

# THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 8.00pm, in the Debden Memorial Hall**

<b>Present for Parish Council:</b>	Will Bidwell - Chairman Charles Turner Paul Sando Sara Walsh Andrew Tetlow April Gardner Shaun Ruffles  Elaine Culling – Parish Clerk
<b>Present for Essex County Council:</b>	Simon Walsh
<b>Present for Uttlesford District Council:</b>	Tina Knight
<b>Members of Public Present:</b>	11
<b>Apologies received from:</b>	Footpath Warden Patrice Sauzier who submitted a written report.

**Copies of all reports are provided at the end of the minutes**

### **1. Chairman's introduction**

Will Bidwell thanked those present for attending and welcomed them.

### **2. Minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting**

The Chairman signed as a correct record of events the minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

### **3. Parish Council Report**

Will Bidwell outlined the achievements of the preceding twelve months, namely:

- The installation of a new bus shelter in Debden.
- The creation of a new entrance at the Allotments.
- The introduction of new Allotment contracts, that clarified the terms and conditions clearly.
- Hedge/tree work around the Recreation Ground.
- Improvements to the Pavilion.

- Resurfacing works to the Recreation Ground car park, for which a debt of thanks was due to Andrew Tetlow and Charles Turner.
- The establishment of a good working arrangement with the Village Hall Committee, users of the Village Hall, and the Village Shop.
- A successful fund raising campaign, thanks to the commitment of April Gardner, working towards the replacement of the old Play Area equipment.

He continued by listing the projects planned for the forthcoming year:

- The purchase of new cricket nets.
- The provision of a hard standing area at the Allotments.
- Pursuing the provision of a footpath at Debden Green, linking the bus shelter to the village.
- Pursuing the introduction of a speed limit/effective traffic calming at both Debden Green and the Fox Crossroads.

He then asked if there were any questions.

1. Could the village have its own Community Speed Watch Scheme in order to address the issue of speeding?

*It was explained that, at the present time, this was not possible as the scheme was currently under review. In addition, before deciding whether to investigate further, it should be understood that there were set-up costs involved, currently in the region of £1,000, and that a commitment would need to be made by a team of people, to both the training and operation of the scheme.*

*It is also known that Essex County Council have identified the Fox Crossroads for a safety audit.*

2. Can the street light, opposite the entrance to the Recreation Ground, please be repaired?

*Yes. (It was emphasised that the Council relies on residents to report any such problems).*

#### **4. 2008/09 Accounts**

Copies of the accounts were circulated to those present.

1. How many Allotments are there?

32.

2. Why is there a significant difference in the amount of income received last year compared to the previous year, and what do you expect the income to be this year?

*It was explained that the difference was typical for a small council where the amount of grant funding received in a year can vary significantly.*

*It was not possible to predict the income for the coming year as this will again depend on the success of a number of grant applications that have been made.*

3. What is the Village Meeting?

*This is the Village Meeting, and the figure shown in the accounts is the cost of providing refreshments for the evening.*

4. Where is the donation for the mower for the Play Area?  
*This is shown on the last page of the accounts provided.  
 At the point the chairman took the opportunity to thank the Tennis Club for this generous donation.*

## 5. District Councillor Report

*Report submitted by Uttlesford District Councillor Tina Knight.*

1. Why have you not responded to requests for your views regarding the recent housing consultation by Uttlesford District Council?  
*Unfortunately I cannot give any views as this would be considered a case of pre-determination. However I can point you in the right direction in order to submit your own views.*

## 6. County Councillor Report

*Report submitted by Essex County Councillor Simon Walsh.*

1. I have noticed that potholes have been marked up for repair but that they have not all been repaired.  
*This is probably because those that appear to be repaired are only temporarily fixed. I would strongly advise all residents to report any potholes using the Essex County Council website: <http://ehss.essexcc.gov.uk/default.asp>*
2. You say that Essex County Council is supporting the provision of allotments. Is this support restricted to the establishment of new allotment sites, or does it extend to existing allotment sites?  
*The general tenor of this initiative is to provide support for the establishment of new allotment sites, however that does not rule out support for an existing site should a strong enough case be made.*
3. What can be done to stop the incidence of motor cycles speeding along the Green Lanes?  
*This is a police issue and as such needs to be reported to them.  
 When the police are contacted they ask for a number plate, which is almost impossible to provide.  
 I will let the police know.*

## 7. New Village Hall - 'Where we are now'

Will Bidwell outlined the progress that had been made since the meeting last year:

- The land, on which the new Village Hall is to be built, has now been properly registered. This will allow the lawyers to liaise with the Charities Commission in order to get their agreement to the necessary land swap.
- The distribution of a questionnaire to all households asking for their views on the new hall to be built. Approximately 50% have now been returned which provide evidence of strong support for the new hall.
- Following discussions with the user groups and village shop, a design brief was produced which was given to 3 architects to come back with a suitable

design. When the 3 designs were presented it was unanimously agreed to proceed with architects Inkpen Downie.

Going forward the design selected will need to be worked into a scheme to provide a price to be raised.

Outline planning consent will then be applied for, and once received, fund raising can begin for which a team is currently being assembled.

1. What timescale are you working to?

*An initial meeting with the architects is arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> May. A planning application is expected to be made later this year, with approval granted early next year. The fundraising is expected to take 18 months.*

2. What funds are required?

*It is not known exactly but is expected to be in the region of £500,000.*

3. Do you envisage the new hall being a design and build contract or a village build?

*Although there are romantic/financial reasons to support a village build, health and safety regulations would make this difficult. Therefore a design and build contract is the preferred option.*

4. Are you confident of getting the funding?

*Yes.*

5. Following the previous attempts to build a new hall, how will you engage the community this time round?

*By being sure of the ground before going to the community.*

## **8. Q & A Session**

A discussion was had regarding the poor attendance. Various reasons were given, including the change of format, the fact that there is a general election the following day and the possibility that there was simply nothing to complain about.

It was suggested that consideration be given to holding the Annual Meeting on a weekend next year, as a way of encouraging more people to attend.

The need to engage better with the community was also considered, and it was suggested that the website might be the way to do this.

## **9. Chairman's Concluding Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution.

**Meeting closed at 9.20pm**