

Minutes of a meeting of the Debenham Parish Council held on Monday March 8th 2010, at Dove Cottage.

Present: Cllr L Cockerton (Chair), Cllr F Winrow-Giffin (Vice Chair), Cllr G Baxter, Cllr I Baldwin, Cllr J Parnell, Cllr K Voller, Cllr Blackwell, Clerk D Bedwell and 5 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies for absence-**Cllr T Payne
Absent-Cllr J Farthing
- 2. Declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda and additions to register-** Cllr R Blackwell declared an interest in item 5 of the agenda.
Cllr F Winrow-Giffin and Cllr G Baxter declared an interest in item 8 of the agenda.
- 3. Minutes of meeting held February 8th 2010-** These were deemed to be an accurate record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Winrow-Giffin, seconded by Cllr Blackwell, all agreed.
- 4. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr Sillet expressed his concern regarding the increase of the rabbit population in Debenham, namely the Recreation Ground, Cemetery and surrounding woodland.. A variety of methods that may reduce the problem was discussed including shooting, which Mr Sillet already carries out in the cemetery area and woodland and for which he is fully qualified. The Clerk was asked to contact the Community Liaison Officer, Mr. Chris Bale, for advice regarding the safety of the public during designated days when shooting may take place. Mr and Mrs Sillet also informed the council that they are members of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme and they asked the Council whether it would be interested in joining the scheme. No fee was required and registration would need to be made via Suffolk County Council. The scheme gave the accredited holder targeted police powers to deal with littering, dog fouling, graffiti, fly-posting and riding a bicycle on a footpath. Leaflets covering the scheme were distributed to members. The Clerk was asked to seek further information from Police Headquarters, at Martlesham, regarding the responsibility for shortcomings. Following the recent one hour extra weekly allowance for street cleansing, a discussion ensued in order to assess what the best locations would be to add to the current route. Mr. and Mrs. Sillett raised concerns over the amount of litter at the Leisure Centre car park and the regularity of waste bin emptying. One had been overflowing with litter for three weeks causing the litter to spread around the car park. Mrs. Morley stated she would investigate the litter situation.

Mrs. S. Morley (Debenham Leisure Centre Chairman) introduced herself to the Council and reported on recent developments at the Leisure Centre. Three applications for funding had been submitted to the Council and the respective quotes had been circulated to all members.

The Leisure Centre had also instigated a Customer Feedback facility (forms are available from the reception).

The bar has a new management team and an internal stocktake is carried out weekly, whilst an external one is carried out monthly.

The flooding situation in the recycling area was a concern. This was partly due to the sitting of additional recycling bins. The problem was being investigated with MSDC and initial work to try to resolve the flood would involve re-sitting the bins along the east boundary fence in order to free the area of the soak away prone to flooding.

Mrs. S Morley was asked what application for funding she would like the Council to consider first. Mrs. Morley stated that due to legalities, the oil tank was first in line, followed by the fence and finally the floor.

The Council suggested that a site visit may be necessary to aid the decision making process for the flooring and fencing.

With regarding to future facilities at the Centre, Cllr Baxter stated he had been in contact with MSDC regarding support and possible funding for a proposed arts centre at the old Irvine Martin building at Cross Green. There had however been some resistance to the project from the District Council Officers as they believed the majority of the facilities proposed could be accommodated at the Leisure Centre. Cllr Baxter detailed some of the facilities proposed and enquired whether there was any likelihood these might be accommodated at the Centre. Mrs Morley was unable to respond with any certainty at this stage and it was suggested that she and Cllr Baxter should meet to discuss the proposed facilities, whether they could be provided at the Centre and required funding. Cllr Baxter to report back to Parish Council.

Mr. and Mrs. Sillett and Mrs. Morley were thanked for attending the meeting and reports provided.

Meeting closed to the public-standing orders re-instated.

- 5. To consider application for funding from the Debenham Leisure Centre-** having been informed by Mrs. Morley that the oil tank was urgently in need of replacement, members took the view that priority should be given to the oil tank, followed by the flooring and the fence.

After analysing the 3 quotes supplied by DLC, It was proposed by Cllr Voller, seconded by Cllr Baldwin and agreed by all, with the exception of Cllr Blackwell who abstained, that the Parish Council would fund the purchase of a new 5000lt bunded oil tank up to a maximum of £3000.00. The payment is to be made upon receipt of an invoice for the transaction.

The Clerk was also asked to write a letter to the DLC informing them of the Parish Council's decision but also reminding the DLC that the Parish Council would require regular updates on the financial aspects of the DLC, as previously requested by the Public.

The Clerk was asked to contact Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the issue of flooding in the recycling area, urging them to take early action as the flood was preventing access and use of the bins by parishioners.

- 6. To discuss street cleansing route changes following recent allowance increase-** deferred to next meeting.
- 7. To discuss pest control-** deferred to next meeting
- 8. To consider the temporary Road closure (High Street/Grace Church Street through to Primary School) for the Debenham Street Fayre on June 20th 2010 1am to 7pm-**It was

proposed by Cllr Voller, seconded by Cllr Blackwell and agreed by all that the Clerk would apply to MSDC for temporary road closure.

9. Planning

1. To consider applications for recommendation to MSDC
 - a) 0103/10 68 High Street, Debenham –Two storey rear extension to existing residential dwelling (amended design to 1383/08)- Clerk to contact the Planning Department for clarification of the measurements for the extension and how they may affect neighbouring properties. Deferred to next meeting.
 - b) 0459/10 70 Gracechurch Street-Two storey extension at rear of property-the application was approved subject to any comments from neighbouring properties, proposed by Cllr R Blackwell, seconded by Cllr Parnell and agreed by all.
2. Approvals received from MSDC-
 - a) 3256/09 – 15 Gracechurch Street , Listed Building Consent
 - b) 3575/09 – 15 Gracechurch Street , Planning Permission for the erection of a single storey rear extension.
3. Planning correspondence-none.

10. Finance

1. RFO report-a full report was presented at the meeting.
2. Bank mandate-update- The Clerk was waiting to hear from Barclays.
3. To adopt the revised Asset Register-deferred to next meeting
4. Any other finance business-none.

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

It was reported that the gate in Upper Gardeners Road cannot be opened or closed as the hinge was broken. Cllr Baldwin offered to investigate this matter and report back.

12. Meeting open to the Public

13. Any other business: information exchange/agenda requests only- It was reported that the new dog bin had been delivered and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr. N Moyce to fit it. The Clerk was also asked to contact Mr. N Moyce and request a quote for replacing the wooden slats in the iron framed Urn Garden bench.

The Clerk was also instructed to contact the Police regarding the driving and parking regulations near the Primary School. It was decided that this item needed Council approval and should, therefore, be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The Council were informed by Cllr Voller that the Woodland and Lake had been shortlisted to receive the "Creating the Greenest County" award, for which he was congratulated.

14. Date of next meeting: March 15th Ordinary.

15. 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

16. Employment matters-none

17. SK8499: update- see Confidential Minutes

There being no further business to be transacted after the confidential items were discussed, the meeting ended at 10:30pm

.....Chair

.....Date