

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL- March 2018

Parish Council vacancy: We would like to take this opportunity to thank our former Cllr Mr Martin Loveridge for all his dedication and hard work as a member of this Council. We wish him all the best in his new pursuits.

Our Council currently has three vacancies for new members. If you would like to be considered for co-option onto the Council, all we ask is that you attend a Parish Council meeting and complete a short form. If you are interested and want to know more, please speak with any of our members or the Clerk.

Planning: DC/17/06293 Land to the north of Gracechurch Street- Outline planning permission for 295 dwellings- Due to the sheer size of this application and the overwhelming number of comments sent to MSDC Planning, it is expected to be referred to Committee and the Parish Council will be sure to make strong representation when the time comes.

Debenham Neighbourhood Plan: A detailed update is provided separately by our Chairman. We would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of the 418 residents, businesses and consultees who took the time to complete our survey.

Funding: An application for funding from St Mary's Church for £5,000 towards structural improvements, including re-wiring, heating and new doors was received. The total cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of £60,000 and would potentially allow the building to become a better venue for a host of events in the future.

The Parish Council continues to be supportive of the Church's endeavours and already pays for all grass cutting and perimeter wall maintenance costs, as well as the clock's winding, refurbishment and service fees. With a number of other Churches in the village to consider and funds depleted at this late stage of the financial year, members were minded to support a funding application but perhaps lower and once detailed costings for the project were available.

Members whole heartedly supported the gifting of £200 to "**The Fire Fighter's Charity**", as a gesture of appreciation for all the times we have been allowed to use the Fire Station as a meeting venue and Clerk base during the last financial year.

Annual Parish Meeting: Is due to take place on May 21st, 7.30pm at Dove Cottage. We would like to invite representatives of all our local groups and organisations to attend and take part by giving a brief report and joining us for refreshments afterwards. This is also a special occasion when **Community Awards** are presented. If you know of a special person or organisation in the village who goes the extra mile, please let us know so they can be considered at our next Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Mrs Dina Bedwell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Tel. no. 01473 787861 - Mobile no. 07514 277974

(please leave message on answer phone / voicemail out of hours)

debenham.pc@btinternet.com

Office hours: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Please note that I will no longer be based in Debenham on Fridays but should you wish to speak with me personally, a meeting can be arranged in the village at a time to suit you.

Date of next Meeting: April 16th 2018.