

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: William Bidwell
Andrew Tetlow
April Gardner
Paul Sando
Charles Turner

Elaine Culling - Clerk

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

Action

10/23. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from **Cllr Ruffles** and **Cllr Walsh**.

10/24. Declaration of Interests

To receive any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda.

None declared.

Ex-Agenda

District Councillor Report

Following reports of planning searches taking too long, Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has now launched an on-line system in order to speed this process up.

TK attended the launch of a de-fibrillation unit in Newport. This is part of a new initiative to provide villages with a means of dealing with an emergency whilst awaiting an ambulance.

The unit at Newport is situated on the outside of their Village Hall, it is vandal proof and accessed by trained volunteers with the use of a code.

Cost of a unit is in the region of £1800.

Wimbish is keen to have a unit of their own, and if Debden is also interested **TK** suggested that Carver Barracks be approached to house the unit there, with the cost divided 3 ways.

The **Chairman** suggested that this be considered at the next meeting.

Clerk

County Councillors Report

Winter gritting: worse winter for many years with the county deploying gritting lorries on at least 70 nights. Supply issues as the Government took control over the national salt supply.

Primary routes were prioritised, at the expense of the secondary network, which may have affected rural communities in particular.

Now have significant road damage to deal with, emergency funding has been set aside however it is important to report defects as soon as possible, preferably using the County website.

P3 scheme: Cllr Hume is aware of earlier letter and offers reassurances that the scheme will be properly reviewed.

Council Tax to increase by 1.9%, or 38p per week for a band D property. Savings continue to be found, an austerity exercise has identified £25 million, and partnership with IBM will deliver upwards of £100 million.

Following the resignation of Lord Hanningfield, Peter Martin has been elected leader and has made minor cabinet changes which better reflect the priorities faced by the Council.

Essex Book Festival starts tomorrow in Chelmsford with events occurring throughout the month.

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

No progress to date.

10/25. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The **Chairman** signed as a correct record of events the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2010.

Matters arising from the minutes:

1. **Ex-Agenda**

Cllr Ruffles to confirm whether the tree, adjacent to new bus shelter, has now been pruned back.

Confirmed

2. **10/14. Public Forum**

Dog Bins

Cllr Tetlow and Cllr Turner to confirm that the new dog bins are now in place.

These are still to be fixed.

CT/AT

3. **10/14. Public Forum**

Overgrown Hedge

Cllr Ruffles to confirm that the owner of the property has been contacted.

The owner is still to be contacted.

SR

4. **10/14. Public Forum**

Green Lanes

Essex County Council has been advised regarding the use of local Green Lanes, by motorcycles, as a race track.

A response has been received encouraging residents to report any instances to the police.

5. **10/15. Planning**

Proposed new Sainsbury Development/Tesco Extension at Saffron Walden

Following the comments that were submitted by the Council to UDC, to receive an update regarding these proposals.

These applications are still to be considered by UDC. In the meantime a petition against both developments can be signed at the Village Shop and at the Plough and Yuva establishments

Matters arising from previous minutes:

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

Temporary repairs have now been completed.

Cllr Tetlow was thanked for all his work in this matter.

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

Clerk to report back regarding the possibility of having a green waste skip in the village.

This service is made available to villages according to their distance from the Thaxted Road Recycling Centre. Debden is considered too close to warrant having a green waste skip.

There is not an option to pay for the service and the suggestion is that green waste sacks be purchased. Once filled these can then be placed for collection alongside kitchen waste.

It was felt that the possibility of securing a green waste skip for the village should be explored further and the **Chairman** asked **TK** to take this matter up on the Council's behalf.

3. **09/117. Storage for Equipment at Recreation Ground**

Cllr Ruffles to report back regarding the options and corresponding costs.

Carried forward to the next meeting

4. **09/76. Allotments**

Work to provide the new water point is underway.

All contracts have now been signed and appropriate fees paid.

Cllr Tetlow and Cllr Turner to report back regarding the use of planings to provide some temporary hard standing.

As there is the possibility of securing a better material for this job, it was agreed to shelve this for now.

10/26. 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. What can be done about the increase in dog fouling around the village and its adjoining footpaths?

A. Apart from a further request for owners to clear up after their dogs to be placed in the Parish Pump, it was not known what else could be done.

Q. There has recently been an increase in the amount of swearing coming from the football matches held on the rec. Can this be stopped?

A. Cllr Turner will remind the team that Section 3.13 of their contract states that members of the club will be responsible for ensuring that neither they nor their guests nor visiting teams use foul language.

CT

10/27. Planning

Applications

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

Application No: UTT/0335/10/LB. Insertion of 2No. replacement windows

Location: 56 Wash Cottages, Thaxted Road, Debden

No Comment

Results

Application No: UTT/1587/09/FUL & UTT/1588/09/LB. Conversion of granary to studio and extension to granary. Erection of double garage.

Location: New House Farm, Purton End, Debden

Conditional Approval

Application No: UTT/1664/09/FUL & UTT/1665/09/LB. Change of use of barn No.1 to form 1 No. dwelling and alterations to cart-shed to form garage.

Demolition of lean-to on barn No. 1

Location: Brick House Farm, Newport Road, Debden

Conditional Approval

Uttlesford Local Development Framework – Housing Options

To consider and agree the Council's response to this consultation

As **Cllr Ruffles** was unable to attend with the relevant documents it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

N.B. Consultation ends on April 9th

10/28. Insurance of Bus shelters

To agree whether to convert the cover for the bus shelters from 'Impact Only' to 'All Risks'.

This was agreed primarily due to the need to protect the assets from the risk of fire.

Clerk

10/29. Finance

Receipts

£5,000 donation received from the Essex County Council towards the new play equipment.

The following cheques to be approved for payment and signed:

Parish Council account

000096	£25	EALC (New Standing Orders for Local Councils)
000097	£53	Suffolk ACRE Services (Addition of new bus shelter to insurance policy)
000098	£432.45	E. Culling (£347.25 Net Salary/office & telephone expenses, £78 mileage costs, £7.20 stamps)
000099	£86.60	Tax Office (Tax/NI due)
000101	£14.95	Paul Sando/Lock Stock & Barrell (Duplicate keys for Village Hall)
000102	£250	Debden Parish Pump (Annual contribution to running costs for 2010/11)
000103	£22.03	A&J Lighting Solutions (St. Light Maintenance in March)

Recreation Ground Account

000026	£10,152	Fenland Leisure Products (Aerial Runway)
000027	£162.15	The Sign and Graphics Company (New sign at Play Area)
000028	£74.67	E.ON (Electricity use at Pavilion)
000029	£7	April Gardner/Paperchase (Presentation folders for Play Area exhibition)
000030	£29.95	Roger Forster (New keys for Pavilion)
Direct Debits		
PC Acc	£22.26	E.ON (Monthly energy use by Street Lights)

10/30. Recreation Ground

Pavilion

The grant awarded by UDC towards repairs at the Pavilion is still to be spent. Out of the £1780 allocated only £942 can be claimed so far. This is because any claim has to be 50% match-funded.

It will not be possible to carry this grant over to the next financial year.

Following the recent flood, it has been noted that there is a need to update the plumbing.

To agree whether to proceed with this work now in order to secure the remaining grant allocation.

Cllr Turner explained that, as a must, there was the need to replace the water tank. However he was still awaiting a formal quote for both this and other plumbing works.

It was agreed to proceed with work up to a value of £1884 providing this can be completed in time to enable the Council to claim the full grant.

CT/Clerk

Play Area – report circulated

Following the recent exhibition of 5 designs, to consider and select the preferred scheme from the two most popular options.

To consider whether to wait until all funding is in place before beginning any works, or whether to proceed in stages.

Cllr Gardner stated that the design with the most votes was from Record RSS. However this was largely due to the popularity of the main item of equipment, the Ridgerider.

Both designs were considered and it was noted that the Record RSS design did not cater sufficiently for younger children.

On the basis of the popularity of the main item of equipment it was agreed to proceed with Record RSS but to ask that the peripheral pieces be looked at again to ensure that all ages are catered for.

Two prices will be sought:

1. To clear the site, provide the equipment and install the equipment.
2. To provide the equipment only.

The second option would be dependent on getting the agreement of army personnel at Carver Barracks to clear the site and install the equipment on the Councils behalf.

AG/Clerk

Once these figures are known, and a response has been received from Carver Barracks, a decision will be made as to how best to proceed.

Cllr Gardner also reported that the Saffron Walden Round Table had recently pledged £1500 towards the scheme.

Car Parking

To consider modifications to the parking arrangements in order to enable more cars to be parked and to agree whether there should be any restrictions applied.

Since the last discussion of the car parking area, it has become clear that more space could be made available if the vegetation was cleared right back to the boundary and the bins re-positioned. It was felt that this would make available a further 6 spaces.

It was agreed to clear the excess vegetation out subject to a maximum cost of £750.

CT

It has also become known that staff at the village school are using the area to park in, leading to problems for users of the village hall, shop, tennis courts and play area.

It was agreed that:

1. Parking should be limited to 2 hours.
2. The **Chairman** will draft a letter to the school in order to explore a solution for their parking needs **WB**
3. Cars parked whilst their owners are using the Village Hall will be exempt.

Sign

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

It was agreed to proceed with elements taken from both of the suggested signs as follows:

Debden Recreation Ground

Welcomes you and asks that you respect this open space.

Strictly no barbecues.

For organised events contact the Debden Parish Council.

Please clear up after your dog and use the bins provided.

Parking - maximum stay 2 hours

10/31. Highways

Annual Parish Visit, 2 February 2010 – report circulated

To receive a report of this visit and to note any actions to be taken as a consequence.

No actions were considered necessary.

10/32. Litter Problem

To discuss the growing problem of litter in and around the village and to agree whether to organise a 'litter pick'.

It was known that previous events had been a success and were well attended, and that a suitable kit was available to borrow from UDC.

It was agreed that although the Council was supportive of the event that it did not wish to take responsibility for organising it.

10/33. New Village Hall Update

A solicitor has now been retained to draft the necessary documents for the proposed land swap.

To appoint and authorise 2 Councillors to sign any relevant documents.

Cllr Tetlow and the **Chairman** were appointed and given authority to sign any relevant documents on behalf of the Council.

10/34. Standing Orders

New Model Standing Orders have now been published by the National Association of Local Councils. To allocate responsibility for editing and adapting them for use by the Council.

The **Clerk** will adapt the draft accordingly and circulate, together with the full draft, ahead of the next meeting for consideration by the Council.

Clerk

10/35. Grit Bin

To consider the need for an additional grit bin to be located at the top of Rook End Lane.

Bins can be obtained from Essex County Council (ECC) at a cost of £350 each. Once delivered and installed, ECC undertake to keep it topped up.

It was agreed to defer any agreement until the September meeting in order to monitor the budget

10/36. Matters for Further Discussion*

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

The **Clerk** asked that consideration be given to the format of the Annual Village Meeting due to be held on 5th May 2010.

10/37. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 7th April 2010 at 8pm at the Debden Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 10pm

Signed (Chairman).....

Date: 7th April 2010