree with the UDC Local Plan; the decision should be above politics. As far as Debden and Wimbish are concerned we are at a disadvantage because of the ring road and I am fighting against this.
- I have received complaints because people cannot walk their dogs on the airfield. The Army personnel do work closely with the local community and do try to be accommodating. The Army is now putting up signs but please bear in mind that if the M.O.D. believe there could be problems this could possibly result in closing the airfield down in the future
- Cty Cllr Walsh supported the Thaxted/Carver Barracks/Saffron Walden cycle path. A feasibility study will be carried out in due course.
(Cllr Walsh advised that an application will be presented to the Local Highways Panel in June)
- The eight lane race track is going ahead at Carver Barracks which will be available for the community to use. Debden and Wimbish will benefit from this. The second phase will include covered stands.
- I am endeavouring to get improvements at the crossroads at Debden Green. There was recently an accident involving the school bus and a further accident last week.
- I have received representations from local pensioners which I will pass on to the Parish Clerk. These people would be happier if fund raising was done for the Village Hall. Community funding is available so it would be helpful if applications could be submitted.
- In order that all residents can respond to enquiries etc., it would be helpful if telephone numbers and addresses could be included, in addition to email addresses.

The following questions were raised:

In the past I have cycled on the airfield. Where is the access?

Cllr Knight said she would forward details to the Parish Clerk but pointed out that you should not go on the airfield when the red flags are out.

SL advised that he has seen a notice regarding work to be carried out from Fox crossroads to Highfields.

(Cllr Walsh said information can be obtained on road works at <http://roadworks.org>).

A telephone number was requested as an alternative.

The Chairman thanked Dist. Cllr Tina Knight and Cty Cllr Simon Walsh for attending.

Speedwatch

Val Riley, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, gave an update on her report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. During the summer months the team are hoping to carry out sessions earlier in the morning and early evening. It is hoped that the Police will help with a session next week. During the first three months of the year, 105 vehicles were recorded, with speeds between 37 and 61mph.

The Chairman and residents present thanked the team for all their efforts.

New Village Hall Group

Mike Fairchild reported that there will be two Open Days at the end of June, full details in the Parish Pump. These will provide a final opportunity for residents to look at the plans. Please make a note of the dates and urge your friends and neighbours to come along.

Could the information be put on the website in advance?

Mike Fairchild said some information may be available beforehand but the group is urging people to attend one of the open days

Parish Pump

Mike Fairchild advised that the Parish Pump has a new sub-editor, Stuart Walsh, who has taken over from Ursula Lyons. The Committee does not get any feedback and Mike Fairchild asked the residents present a number of questions.

Copies of the Parish Pump can be downloaded from the website and it is hoped that social media will be used more in the future.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Judith Forster who will be standing down from the position of Chairman later this year.

History Recorders Group

Elizabeth Blackie advised that the group had a very productive year although they have not been as busy recently because they have acquired so much material which needs to be dealt with. A copy of the report will be included on the website.

Earlier this year a group of people compiled a questionnaire to find out what people actually thought of the new village hall and a vote of thanks was recorded to everyone who assisted with this. It was emphasised that this was a fact finding exercise. To date, 175 households have replied and we will continue to accept questionnaires until the open days in June. It was requested that the NVHG take these responses into account.

4. To receive the Summary of the Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014

Copies of the Accounts for Debden Parish Council and the Recreation Ground Trust were circulated. These are currently being audited.

5. To receive questions from residents of the village

It was reported that hedges are growing over the pavement in the High Street from The Close to Yuva.

The Council will investigate.

Best Kept Village Competition

SL advised that the forms have been completed and the judges will be in the village in May and June.

Litter Picking Day

RS said this has been arranged for Saturday 10th May at 9.00am in the Village Hall car park. If you are unable to come along, please ensure that the area at the front of your house is kept tidy.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The Chairman was thanked for providing the wine.