

**Minutes of a meeting of the Debenham Parish Council held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7:30 at Dove Cottage, Debenham.**

**Present:** Cllr S Palframan (Chairman), Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr L Cockerton, Cllr S Phipps, Cllr M Loveridge, Cllr A Cushion, Cllr J Feeney-Howells, Cllr G Helm, Cllr F Winrow-Giffin, Cllr J Baldwin, Mrs D Bedwell (Clerk), District Cllr K Guthrie, County Cllr M Hicks and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence, including to note resignation of Cllr S Owens:** Cllr S Owens resignation was noted. Apologies had also been received from Cllr R Bowers-Brown.
2. **Declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda and additions to register:** Cllr J Baldwin declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 19; Cllr F Winrow-Giffin declared a pecuniary interest on item 7.1; Cllr A Cushion declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 8.1.1.
3. **To receive presentation to the Parish Council members from Mr John Pateman-Gee (MSDC Planning):** A presentation was received from Mr J Pateman-Gee on planning matters and a brief question and answer session followed.
4. **Reports**
  - 4.1 Police Report: A Police report had not been received.
  - 4.2 District Councillor's report: Cllr K Guthrie's report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting and was updated by District Cllr K Guthrie.
  - 4.3 County Councillor's report: A report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting and was updated by County Cllr M Hicks.
5. **Suspension of standing orders:** *Meeting open for 5 minutes to allow members of the public to speak:* **Meeting open:** A member of the public asked if any collections were being planned for the departing Post Office owners/managers and Cllr F Winrow-Giffin replied that a bespoke work of art had been commissioned by the Parish Council and that a presentation had taken place in December on the evening when the Christmas trees lights had been officially switched on.

Another member of the public wished to raise awareness about traffic concerns on Gracechurch Street, where this resident resided. There had recently been another road traffic collision where a Porsche car had crashed into their house and this was the third accident on the same spot in the past five years. This resident would be putting forward a planning application to build a low brick wall in order to make the property safer. Cllr M Loveridge commented that one of the problems was the lack of yellow lines in the junction and vehicles exiting Little and Great Back Lane. Cllr L Cockerton added that parking and traffic flow issues had been put on hold by the Parish Council pending the results of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr S Palframan stated that a number of schemes/suggestions would be considered and addressed in the draft Plan and that the residents' comments would be taken on board. Cllr J Baldwin stated that she "fully supported the member of the public in the comments raised regarding traffic and safety along that stretch", however she mentioned that "a sign installed in their garden over the festive period caused an obstruction in Gracechurch St when it blew over in the bad weather and that she was aware of this because she had had to avoid it twice in the same day when driving. It had nothing to do with the accident or the cause of it. The lady did maintain that she had removed the sign immediately it had blown over".

The member of the public replied that she had felt very unsupported by the Parish Council when she had submitted the planning application for the veterinary practise, and continued to feel unsupported now.

## 6. Finance and Administration

7.1 To approve accounts for payment: It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment, as follows:

### Payments PC:

7.1.1 Clerk salary January 2016	£1,073.10
7.1.2 HMRC tax and NI for January 2016	£494.40
7.1.3 Clerk's expenses (BT line, stamps)	£97.53
7.1.4 Startafresh charges (December 2015)	£632.44
7.1.5 Itgen- website editor	£100.00
7.1.6 Mr R Giffin (14.12.15 to 10.01.16)	£150.00
7.1.7 M Sillett (street warden)	£514.18
7.1.8 G Sillett (street warden)	£372.88
7.1.9 Anglian Water allotments (24.09.15 to 15.12.15)	£102.82
7.1.10 Salc Chairman training	£132.00
7.1.11 W A Ward (Christmas trees)	£240.00
7.1.12 Smiths of Derby (St Mary's clock annual service)	£219.60
7.1.13 DPCC (Dove Cottage-venue hire 01.04.2015 to 31.12.2015)	£543.75
7.1.14 Gorniak and McKechnie Ltd (contribution towards new fuse board)	£60.00

### Receipts:

7.1.15 Allotment rent plot 20	£27.65
7.1.16 Allotment rent plot 21	£11.95
7.1.17 Burials of ashes x 3	£630.00

- 7.1** To consider and approve FAWG's recommendations for the budget for 2016/2017 and Precept: It was resolved to approve the budget for 2016/2017 and the precept for 2016/2017 was set at £66,219, tax grant £1,499. The recent decision to replace the Debenham street lights was briefly discussed but members agreed to still go ahead with the project. How it would be funded would be an item for discussion at the next meeting.
- 7.2** To consider and approve opting-in to the new arrangements of the Sector Led Body to carry out the external audit of the Debenham accounts: It was resolved to approve the opting into the new arrangement for External Audit.
- 7.3** To consider application for funding for an alarm scheme to protect the St Mary's Church from thefts: This matter no longer needed to be considered.
- 7.4** To consider suggestion made by the Parish Magazine editor to add Councillors photographs to the Noticeboard and Website: It was resolved that those members in agreement with the suggestion would have their photograph added to the parish magazine and those members who wished to be excluded would have a silhouette instead.

## 7. Planning matters

### **8.1 Applications received for recommendation to MSDC:**

- 8.1.1 4374/15 and 4375/15 The Angel Inn, 5 High Street-** Partial change of use, erection of first floor extension to re-instate former two storey rear wing and former separate dwelling, internal alterations including the relocation of toilet facilities, to retain the public house as a community facility (revised scheme to that submitted under ref. 2494/14 and 2475/14): It was resolved to recommend the refusal of this planning application. The main points raised by members, and which will form part

of the comments submitted to MSDC were: A considerable number of issues raised previously remained the same; Further information regarding the structural works to the building's foundation were needed; There was still no clear Statement of Methodology (as stated by Historic England) as to how the proposed demolition and building works would be done and how they may affect neighbouring properties; The proposals were very likely to affect parking and traffic flow on the High Street; Since the erection of the partition wall, which greatly affected the venue, the facility stopped being a family friendly typical village pub and the approval of the current application would make the prospect of bringing The Angel Inn back to its former glory impossible. With focus being placed on key service centers not just being a commercial hub but also attractive to tourism, it was felt that the loss of yet another important amenity and Asset of Community Value was not an option that could even be considered.

## **8.2 To note Approvals/Refusals:**

- 8.2.1 4054/15 19 High Street-** Permission to reduce by a third the crown of an extremely large wild cherry tree and an oriental willow tree- **No objections raised.**
- 8.2.2 4001/15 Debenham Hall, Gracechurch Street-** Proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house (use class C3) and for associated development (prior approval under class Q(a) and Q(b)- **Prior approval refused.**
- 8.2.3 3275/15 11-15 High Street-** Replacement of roof tiles to front elevation with associated repairs to timber roof structure- **Listed Building Consent Granted.**

**8.3 Planning Correspondence:** To receive comments and agree action following receipt of report on councillors attendance at a MSDC Planning Committee meeting: Due to the confidential nature of the items raised under this agenda item, it was agreed to move this item to the confidential section of the meeting.

**8. Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday event in June 2016-** to receive update and consider any further actions needed: An update was received from Cllrs L Cockerton and A Cushion. The road closure plan had been circulated to members and it was agreed to approve it in principle, subject to any further comments from members once they had the opportunity to check through the relevant paperwork. A draft letter had been prepared, which would be sent to all residents. The Clerk had been asked to prepare 200 copies. The Working Group was intending to have a further meeting in order to finalise plans and proposals, which would be brought to the next Parish Council meeting for consideration.

Cllr J Baldwin gave her apologies as she would be stepping down from the working group due to other commitments. Cllr G Helm volunteered to join the group.

**9. Clerk's action list** (including to consider any further actions needed): Deferred.

## **11. Committees and working groups: (only included if report received/considerations to be made)**

**11.1 Website, including report:** The report from Mr B Woods had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. In his report, Mr B Woods had asked the Parish Council to make a decision regarding the closure of the old website address (and the cancelling of the resulting fee) which had not been used for a number of years. Members agreed unanimously.

**11.2 Trees and Greens: Report on meeting held 01.12.2015 (including boundary matters):** The report itself was deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk had prepared a response e-mail

to a communication received from no 26 Aspall Road with regards to the re-sitting of bollards on the footway in order to prevent parking on the footway and the green. Members agreed that the response prepared by the Clerk should be sent to the homeowner.

A request had been received from Gorniak and McKechnie for the permission to install a compost bin on the village green and for a contribution of £60 towards the costs incurred due to the malfunctioning of the Christmas tree lights in December 2015. Members agreed that the contribution of £60 should be approved but not the permission to site a compost bin on the village green.

- 11.3 Highways and Rights-Of-Way: As per 10.2, included in same report: Deferred.
- 11.4 Street Furniture and public conveniences- to receive report of recent events: the Clerk reported on recent events that had taken place at the public conveniences. It appeared members of the public were using the paper hand towels to clean their muddy shoes but were discarding the said hand towels on the floor rather than the bin. A number of adult material prints had also been glued to the walls, which the cleaner had promptly removed. The latest water bill from Anglian Water had been in excess of £1,200, which was being looked into.
- 11.5 Woodland and Waterways: To make initial considerations regarding the WWSG Orchard Proposal: Deferred. Cllr A Cushion reported that a lady had fallen down on the path exiting the lakes, which was quite steep. Cllr A Cushion asked if the formal path could be extended in order to improve the current position. Cllr S Phipps agreed to take the matter up at the next Woodland and Waterways Steering Group meeting.
- 11.6 Employment Committee- to agree membership and date of first meeting: Deferred.

**12. Suspension of Standing Orders - Meeting open to the Public for 5 minutes:** There were no members of the public present.

**13. To note correspondence:** Correspondence received already circulated to councillors or included on the agenda for consideration. All other administrative correspondence filled by the Clerk.

**14. Reports from Councillors on matters not itemised on agenda/to be included in next Agenda:** Cllr E Bowman informed members that he had been approached by residents of Coopersfield who had raised concerns about the pine trees near the building on the approach to the Recreation Ground. Cllr R Blackwell apprised Cllr E Bowman of the situation regarding those trees, the fact that they had TPO' s and that some remedial work had already been carried out some 2/3 years previously at a cost to the Parish Council in the region of £450.

Cllr L Cockerton informed members that there was a small plot of land for sale at the rear of Stone Cottage and asked if that would be of interest to the Parish Council. Cllr J Baldwin added that the current asking price was £25,000. Clerk to add to the next agenda for consideration.

Cllr S Phipps raised the issue of the apparent under usage of the parish council shed at the Recreation Ground and how it could benefit from being cleared and updated, particularly with items pertaining to an emergency plan at this time of year.

Cllr A cushion raised the matter of appointing a Parish Council member to the DLC. Cllr S Palframan informed members that as the current PC representative, he had approached the Board of trustees with regards to a member of the Parish Council being appointed as a Trustee. In due course, the Parish Council would be considering who to appoint and this would be an item for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr J Baldwin asked the Clerk to add to the next agenda a request from the Debenham Players to have a storage unit at the Recreation Ground.

It was also reported that a number of commercial vehicles had been broken into in the village. And that some allotment holders were missing their renewal paperwork.

Members raised concern that when Water Lane was flooded, vehicles driving on it were spreading the water upwards and the water was freezing due to recent cold temperatures. This made things extremely difficult for pedestrians and members wondered if anything could be done to address it. The suggestion of a "Road Closed" sign was put forward but it was agreed that a public consultation with all the affected residents would need to be carried out first. Cllr G Helm reminded members that SCC Highways should be consulted for their view before any decision was made.

Cllr F Winrow-Giffin reported that the street light near the vicarage was obstructed by tree growth, as well as the path. The same was happening with another street light at Lock Close (no. 6).

Cllr S Phipps informed members that the owners of the antique shop had asked for a crossing point near Coopersfield and for an additional grit bin.

**15. Chair's urgent business:** any items not on this agenda but of such urgency as to merit, in the Chair's opinion, immediate action: The Chairman had no further matters to report.

**16. Date of next meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**Temporary exclusion of press and public:** *That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission at meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed*

**17. To approve confidential minutes of the meeting held 16 November 2015:** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting held.

**18. Agricultural Holding** (including the review of the Long Term Lease document): deferred to the March meeting.

**19. Youth Provision- Skatepark-** To receive update and agree any actions: There were no further matters to report as the planning application was currently being considered.

With no further matters to be transacted, the meeting ended at 10:35pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_