

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Chair: Mrs L Cockerton

Clerk: Mrs G Griffin

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 19 October 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Dove Cottage, Debenham

Present:

	Cllr L Cockerton – presiding	
Cllr I Baldwin	Cllr R Blackwell	Cllr K Voller
Cllr J Parnell	Cllr L Stock	Cllr Winrow-Giffin

In attendance:

Mrs G Griffin - Clerk
Mrs D Bedwell – Responsible Finance Officer

09.10.15 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Baxter, District Councillor Guthrie and County Councillor Alcock.

09.10.17 Declarations of interest

Cllr Blackwell declared an interest in agenda item 7b.

09.10.18 Reports

a) Police – PCSO Bales gave a verbal report which was received and accepted by the members. (Appendix A)

b) County Councillor – County Councillor Alcock supplied a statement regarding unitary status which was noted by the members but there was no report.

c) District Councillor – a written report from District Councillor Guthrie was received and accepted by the members. (Appendix B)

09.10.18 Suspension of meeting for Public Participation – No public were present to speak.

09.10.19 Minutes of the meeting held 12 October 2009

On the motion of Cllr Blackwell, seconded by Cllr Parnell, it was

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2009 as a true and accurate record subject to the following minor amendments:-

Min 09.10.05a – **add** “recommended refusal” **delete** “refuse”

add “outside the development boundary and in a flood plain”

Min 09.10.05b – **delete** “Other Planning Matters” **add** “Mid-Suffolk District Council Planning Decisions”

Min 09.10.06f – **add** “due to the way the parish council conducts its business it is unable to grant this request”

Add “The meeting closed at 11.00pm”

09.10.20 Planning matters – None received.

09.10.21 Finance

a) RFO's report – Mrs Bedwell reported that she had contacted AE White's and asked them to clarify their invoice. She had informed them that payment would be withheld until she received a breakdown of costs.

b) DLC Funding request – There was a lengthy discussion and points raised included:

- DLC were prepared to undergo an audit if the Council would pay for same
- Mrs Bedwell (RFO) advised the Council of the Centres losses
- Gross Profit of £31,000 but a loss of £18,000, however, it was noted that there had been a considerable improvement in recent months
- The figures for stock loss were requested
- Cllr Blackwell felt that repairs to the drains, replacement of oil tank, chainlink fencing were the priority projects
- It was suggested that the Skate Park should be improved with the funds
- The compilation of a "wish-list" was suggested
- To be an agenda item for November meeting

c) Accounts for payment – 19 October 2009

Mrs Bedwell (RFO) presented a statement of accounts dated 19 October 2009 but this was not accepted as there was a query regarding the payment of the recently appointed Clerk. There was a lengthy discussion on how and when the Clerk would be paid and the mileage rate to be claimed.

On the motion of Cllr Blackwell and seconded by Cllr Parnell it was

RESOLVED to pay the Clerk for 90 hours per month via Standing Order on the last day of the month.

d) Mr Sillett – holiday cover dates were noted by the members.

e) Finalise Asset Register – RESOLVED that Cllr Baldwin would reformat the asset register and present to the members at the November meeting.

f) Lime trees at URC Ground – update – The Clerk advised the members that she had contacted EDF and they confirmed that they would be prepared to trim the trees to safe clearance of power cables. EDF would visit to assess during the next three weeks and decide if the trees required urgent attention or could wait for routine maintenance when their team is next in the area.

g) Quote from Impact Landscaping– Laurel hedge and boundaries at Recreation Ground, Aspall Road

On the motion of Cllr Voller, seconded by Cllr Blackwell it was

RESOLVED to accept the quote and that Cllr Winrow-Giffin instruct the contractors. (Suggested that Clerk should inform MSDC that brambles are being cleared at Lower Gardeners Road and that they will now be able to cut the grass near hedge).

h) Request for donation to fireworks display at DLC

On the motion of Cllr Winrow-Giffin and seconded by Cllr Parnell, it was

RESOLVED to donate £100 to DLC fireworks display

i) Committee/working party budgets 2010/11 – No budgets were available from the members for consideration; the RFO requested members to advise her of any costs for future costs so that budgets could be considered at the November meeting.

(9.30pm - Mrs Bedwell, RFO, left the meeting)

09.10.22 Correspondence

a) Skateboard Park – The Clerk reported that there had been a query from a resident requesting that the skate park might be relocated. This request was noted but no response could be made as the caller had not wished to give her name or contact details. Cllr Blackwell agreed to respond to Rupert Harvey's email which requested improvements to the area. Cllr Baldwin offered to investigate possible funding for the skate park and it was noted that there were other parks at Framlingham, Eye and Felixstowe.

b) MSDC Countryside Activities/National Tree Week – for information – Noted and Cllr Cockerton will place on notice boards

c) MSDC Community Engagement questionnaire – for consideration – **RESOLVED** that Cllr Cockerton would respond on behalf of the Council

d) Response from Dog Warden – suggested dates for consideration – **RESOLVED** that Cllr Cockerton would arrange to meet with the Dog Warden when she visited Debenham. Areas of concern included Lock Close, Lake and Woodland and by the Primary School.

e) Section 106 property in Bloomfield Way – for consideration –

RESOLVED that this property had been ring fenced for a tenant with a local connection in Debenham and therefore the Clerk should respond to the Housing Association asking that the vacancy be advertised locally on the notice boards, in the parish magazine and at the Post Office and local shops, before a decision is made.

09.10.23 Parish Surgery

Cllrs Blackwell & Parnell reported that issues raised included:

- The footway running parallel to and above Water Lane is used by cyclists and should not be. It is dangerous for pedestrians, especially at the corner near the High Street. Can no cycling signs be put up?
- Parking outside Neaves butchers. Cars often park on the opposite side of the road to Neaves and partly block the road coming into Debenham from Kenton. When trying to drive towards Bloomfields, once committed you have no where to go if another vehicle comes in from the Kenton direction. Can we consider no parking on that stretch of road? Perhaps something to add to the list to be discussed with the county council when they come out to look at other traffic issues in the village.
- Clearing the banks in Water Lane. These have been strimmed and cut back but not the brambles which are now growing over the footpath above Water Lane. Why were these left and not cut back with the rest?

These issues were briefly discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact SCC and request they cut the brambles in Water Lane.

09.10.24 Plumbing issues in public toilets

Cllr Stock briefly reported on his inspection of the toilets and confirmed the leak in the ladies but had not observed a problem in the gents. He did not feel there was any need to replace the sanitary ware and felt it should be a simple repair. When asked he confirmed that he felt the standard of cleanliness to be adequate. Cllr Parnell apologised that she had not managed to progress any further in obtaining costs for repairs. To be on the next agenda.

09.10.25 Terms of reference for committees – for consideration – Deferred

09.10.26 Power of well-being training – for consideration – Deferred

09.10.27 MSDC Parish Liaison Meeting – 28 September 09 – presentation papers circulated – Noted.

09.10.28 40 Aspoll Road: rear access to Recreation Ground – for consideration – Deferred.

09.10.29 Highway issues – update for proposed site meeting with Highways representative to discuss issues raised by parishioners – The Clerk advised that the Highways Officer was happy to visit but on leave until 23 October 09. Requested that when suggested dates are received they should be circulated to the members so that they can advise if they can attend.

09.10.30 Reports from Committees/Working Groups

a) **Allotments/Cemetery** – No report received.

b) **Play Areas** – No report received

i) **Play area inspections** – to consider recommendation from Cllr I Baldwin

On the motion of Cllr Winrow-Giffin, seconded by Cllr Blackwell it was

RESOLVED to approve £180 cost for ROSPA course and travelling expenses for Mr Sillett to attend.

c) **Website** – including polling question – **RESOLVED** polling question to be “Would Debenham benefit from a new or improved Skate Park facility?”

d) **Trees & Greens** – No report received.

i) **Removal of tree/s** – cemetery boundary & allotment lane – Confirmed that felling would take place on 26 October 09.

ii) **Other**

e) **Street Lights** – No report received.

f) **Footpaths** – No report received.

09.10.31 Christmas Trees – working party arrangements

The arrangements for the village Christmas Trees was discussed and Cllr Cockerton advised the price of the trees.

RESOLVED to order a 15 foot tree and a 20 foot tree and agreed working party meet to erect trees on weekend of 28 November 09. Cllrs Voller and Stock confirmed they would be available on this date.

09.10.32 Chair’s urgent business: any items not on this agenda but of such urgency as to merit, in the Chair’s opinion, immediate action – None.

09.10.33 Suspension of meeting for Public Participation – No public present to speak.

09.10.34 Any other business: information exchange only – None.

09.10.35 Date of next meeting: - 9 November 2009

Resolution by the Council under the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by LGA 1972 s100 to exclude the Press and the Public from the meeting of Debenham Parish Council in order to discuss matters where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

09.10.36 Review of contracts – for consideration - Deferred.

(10.15pm The Clerk left the meeting)

09.10.37 Staffing matters – Clerk’s contract

The members discussed the contract for the newly appointed Clerk in private session.