

# **DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 8.20 pm in the Village Hall, Debden**

<b><u>Chairman</u></b>	Cllr S. Walsh	Chairman
<b><u>Present</u></b>	Cllr C. Bunting	(CB)
	Cllr C. Diggins	(CD)
	Cllr A. Gardner	(AG)
	Cllr B. Lindsell	(BL)
	Cllr J. O'Brien	(JO'B)
	Cllr S. Watson	(SW)
	Mrs. C. Griffin	Parish Clerk
	37 Members of the public	

### **Guests:**

Cty Cllr S. Walsh

Dist Cllr S. Luck

Cllr J. Spreadborough. Carver Barracks

The Chairman welcomed the residents and guests to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Tina Knight, Roger Forster, Paula and Richard Winter.

### **2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

It was resolved that the Minutes should be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman advised that the out going Chairman had not sent a report, therefore we will have to look forward.

The website is a significant resource and if anyone has any questions please approach the PC.

### **4. Summary of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

Copies of the Accounts will be posted on the website. They have not yet been audited.

### **5. Report from Carver Barracks**

Major Justin Spreadborough gave the report and this will be available on the website  
Lt Col George McCormack has now retired and the new CO is Lt Col James Cackett.

- Siobhan Farley, GSU Clerk, (01223 203652) can be approached if you have any concerns.
- Nicky Evans will make any information available for you.

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- There are 1,061 people at the Barracks
- We have two families' officers and two assistants

The Chairman thanked Major Spreadborough for attending

#### **6. Report from Cty Cllr Simon Walsh**

Cty Cllr Walsh began by expressing his thanks to the outgoing members of the Parish Council and to outgoing District Councillor, Tina Knight, for all her help.

- Every year the County has to set a balanced budget and for the past few years we have had to make savings. In this financial year the savings have had to be significant because the government support grant is being reduced and we have to look at making savings without causing too much harm. The Council tax was increased by 3% this year.
- Our leader, Cllr Finch, lobbies on the difficulties we are facing.
- There are particular pressures in adult social care.
- We have been given an outstanding rating by Ofsted for our children's services and were ranked 10<sup>th</sup> across the country.
- In the past year we have created 3,000 new school places. There are more young people moving into the area.
- The new Highways Officer is Kevin Bentley who is now undertaking a pavement repair project.
- I remain the Cabinet member for Environment and Waste. £45 million is spent on the disposal of black bin waste.
- We continue to receive complaints regarding the damage being done to Byways over the winter so we must endeavour to get more closures.

The following questions/comments were raised:

How receptive are ECC to restricted Byways?

*SW said it is a challenge and extremely difficult to do because of ancient rights.*

If you look at the chain of events they should be restricted byways.

How should overgrown footpaths be reported?

*They can be reported online. Sometimes it is the farmer's responsibility*

Is signing of the footpaths a legislative requirement?

*It rather depends on the resources available.*

We understand there is going to be an updating of footpaths in the future.

*I am not aware of that.*

The Chairman thanked Cty Cllr Simon Walsh for attending.

#### **Report from Cllr Stewart Luck**

I have been elected to the Debden/Wimbish ward which includes Carver Barracks.

- This year there were 623 people in Debden, 468 in Wimbish and 578 at the Barracks.

- Wimbish village is quite spread out and not a cohesive community. I go to the PC meetings and Alison Hare will be helping the PC at Wimbish.
- Uttlesford is a large area; population 83,000
- R4U had 10 Councillors previously and now has 24. Therefore a lot of new people who are receiving training.
- This year the cabinet will be made up of all parties which will give a better working relationship.
- The change has been daunting for the UDC staff.
- The concerns expressed during canvassing were speeding, green lanes, potholes, footpaths. Wimbish would like a bus service for youngsters to go to Saffron Walden
- An RSM at the Barracks picks up litter; we can do that in Debden.
- We have had a briefing concerning Stansted Airport.
- The local plan has been submitted and we are awaiting the outcome.
- There will be an EGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
- R4U supported Tina Knight on the running track at Carver Barracks.

To conclude I would like to record a vote of thanks for Tina Knight's service. The Chairman thanked Cllr Stewart Luck for his report.

#### **7. Report from Richard Cawte, Chairman of the VH Trust, gave a report on the Village Hall Trust and the Debden New Village Hall Group**

Richard Cawte gave a report which will be available on the website.

The following questions were raised:

What plans do you have for the Pavilion?

*There are no plans at the moment to build a new pavilion. The pavilion is the responsibility of the PC. At some stage it will be provided where the PC decide is the right location. The pavilion users will be displaced during the build process.*

Do you know the cost of providing a new pavilion

*This is a matter for the PC. The people who use the pavilion will have to use the old village hall until a new pavilion is built.*

What is the current total budget

*It is now approximately £720,000.*

*We are looking to raise money for various elements and these will be ring fenced.*

With regard to the Architect, are you getting best value because the projected cost of the architect is up to £60,000?

*The architect 's fees are part of the overall cost of the building,*

Do you need to look at rationalising the architects fees.

*The RCCE supplied a list of four architects and we feel the one we have chosen is best value for money. The process took over a year. There will be an audit of money going out. The accounts for the VHT and NVHG are totally separate.*

When are you expecting to apply for planning permission

*We hope to apply in the next two months.*

The prices will go up in the meantime.

*We hope to start building in roughly two years time. The prices will have gone up during that time which means it will be necessary to raise more money but nothing will be built on this site until the money to complete the Village Hall is in place. An increase of 10% has been built into the cost plan. There are areas where we obtain sponsorship.*

*The Village Shop will stay where it is and it is hoped this will be up and running in the next two weeks. It is now totally independent and there are many ideas that could be considered going forward.*

### **Open Forum**

The following comments/questions were raised:

There is a group in Thaxted that go round and cut the footpaths. Could the PC buy some equipment for cutting the paths.

*The PC will look into this but we will need volunteers as well as equipment. BL will consult the group in Thaxted.*

There is a problem with ownership of the Chestnut trees and the footpath at Glebe Cottage. I have been unable to establish boundaries or responsibilities. I hope you will address these issues; you need to be transparent and help people

*BL and CB will visit the resident of Glebe Cottage and assess the situation.*

*The PC does have a footpath warden but you need to report matters and the PC will try and address any problems.*

UDC do not empty the dog bin at the far end of the meadow.

*The PC is aware that UDC will only empty bins which the van can drive to.*

*The litter bin near the new house in Deynes Road needs reinstating.*

*Speedwatch need more volunteers. If you can spare two hours per month please contact Janet Pearson.*

*SW reported that the possibility of organising a Village Fete has been raised. We are intending to consult with the Church as they have organised a Fete on 31<sup>st</sup> August and a joint effort is under discussion with them. We have offered to make it a joint event to try and bring the community together. All funds will go to the Church.*

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their input. Going forward we hope we will be more accessible and communicate with you.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.