

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Debenham Parish Council held on Monday, June 15th 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at Dove Cottage.

Present: Cllrs L Cockerton (in the chair), I Baldwin, G Baxter, F Winrow-Giffin, V Payne, K Voller, temporary RFO Mrs D Bedwell, temporary clerk Mrs C Williamson and four members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Blackwell, District Cllr K Guthrie, County Cllr E Alcock

2. Reports

2.1 Police report: this had been circulated earlier and was read out. No comments. Later, PCSO Bales joined the meeting – see below.

2.2 District Councillor's report: none available

2.3 County Councillor's report: none available

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

4. To receive outstanding Declarations of Acceptance of Office (Cllr Farthing): not at this meeting

5. Vacancies for councillors: no names had been put forward for co-option at his meeting. Agreed to increase publicity on the subject.

6. 7.38 p.m. Suspension of standing orders: *Meeting open for 10 minutes to allow members of the public to speak*

6.1 Mr G Chambers asked if the temporary clerk was solely responsible for anything she wrote. His concerns were the website and posters in the village – were the council aware of the wording? E was advised that not all the posters had been placed by the council. The word 'green' in the 'Red Hot News' section of the parish website, he felt was inappropriate. Mrs Williamson had already responded to him about this matter by email, copied to council. He advised that he had sixty-eight names on a petition he had circulated about the recently constructed fence on the green adjacent to his property, No 7 Lock Close. He had lived there for eighteen years, he considered that the land was mainly used for dog-fouling and he queried any testament to the contrary in any evidence forms received by the council. Cllr Alcock had advised him that significant use of the area for twenty years needed to be proven in order to obtain village green status. Mrs Williamson advised him on the courts' interpretation of the word 'significant' in this context. He was concerned at the EADT article which stated that all residents had been sent evidence forms to complete as he considered that the Lock Close residents should received copies. Mrs Williamson had already advised him that forms were available on the website and were only sent out upon request as the council did not want to solicit such evidence and apparently incite local feeling against Mr Chambers. He did not see what the matter had to do with people who did not live nearby.

6.2 Another member of the public seconded many of Mr Chambers' views.

6.3 Three members of the public left.

8.04 p.m: Standing Orders resumed

7. PCSO Bales arrived and went into more detail about his report.

7.1: The person mentioned in his report (buying alcohol for persons under-age), served with a £80 fine now also had a criminal record. The police had worked with the school, the Co-op and the pubs to cut down anti-social behaviour in young people, to some good effect. He was asked about parking near the school which was particularly bad now. He spoke more about people contacting the police in confidence and ensured that names were kept 100% protected – steps were even taken in court proceedings to protect identities.

7.2: Vandalism of No 19 Gracechurch Street: this had been originally targeted, he considered, because it looked derelict –‘broken window syndrome’. It was also near a street light, -young adults like to feel safe so prefer lit areas. One person had been arrested who had caused at least two acts of damage and was given a community service order. Further problems had not been reported for a while. The temporary clerk advised that she had spoken to SCC who could not relocate the street lamp for practical reasons. The Gracechurch Street area had been targeted by the police which had had a positive effect, though not perfect. He urged people to contact the police if they had problems.

7.3: Dog fouling: the problem was continually bad, said Cllr Voller. PCSO Bales said that people’s behaviour had to change in terms of allowing their dogs to foul public spaces. There were biodegradable disposal bags which could help the problem. He was asked how many tickets were issued to offenders in the last year. Agreed that the MSDC dog warden should be contacted by the temporary clerk.

7.4 Parking near the primary school was a continuing problem, on Chancery Lane, Little London Hill, Aspall Road etc and someone was bound to be injured some time soon. PCSO Bales said that the police were limited in what they could do. SCC Highways had assessed the area and he had issued tickets on cars parked on double yellow lines. The problem was less worse when he was seen to be in the vicinity. Offenders would only get a £30 fine unless they were persistent.

7.5 PCSO Bales was thanked for his attendance and he left the meeting.

8. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

May 11: Cllr Payne proposed, seconded by Cllr Winrow-Giffin, that the minutes were a true and correct record and were signed as such.

May 18: After amending Minute 18.8, after ‘Cllr Baxter’ insert ‘as chair of Woodland Steering Group’ Cllr Voller proposed, seconded by Cllr Baxter, that the minutes were a true and correct record and were signed as such.

June 8: After amending Minute 7(c) – delete ‘as’, insert ‘if’, Cllr Voller proposed, seconded by Cllr Baxter, that the minutes were a true and correct record and were signed as such.

9. Green area adjacent to No 7 Lock Close:

9.1 Update: the application for registering the area as a village green was almost ready and the council provided answers to some queries. It was agreed that the precise area should be as shown on the MSDC map showing areas they maintain, ie not directly outside the front of No 7 Lock Close. It was agreed that a copy would be sent by email to council prior to submission and Cllr Baxter proposed, seconded by Cllr Baldwin that subject to final approval the application be submitted.

9.2 To consider and finalise application for designation as village green Cllr Baxter proposed, seconded by Cllr Baldwin that the application, completed by the temporary clerk, would be sent by email to council and Cllrs Alcock and Guthrie and subject to final approval the application then be submitted to Suffolk County Council.

10. DLC: update if necessary: the temporary Clerk had attended the DLC AGM and provided copies of their annual report. She had spoken to Mr Hughes and emailed him afterwards to outline her suggestion that DLC apply for capital projects for the Community Centre. No response had been received.

11. To consider requests from charities for donations under S137: Homestart : moved for discussion after Item 12.

12 . Accounts for payment

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| Salc Cllr training (V. Payne) | £103.50 |
| N C Moyce (fixing door at gents toilets) | £67.62 |
| Debenham Parochial Church (Dove Cottage 01.01.09 to 30.06.09) | £315.00 |
| Impact Landscaping (URC cemetery) | £103.50 |

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|---|----------|
| Impact Landscaping (1x churchyard, 1x cemetery, 1x p/area, Ivy and brambles on green near Lock Close) | £471.50 |
| NPower (public toilets elec. 10.12.08 to 17.03.09) | £812.57 |
| Itgen DPC/026 | £100.00 |
| Uk Hosts inv 118801 (renewal of domain x 2 years) | £16.10 |
| B & G Services (04.05.09 to 01.06.09) | £672.06 |
| Allianz Insurance premium | £1612.04 |
| D. Bedwell fees (19.05.09 to 14.06.09) | £425.60 |
| D. Bedwell expenses (stamps, ink, petrol, subsistence) | £149.16 |
| C. Williamson fees and expenses (18.04.09 to 17.05.09) | £1220.56 |
| C. Williamson fees and expenses (18.05.09 to 13.06.09) | £1203.16 |
| Mark Sillett | £598.43 |
| C. Williamson (re. R G Landscape cheque no. 100031 void) | £207.00 |
| C Williamson – payment for maps of land near 7 Lock Close | £25.00 |

Electricity bill: this had been estimated. A meter reading would be taken but the current bill would be paid.

Cllr Winrow-Giffin proposed, seconded by Cllr Baxter, all in favour, that the clerk should claim subsistence allowance of £9.58 per month, backdated to the start of her employment.

The RFO would arrange for money to be transferred into the deposit account as soon as she had internet access.

Still no invoice to the agricultural holding - clerk to look on old laptop.
Dina to chase up No 5 of 11.5

12. 1 Payments Received

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| F. Masters re. Mrs. Bestford | £39.00 |
|------------------------------|--------|

9.25 p.m. *Agreed to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes in order to sign cheques and invoices.*

9.30 p.m.: Mrs Bedwell then left the meeting. Cllr Payne left the meeting owing to babysitting arrangements.

13. To consider requests from charities for donations under S137:

13.1 Homestart : a report and copy of accounts 2007-8 was received, also two emails and a letter in response to the temporary clerk's queries. On the proposition of Cllr Voller, seconded by Cllr Baxter, all in favour, it was resolved that under S137, £100 be donated to Homestart.

13.2 Cllr Voller said that he would circulate a list of information required from charities and organisations prior to consideration of donation.

13.3 The temporary clerk hoped to advertise consideration of requests to charities in good time for the December meeting (on the calendar for September).

14. Clerk's Report: the clerk advised that she had been very busy with the problems on the green near No 7 Lock Close as there had been so much public concern. She had told Mark Sillett not to apply weedkiller anywhere this year for safety reason. MSDC/SCC will do so in time. She had not yet written re the green near 7 Lock Close to M Lord MP, nor reviewed the assets register with the temporary RFO, nor spoken to Barclays Bank about the temporary RFO getting website access. These would all be done as soon as possible. The revised cemetery charges were ready now for the council to see, risk assessments had to be a priority at the next meeting and she aimed to look at the Information Commission Office's CD. No more information had been received about the street signs ordered from MSDC.

15. Next parish surgery: It was agreed that this would be on July 4th 10.30 -12.00. Cllrs Cockerton and Baxter would be attending.

16. Planning matters:

16.1 Approvals:

1383/08: 68 High Street: Two storey rear extension

1384/08: 68 High Street: Two storey rear extension to existing building. Create new opening to rear at first floor. Insert two rooflights to existing building.

0884/09 6 Hitcham Road: Single storey extension and new pitched roof over existing flat roof front porch

1149/09: 64 and 66 Gracechurch Street – No 64: two storey rear and side extension plus porch to front elevation , No 66: single storey rear extension

16.2 Refusals: none

16.3 Applications: none (NB 1529/09, change of use for land near 7 Lock Close not yet validated)

16.4 Planning Correspondence: details of new planning enforcement rules. The temporary Clerk would arrange for hard or e-copy for council.

17. To consider new information board and its exact location: it was agreed that it should be installed in the same place but slightly to the right, as there was already a rail there to prevent vehicle damage.

18. To review members of committees and working groups: see attachment II

Including:

To consider setting up an employment committee to appoint new staff: defer to next meeting

Traffic matters in Debenham: to consider setting up a working group including non-councillors: defer to next meeting

Cllr Payne had agreed to represent the council on the Community Education Support Group

18. Reports from committees and working groups, including:

18.1 Allotments and Cemeteries: one allotment was not in use, No 8B and as the previous tenant had moved, this could be re-allocated. The temporary clerk and RFO would draw up a list of non-payments.

18.2 Play Areas: no quotations received yet- two applied for.

18.3 Website including website report: email for consideration in confidential matters

18.4 Trees and Greens: nothing apart from Item 8 on the agenda (Item 9 on the minutes)

18.5 Public Lavatories: Cllr Voller declared a personal interest as an employee of B and G Services was his neighbour. He took no part in the discussion. It was agreed that B and G Services should be contacted about the unacceptable odours. See also confidential section.

18.5.1 Recent problems: the push button on the ladies' lavatory needed to be replaced and this had been done.

18.5.2 To consider key holders' list for lavatories: at present, Cllrs Baxter, Cockerton B and G Services, MRB Plumbing Services.

18.6 Street Lights: no problems at present. The residents at No 19 Gracechurch Street would be contacted – see Item 7.2.

18.7: Footpaths: nothing to report

19. Assets register update: to be prepared for next meeting

20. Correspondence Received: to note except were indicated. Does not include procedural correspondence or letters re green near No 7 Lock Close.

Resignation - R Walters

Resignation – S Dalison

MSDC planning consent 0884/09 6 Hitcham Road - s/s extension

MSDC Cultural and Community Services - Conservation Area Appraisal

A Moreton re resignation of Mrs Dalison

Treasury Solicitor re Title No SK8499, -re green space near 7 Lock Close

Age Concern leaflets re promoting independence

MSDC Planning re appeal 2033/08, Willow Cottage, Bellwell Lane

MSDC Planning re appeal 3933/08. The Ryes School, Pettaugh

MSDC re Gateway to Homechoice re letting council homes in 7 authorities

Stowmarket Town Council - copy of their magazine

Treasury Solicitor re Title No SK8499, -re green space near 7 Lock Close

MSDC Planning: Listed building Consent 1384.08 68 High Street

MSDC Planning Permission: 1149/09, 64 and 66 Gracechurch Street:

Open Space Society info re joining

Burges Salmon - solicitors to The Crown Estate re 7 Lock Close

MSDC re safety campaign re stretch limousines plus poster

MSDC re monitoring provision of facilities in Mid Suffolk

MSDC re planning enforcement policy update

Homestart Charity donation request and report 2007-8

Copy of letter re land at foot of gardens near 91 Gardeners Road

21. Correspondence sent (does *not* include procedural mail or forms re green near 7 Lock Close)

Crown Treasury Solicitor: Re green spaces, adoption

G Chambers: Copies of council's standing orders and financial regulations in response to email request

McAleer: re hole in trap door, Old Red Lion, High Street

22. Chair's urgent business: any items not on this agenda but of such urgency as to merit, in the Chair's opinion, immediate action.

SALC were holding a planning workshop on June 24: Cllr Cockerton and the temporary clerk hoped to attend.

23. Suspension of standing orders: *Meeting open for 5 minutes to allow members of the public to speak: no comments made*

24. Any other business: information exchange only: none.

25. Date of next meeting: July 13th and July 20th

26. Temporary exclusion of press and public: *That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the Meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning legal issues; potentially sensitive personnel content.*

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