

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
3RD APRIL 2019 AT 8.00PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, DEBDEN**

Present:

Cllr R. Forster	(RF) Chairman
Cllr E. Blackie	(EB)
Cllr S. Luck	(SL)
Cllr A. Tetlow	(AliciaT)
Cllr S. Watson	(SW)

In attendance:

Mrs. C. Griffin, Clerk.	(CG)
Dist Cllr T. Knight	(TK)

Mr. C. Anderson, Residential Development Land Agent Ltd.,
11 members of the public

19/146 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Tetlow (private commitment) and Cty Cllr S. Walsh.

19/147 Declarations of Interests**To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda**

No interests were declared.

19/148 Public participation session (15 minutes available if required)**Members of the public are permitted to make representations, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included on the agenda**

No issues were raised by members of the public

19/149 Planning**UTT/19/0510/OP Land at Church Lane/Mill Road**

Outline application with all matters reserved, except for access, for 2 dwellings.

Mr. Anderson, the agent, advised that this is a new application. It has been submitted while the Appeal is still running which the owner has a right to do. The location plan is the same as the previous application, the proposed dwellings will be smaller (lower ridge height), cottage style design, screened from the road by trees, and are subject to a Section 106 legal agreement for a new pond. The access will be slightly wider than the existing in order to meet ECC Highways requirements. EB said she was concerned about the development being in close proximity to the Primary School.

Comments: The Parish Council has manorial rights over that stretch of verge in Mill Road and believes it has ownership and control over the access. Therefore permission would be required from the PC for access over the verge. Letter to be sent to UDC and ECC enclosing a copy of the plan.

UTT/19/0670/HHF Wigmores Farm, Debden Green

Proposed two storey rear and single storey rear extensions

Comments: None

APP/C1570/W/19/3223950 Henham Farm, Hamperden End

Comments: None

APP/C1570/W/18/3219258 Land at Church Lane/Mill Road

Comments: The Parish Council has manorial rights over that stretch of verge in Mill Road and believes it has ownership and control over the access. Therefore permission would be required from the PC for access over the verge. Letter to be sent to the Inspectorate enclosing a copy of the plan.

19/149 To receive Reports from District and County Councillors

Dist Cllr Tina Knight reported:

- The government are changing the regulations on footpaths and these will come into effect in 2026. The PC needs to use the footpath map prior to 1949 as a guide and check that all paths are registered. It will also be possible to divert paths if it is discovered they are going through farms or fields. The PC would work with landowners on this. It was recognised that this will be a time consuming exercise which should be undertaken by the new Council.
- A complaint was made against me to UDC and Conservative Central Office by a resident following an email I received from the UDC Legal Officer which I passed to the Editor of the Parish Pump. I have supplied a paper trail to Conservative Central Office and have been totally exonerated. By making this complaint nationally it has been reported to the Electoral Commission and I understand the Parish Pump and the Parish Council have breached "Purdah". This is because the advert stated "some" Councillors, was placed without a name, and the offer of cheese and wine is seen as "treating" which is not allowed. A response is awaited from the Electoral Commission. I would recommend that the PC get some legal advice on this and that Parish Councillors present do not attend the meeting on the 16th April.

Members of the PC said this was raised at the last meeting and the UDC Legal Officer was consulted. To be discussed further under item 19/152.

19/150 To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6th March 2019

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

Proposed: EB

Seconded: SL

All agreed

19/151 To receive an update from the Parish Clerk

The Clerk reported that:

- A letter was sent to the Village Hall regarding ownership of the Village Shop.

- Following several hacking incidents by the Russians a newly designed website has been put on a completely new platform by Ben Griffin which should be more secure. There are still a few archived documents to be added and I have not yet got access. As this would have been extremely expensive for the PC if a company had been engaged to do this, it was decided to obtain a £50 wine voucher as an expression of thanks as this has been carried out completely free of charge.
- Regarding Walden Road, Highways advised that there are numerous works scheduled between Debden Road, Saffron Walden and Fox crossroads. According to their records the resurfacing should be carried out some time between 9th – 30th May, Permit No. EP201, EH2261430. The ECC drainage department have been consulted and they are endeavouring to get the Purton End follow up drainage repairs included in the same closure. When these have been programmed a firm date will be supplied.
- The VAS sign at Smiths Green needs attention and has been reported to ECC.
- A letter was sent to Andrew Cook at ECC regarding the common land. No reply to date so this will be followed up.
- All the Allotment invoices have been completed and are being sent out.
- The NhW Watch leaflet were collected, folded, and delivered with the last Parish Pump.
- I have received some requests for new way markers on the footpaths. A request has been sent to ECC Public Rights of Way.
- A further report has been received from the ECC Watercourse engineer following another visit to Slough Farm.
- The two items have been ordered for the First Responders. They have asked me to express their thanks to the Council. They are now checking the Defibrillator.
- EALC have asked for a list of topics which you would like to be covered in the training session. This will be decided at the Annual Meeting.
- Details of a footpath diversion at Pages Farm have been circulated.

19/152 To confirm regulations in the pre election period (PURDAH)

The Chairman pointed out that this was raised at the last meeting and the Clerk emailed the UDC Legal Officer and asked if it was appropriate for the Parish Pump, which is partly financially supported by the PC, to include the names of candidates for election.

The Clerk advised that, unfortunately, she did not receive a reply and on Sunday, 24th March she was made aware of the advertisement in the April edition of the Parish Pump. An email was sent to the Parish Pump requesting that the article should be withdrawn if the magazine had not been printed but this was refused. The PC has a paper trail of events. A statement was then read by the Clerk summarising the events. A copy of the statement will be retained in the minute file.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Parish Pump saying that the PC was disappointed with the action which the Parish Pump chose to take after it was specifically requested that the article was either removed

19/158 To discuss any Urgent matters of interest to the Parish

158.1. It was suggested that a scheme should be introduced whereby residents would be asked to clear up the rubbish and look after the area in their own immediate vicinity. If the rubbish could not be disposed of in their own household bins, then the PC could organise collection on a monthly basis.

158.2 EB reported that a letter has been received from the HMRC asking for the rateable value of the recreation ground. She contacted them and explained the situation regarding the RG Trust and advised that the actual property is owned by the Parish Council.

19/159 Items for next agenda

No items were received.

19/143 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the PC and will be held on Wednesday, 15th May, 7.15 pm in the Village Hall. However, it may be necessary to call an Extraordinary meeting before the elections.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 15.05.19

