

Report on Debenham's Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday April 27th 2009 at Dove Cottage.

The meeting was presided over by Ron Walters, Chair of the Parish Council, with the temporary parish clerk in attendance, County Councillor Eddy Alcock, Shaun Betts representing District Cllr Kathie Guthrie and nine members of the public. Apologies for absence were received from parish councillors Frankie Winrow-Giffin and Gerry Baxter, District Cllr Kathie Guthrie, Mrs Carol Hellier, Mr Barry Woods, Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, Kate Burton, Gina Helm, Mr Tony Hutt.

No nominations had been received so far for the Parish Community Award so it was agreed that this would be held over until the September Parish Council meeting. The minutes of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting were distributed, agreed to be adopted and signed accordingly by Cllr Walters, who explained that they would be put on the website incorporating all the accompanying reports. There were no matters arising.

Cllr Walters explained that the Parish Council accounts were not available owing to a problem with the computerised accounting method, but once available, would be put on the website and the noticeboard and available in hard copy upon request from the temporary parish clerk. He then gave his own annual report on parish council activities over the past year – no questions followed. Reports were then received from PSCO Chris Bales, Debenham Resource Centre, County Cllr Eddy Alcock, District Cllr Guthrie, Sir Robert Hitcham CVP School, The Parochial Church Council, the United Reformed Church, Debenham Village Hall and Playing Field Trust, the Woodland and Waterways Steering Committee, the Garden Society (verbal), the parish tree warden (Carol Hellier), the Debenham History Society, the Debenham Players, Friends of Sir Robert Hitcham CVP School, the Cubs and Scouts (verbal), Tony Hutt's Welcome pack, the Sir Robert Hitcham Trust (verbal), and the Guides. It was explained that the Simpson Charity, although inactive, would not be dissolved as the historical connection would be lost forever if this were done.

Suggestions and questions were invited and a brief discussion took place on how to generate more interest in future annual parish meetings. Wherever possible, reports will be made available on the website and by request, copies may be obtained from the temporary clerk.

Cllr Walters thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.