

Tenders are invited

for Contracts to be awarded for the forthcoming three year period starting April 1st 2017 subject to year three contract performance review and interim annual contract review. All contracts are subject to a three month termination notice period.

If you are interested in tendering for any of the following four contracts please request a contract specification from the Clerk. Any tender proposals should be forwarded to the Clerk at the following address:

Mrs Dina Bedwell, Parish Clerk, 22 Great Harlings, Shotley Gate, IP9 1NY

By Tuesday 31st January 2017 in a plain envelope and marking the envelope TENDER

Contract 1- Bin emptying

Contract 2- Litter picking

Contract 3- Opening, locking and daily cleaning of the public conveniences at Little Back Lane

Contract 4 – Grass cutting and tree and hedge maintenance

Parish Council Precept for 2017/2018: The Tax Base figure for Debenham for next tax year 2017 – 18 is £784.91. This Tax Base has increased from last year by 5.33. This 0.7% increase spreads the cost over more properties which effectively reduces the amount each property has to pay. The tax base increase is fortuitous as it allows the precept to be increased by a larger percentage than will be passed on to council tax payers.

This next financial year (2017-18) also sees the Local Council Tax Support Grant reduce to zero which depletes the income to the council by £1,499.

As a consequence of the tax base change and the small increase in parish council predicted expenditure next year, coupled with the above loss of income, the parish council has decided to increase the parish precept to £68,868 (a 4.0% increase). This will equate to a band D property paying an extra £2.80 (a 3.3% increase) per year towards the parish precept. This equates to a cost of 5.3p per week per band D property. The Parish Council felt that such a small increase was justifiable, particularly as the tax base increase helps to soften the impact for council tax payers.

Allotments: Parishioners are advised that there are still a limited number of allotment plots available to let.

Avian flu: You may have already seen information in the press that the Chief Veterinary Officer has declared a Prevention Zone to help protect poultry from a strain of Avian Flu in Europe.

This now requires keepers of poultry and other captive birds across England to keep their birds indoors, or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

Poultry keepers are advised to be vigilant for any signs of disease in their birds and any wild birds, and seek prompt advice from their vet if they have any concerns.

Any person in charge of poultry (such as chickens, hens, turkeys, etc) and captive birds must take all appropriate and practicable steps to ensure that:

- a) poultry are housed or otherwise kept separate from wild birds;
- b) other captive birds are kept separate from wild birds;

c) poultry and other captive birds are provided with feed and water which is not accessible to wild birds.

d) any person who comes into contact with poultry and other captive birds must take all reasonable precautions to avoid the transfer of contamination between premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear;

e) there are reductions to the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry or captive birds are kept to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products;

f) vermin control programmes are implemented effectively, including preventing the entry of wild birds, around buildings where poultry or captive birds are kept;

g) housing and equipment is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at the end of a production cycle;

h) disinfectant at the right concentration is kept at all points where people should use it, such as farm entrances and before entering poultry housing or enclosures.

The following guidance is also available:

- How to spot avian influenza (bird flu), what to do if you suspect it, measures to prevent it, and the Prevention Zone – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>
- Biosecurity and preventing disease in captive birds within a Prevention Zone - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity>

Clinical signs that poultry keepers should look -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#about-avian-influenza>

Suffolk Trading Standards are providing up-to-date advice and information on their social media accounts ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)), as well as via their weekly email alert.

The Parish Council would like to wish all members, volunteers, parishioners and visitors a wonderful Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Mrs Dina Bedwell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Debenham Parish Council 01473 787861 or debenham.pc@btinternet.com

Date of next Meeting: January 16th 2017