

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on Monday, September 8th 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at Dove Cottage.

Present: Councillors R Walters (Chair), A Baxter, G Baxter, L Cockerton, J Farthing, G White, K Voller, County Councillor E Alcock, District Cllr K Guthrie, Acting Clerk Mrs C Williamson

1. Apologies for absence Councillors F Winrow-Giffin, M Monk

2. Open Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Walters advised the council that resignations had been received from Cllrs Hellier and Fenton. The Clerk would be advising MSDC the next day. It was hoped that a new member may be co-opted at the September 15th meeting to fill Michael Whayman's vacancy.

3. Declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda and additions to register: none

Cllr Walters requested permission, which was given, to alter the sequence of the agenda so that the Boundary Committee Report could be discussed more effectively.

5. Minutes of previous meetings:

July 14th 2008: these had only been received today so it was agreed to defer approval to the 15th September Ordinary meeting.

August 11th 2008: Cllr Walters proposed, seconded by Cllr Baxter, that the minutes were a true and correct record and should be adopted, all agreed.

6. Street Light in Little Back Lane: it was unclear whether permission had been received from MSDC, the temporary clerk would recirculate information received in August.

7. Review of East of England Plan

7.1 Draft project plan: Cllr Walters gave a brief summary and supplied a hard copy. He considered that there was nothing of substance to object to at this stage but welcomed any comments. None were put forward at this time but could be received later.

7.2 Minerals Site Specific Allocations: it appeared that notice had been taken of comments made by this council in the past so there now appeared to be no major worries.

7.3 Cllr Walters proposed, seconded by Cllr Voller, that it should be noted that both documents had been considered, all in favour.

8. Allotment Rents: Cllr Cockerton advised the council that annual rental at present was between £8.00 and £23.00, depending on the size of the plot. Normally the rent was increased by 10% annually. This meant that costs eg water and rates, were covered. There was a waiting list of nine. Cllr Walter proposed,

seconded by Cllr G Baxter, all in favour, that there should be an increase of 10% this year, subject to a review of the cost base for next year. With the increases in utility bills it had to be certain that our costs would be covered.

9. 8.03 p.m Suspension of standing orders to allow members of the public to speak. (8.07 p.m.: County Councillor Eddy Alcock arrived). District Councillor Guthrie spoke in her capacity as a district councillor to inform.

9.1 Re Mrs Dalison's letter about the Cross Green car park: Mrs Guthrie advised that it was owned by a charitable trust which was obliged to provide parking free of charge.

9.2 Fence on Low Road: this was referred to in Cllr Guthrie's report (to be received at the September 15th meeting).

9.3 The Boundary Committee Review. Cllr Walters urged the council to comment as members of the public if they so wished. The Review would be forwarding details of predicted financial implications on 19th September (this was originally promised for September 12th) because a new costing was required, including Lowestoft in Suffolk rather than Norfolk. The deadline for comments remains unchanged at September 26th.

9.4 Cllr Alcock providing basic information on the differences between the two proposals for change and provided further documents on the subject for this council's consideration. About 200 people had attended the SCC meeting on September 2nd, including Cllrs Walters and Baxter. All letters received would be published on the Boundary Committee's website.

9.5 Cllr Guthrie said that the MSDC had demonstrated that they were listening to comments that they had received. Councils west of Ipswich had objected to the proposal that they be included in the North Haven Authority (ie greater Ipswich) and this had been accepted.

9.6 It was agreed that councillors' initial responses should be received now and edited before preparing a final letter for the Boundary Commission. These were as follows:

Concern over the financial implications of implementing and administering the changes

Concern for the efficiency of communication between two new authorities, – would there be adequate liaison and crossover of information across the board

Concern re cost of new buildings especially to house twenty Community Boards across the county

Not enough was known about the finer details of any changes

Changed date of 19th September would only give one week to absorb and understand the financial information and comment accordingly.

Concern about the Community Boards: who would sit on them. At present we have layers of authority (District and County Councils) that we know, and know how to contact them

A single authority would be better for Suffolk: more efficient.

Concern about the function of Community Boards, not sufficiently defined.

More general comments received: it would probably all fizzle out in time / it is actually a foregone conclusion hence little concern re one week to make comments.

9.7 Chairman's urgent business: none.

9.8 Any other business: Installation of football equipment on recreation ground: the removal of surplus soil was being considered at present.

.....Chair.....Date