

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

*MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2010 AT 8 PM IN THE
DEBDEN MEMORIAL HALL, DEBDEN*

Present: William Bidwell – Chairman (left meeting at 9pm)
Andrew Tetlow
April Gardner
Paul Sando
Charles Turner
Shaun Ruffles – took over meeting when Chairman left

Elaine Culling - Clerk

Tina Knight – Uttlesford District Councillor
David Matthews
5 members of the public

Action

10/11. Apologies for Absence
All Councillors present.

10/12. Declaration of Interests
To receive any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda.
Cllr Sando declared an interest in Item **10/15. Planning**, 17 Highfields.

Ex-Agenda

District Councillor Report

Affordable Housing

Tina Knight (TK) requested an update regarding the provision of affordable housing in Debden.

Cllr Ruffles reported that the plot identified as suitable for affordable housing had been included in the recent Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment carried out by Uttlesford District Council (UDC).

TK advised the council that the original scheme had included the provision of overflow parking for the Village Hall and asked that this continued to be the case.

Car Clubs at Carver Barracks

Note: This item was previously discussed at the December meeting when Mark Simpson of Carver Barracks was present

TK reported that she had received a number of complaints following the noise generated by a particular Car Club whilst using land at Carver Barracks. As a result she has arranged for the regiment to hold quarterly meetings with the local residents in order to ensure that any nuisance is kept to a minimum and that good relations are maintained.

These meetings will alternate between Wimbish and Debden and **TK** will notify the **Clerk** when the meetings are to occur.

Finally **TK** congratulated the Council on the new bus shelter recently installed in Debden High Street. The need to trim back some branches on the adjacent tree was noted however and **Cllr Ruffles** agreed to ensure that this was done. **SR**

TK left the meeting at this point.

Footpath Report – to include an update on the fitting of wire mesh to the slippery bridges.

Cllr Turner reported that there had been no progress with the fitting of wire mesh to the bridges concerned.

The footpath cutting contract had been put out to tender again and as a result had been awarded to Ace of Spades Landscapes.

County Councillor

Simon Walsh had submitted a written report as follows:

Winter gritting continues but freezing conditions have depleted salt stocks, meaning priority routes take precedence. As a consequence of the icy weather, road conditions are deteriorating. I would urge any pothole problems to be reported on to **ECC**, either to the West Area Highways office or via the web site. Council Tax to be set at 1.9% increase, a 38p rise per week for Band D property. Front line services continue to be bolstered, and savings programme on target.

10/13. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The **Chairman** signed as a correct record of events the minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2010.

Matters arising from the minutes:

1. **10/08. Car Park**

Cllr Tetlow and Cllr Turner to report on progress with temporary repairs.

This work is in hand and should be completed soon. **AT/CT**

2. **10/08. Grass Cuttings on Rec.**

Cllr Ruffles to report on the scale of this problem.

Rather than just grass cuttings it appears that general garden waste is being deposited on the Rec. It was agreed that a note will be put in the Parish Pump asking residents to discontinue this practice. In addition the **Clerk** will explore the possibility of having a Green Waste skip attend the village. **Clerk**

Matters arising from previous minutes:

1. **09/152. Wooden Gates at Debden Green**

The Clerk to report back on the answer, from Essex County Council Highways, regarding the alternative of installing a flashing sign to alert drivers to the approaching cross-roads.

The Council has been advised that flashing signs are not considered suitable for a rural location leaving wooden gates as the only current option. However following a further accident at the Fox Crossroads it is possible that this junction will be investigated next year as part of a route study and if so every aspect of road safety in this area would be explored and remedial action taken.

2. **09/141. Sign at Recreation Ground**

Sign has now been delivered and fitted to the Play Area fence.

3. **09/132. Matters for Further Discussion** – *Debden Millennium Committee's request to hold celebrations at the Recreation Ground on the weekend of 22/23 May 2010.*
Date has now been changed to the weekend of 14/16 May 2010.
4. **09/117. Storage for Equipment at Recreation Ground**
Cllr Ruffles to report back regarding the options and corresponding costs.
 A quote to build a timber framed hut, which would be sited at the rear of the Pavilion, is being obtained. It was agreed that at least one other quote should be sought. **SR**
5. **09/88. Play Area**
Cllr Gardner to report back on progress regarding grant applications/questionnaire.
 The new aerial runway has now been completed.
 £5,000 has recently been awarded by the West Essex Forum Community Initiatives Fund 2009/10 and £215.10 by the Waitrose 'Community Matters' scheme.
 Five proposals have now been received for the refurbishment of the Play Area and the exhibition for these has been scheduled for Tuesday 9th February. **AG**
6. **09/76. Allotments**
Cllr Ruffles to provide a progress report regarding provision of the new water point/signing of the new contracts.
 The Council is awaiting a list of parts required to install the new water point.
 Rent for the coming year is now being collected.
 Confirmation is still awaited regarding all holders having signed the new contract. **SR**
Cllr Sando pointed out that planning permission for the new hard standing at the Allotments is due to run out in March. It was agreed that until this could be done properly that some road planings be put down. **AT/CT**

10/14. Public Forum

There will be 15 minutes available for Public Forum, if required, and the opportunity for members of the public to register with the Chairman should they wish to speak on a particular agenda item.

Q. Please can you provide an update on the Village Hall car park which has deteriorated badly over the winter months?

A. It is not considered cost effective to make any further repairs until such a time as the new Village Hall has been built. In the meantime it has been agreed that some road planings will be acquired and appropriately distributed. **AT/CT**

Q. Why are the new dog bins not up?

A. A special tool is required to fit the bins and needs to be obtained. In the meantime **Cllr Tetlow** will check whether he has anything that will suffice. **AT/CT**

Q. Please can the army be asked not to use the local footpaths for training sessions as this causes a lot of wear and tear. This was agreed several years ago but seems to have been forgotten.

A. As it was understood that **TK** originally negotiated this agreement it was considered that she would be the right person to follow this matter up and accordingly will be advised. **Clerk**

Q. What can be done about an overgrown hedge adjacent to the road that is causing a problem for both pedestrians and drivers?

A. Cllr Ruffles agreed to speak to the owner of the property concerned to ask that the hedge be cut back.

SR

Q. Can anything be done to restrict the banger racing that takes place at Hamperden End up to 14 times a year and causes a local disturbance?

A. As the 2010 season had not yet got underway and there was some question as to whether it would, it was agreed to monitor the situation.

Q. What can be done to stop motorcycles from using the Green Lanes as a race track?

A. Essex County Council, who are responsible for public rights of way, will be notified of this issue.

Clerk

Finally it was noted that a letter of thanks had been received by Mr Stewart Luck, from Lt Col Barrett of 33 Engineer Regiment, thanking the residents of Debden for the recent donation of £300 towards the Carver Barracks Injured Soldiers Charity Fund.

10/15. Planning

Applications

To consider any comments to be returned to Uttlesford District Council on the following applications:

Application No: UTT/068/10/FUL. Two storey side/rear extension. Erection of a single detached garage.

Location: 17 Highfields, Debden

Concern to be raised about the proposed scale of the development on what is a very confined site, especially in relation to the proposed buildings proximity to the boundary lines of the property.

SR

Results

Application No: UTT/1200/09/FUL. Change of use from light industrial to a community meeting hall.

Location. Laceys, Thaxted Road, Debden Green.

Conditional Approval

Application No: UTT/1498/09/FUL. First floor side extension

Location: Marbel Cottage, High Street, Debden

Conditional Approval

Proposed new Sainsbury Development/Tesco Extension at Saffron Walden

Although the official consultation period has ended, to agree whether to still submit objections.

It was agreed that these two proposals would inevitably impact on the viability of the shops in the town centre and accordingly a letter of objection is to be sent.

SR

10/16. Finance

At this point in the meeting the **Chairman** had to leave and the **Vice-Chairman** took over.

Internal Auditor

Maurice Howard has agreed to continue in 2010 as the Council's Internal Auditor, and this was welcomed by the Council and unanimously approved. **Clerk**

The following cheques to be approved for payment and signed:**Parish Council account**

000089	£100	Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau (Donation)
000090	£227.95	UDC (Supply of 2x village CA skips in 2009)
000091	£240.86	E. Culling (£221.66 Net Salary/office & telephone expenses, £19.20 mileage costs)
000092	£55.60	Tax Office (Tax/NI due)
000093	£132.07	A&J Lighting Solutions (Street Light Repair)
000094	£29	CPRE (Annual subscription)
000095	£27	Audit & Risk Assessment Day at Dunmow

Recreation Ground Account

000025	£850	Thaxted Glass (Replacement windows at Pavilion)
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Direct Debits

PC Acc	£22.26	E.ON (Monthly energy use by Street Lights)
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10/17. Recreation Ground**Tree Work**

A request to pollard 3 of the trees, alongside the edge of the Recreation Ground, has recently been submitted to the Council.

To discuss and, if agreed to proceed with the work, to consider whether any additional tree work needs to be carried out at the same time.

Cllr Ruffles reported that one tree had already been done and that one was due to be done soon. He is confident that someone will come forward shortly who is willing to pollard the third. **SR**

No other tree work was considered necessary at this time

Sign

To consider the proposed wording for the general sign and to finalise and agree on its location.

Debden Recreation Ground

Parking is reserved for users of the facilities only.

Strictly no barbecues

Organised sporting events by permission of the Parish Council only.

Please clear up after your dog and use the appropriate bin.

Following some discussion an alternative was suggested

Debden Recreation Ground

Welcomes you and asks that you respect this open space.

Please no barbecues

For organised events contact the Parish Council.

Please clear up after your dog and use the appropriate bin.

It is hoped that agreement can be reached at the next meeting. **Clerk**

10/18. Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative – letter circulated

To consider whether the Council wishes to investigate further the inclusion its own street lights in this scheme should it go ahead. Proposed date of commencement is September 2013.

Current street light contract is due to expire at the end of August 2014.

The Council is responsible for 10 street lights (8 in Debden and 2 at Debden Green).

It was agreed to register the Council’s interest in this initiative.

Clerk

10/19. Civic Amenity Scheme

To agree the number of skips to be requested for the year and their location in the village.

In 2009 there were 2 skips in total, one at Debden Village Hall and one at Debden Green.

Cost per skip remains the same in 2010 - £97 per half day, £194 per full day and £388 per weekend.

It was agreed to continue with 2 skips in 2010 with the dates and locations to be publicised once known.

Clerk

10/20. Co-option of new Councillor

With one candidate it was resolved to co-opt Sara Walsh onto the Parish Council and she duly signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and completed a Register of Members interest form. **UDC** will be advised.

Clerk

10/21. Matters for Further Discussion*

For Councillors to raise any items that might need to be discussed at a future meeting.

Cllr Turner asked that the need for a new grit bin, to be located at the top of Rook End Lane, be considered at the next meeting.

The **Clerk** will enquire about the costs involved.

Clerk

10/22. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 8pm at the Debden Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed (Chairman).....

Date: 3rd March 2010