

DEBDEN RECREATION GROUND (CHARITY)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DEBDEN RECREATION GROUND,

CHARITY NUMBER 1097367,

Held at Debden Village Hall, Mill Road, Debden, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3LB

at 8pm on Thursday 23rd September 2021:

Present: Mrs S. Watson – Chairman
Mr C. P. Bunting
Mrs C. L. Diggins
Mrs A. J. Gardner
Mr B. R. Lindsell
Mrs J.S. O'Brien

In attendance: 5 members of the public

21/01 Apologies for absence

None

21/02 Chairman's Report for 2020

The Chairman read her Report and the Play-Area Addendum

21/03 Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 were presented and approved. It was stated that an audit of the Accounts was not necessary but an audit by RCCE was being arranged.

21/04 Appointment of Charity Trustee/Members

It was acknowledge that:

- (i) the Parish Council of Debden is the Sole Trustee, under the Governing Document of the Charity, namely a Declaration of Trust dated 28th November 2002 as amended by a Resolution dated 8th January 2020
- (ii) the Members are current parish councillors, being: Clive Prior Bunting, Charlotte Liza Diggins, April Jane Gardner, Brian Ra Lindsell, Stewart Luck, Jeanette Sylvia O'Brien, and Stephanie Watson

21/05 Election of Officers

- (i) Stephanie Watson was appointed Chairman; nominated by Brian Lindsell and seconded by April Gardner, all agreed.

- (ii) Brian Lindsell was appointed Treasurer; nominated by Clive Bunting and seconded by Charlotte Diggins, all agreed.
- (iii) Jeanette O'Brien was appointed Secretary; nominated by April Gardner and seconded by Clive Bunting, all agreed.

21/06 Any Other Business

- A member of the public said the meeting should have referred to AGM Minutes of the previous trustees of the Charity, and she would discuss this with the Charity Commission;
- The same member of the public said mediation should never be mentioned again;
- The same member of the public said the pavilion should not be next to the village hall;
- Another member of the public asked if it was necessary to pull down the solid structure of the pavilion and build a new one;
- The first member of the public to comment referred to Parish Council Minutes, not a matter for the current Meeting;
- The first member of the public to comment referred to the grant to the Village Hall Trust by the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Grant, and the Chairman stated it was not a subject for the Charity to answer.

The Meeting closed at 8.26pm.

DEBDEN RECREATION GROUND AGM 2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

To say that 2020 was an unusual year is an understatement. There was only intermittent use of the Recreation Ground from 23rd March 2020 onwards. During lockdown it was used mainly by lone walkers, walking bubbles and, of course, dog walkers.

There was no organized sport on the ground throughout 2020; the playground and tennis courts were closed for most of the year.

The pavilion was closed to users in 2020 and has not reopened. The pavilion is unfit for use as it does not meet the required health and safety standards expected in 2021. Windows are cracked, the showers are appalling, the kitchen and toilets are totally unacceptable for use by any civilized person. The decision was taken to close the pavilion and the football pitch after consultation with the two football teams which use the ground regularly.

Both teams willingly agreed to find alternative pitches for their games until redevelopment of the pavilion is complete.

The cost of building a new pavilion is estimated at £150K and the situation at present is that the plans are being assessed by Sport England and the Essex FA to ensure that they are content with them before we submit the plans to UDC for approval. We expect approval to be granted and then we can commence fund raising. The pandemic has slowed the process down, of course, but we are determined to press on to deliver a facility the village can be proud of.

The village shop remains closed. The shop was built on land owned by the Village Hall Trust and there was never any legal agreement for the shop to operate on this land. In fact, the objects of the VHT do not allow retail premises to operate on their land. For this reason the new organisation, Debden Village Shop Ltd, has decided to wait for the land exchange to be effected after which the shop will stand on DRG land. This change will mean that DRG can then enter into an agreement with Debden Village Shop to run the shop out of their current premises. Debden Village Shop will, in turn, be able to enter into a formal agreement with the Post Master to run a post office from the shop premises.

The land exchange is a key element of the redevelopment of the recreation ground site. The new village hall is going to be built on a piece of land, exactly the same size as that currently occupied by the village hall, owned by the DRG. After the exchange, this piece of land will be owned by the VHT and the DRG will own the land where the current hall stands. Eventually the current hall will be demolished, leaving a large space for additional car park/ extension of playground etc.

DRG continue to work to ensure that the recreation ground is maintained to a high standard whilst acknowledging the restrictions caused by the planned redevelopment of part of the site.

Debden Recreation Ground Trust
Summary of Receipts and Payments Account for year ending
31st March 2021

2019/20		2020/21
	INCOME	
3880.00	Grants from Parish Council	4000.00
	Grants from Essex Assoc- CIF	2000.00
	Grant from Persimmon	1000.00
	Crowdfunder	265.42
1251.00	Recreation Ground- Club/Match/ Hire fees	160.00
5131.00	Total Income	7425.42
	EXPENDITURE	
1513.15	Pavilion	450.46
998.29	Play Area Inspection and maintenance	6134.76
888.00	Tree/ hedgework	
24.75	Hall hire fees	
	Training fee	48.00
	Bat boxes	73.87
	Contribution to waste container	100.00
	Signs	88.62
3424.19	Total Expenditure	6895.71
2289.29	Balance b/f	3996.10
5131.00	Add total Income	7425.42
7420.29	Balance	11421.52
3424.19	Less total expenditure	6895.71
3996.10	Final Balance	4525.81

Balance as per bank statement 31 March 2021 £5629.81
Less unrepresented cheque £ 744.00
Balance as at 31 March 2021 £ 4525.81