

**DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL summary of meeting held
Monday 15 March 2010**

In response to the public outcry last year to the problems with the green next Lock Close, the Parish Council continues to investigate the options for ensuring its future as a public space including purchase. We are in discussion with the Crown Solicitor at present. Meanwhile our application to designate the area as a Village Green is in the hands of the Suffolk County Council solicitor. Any further news will be made available when possible.

A complaint was received from a parishioner regarding the level of the Parish Council's precept 2010/11. This shows an increase of 9.5% on last year on recently received council tax bills 2010/11. As reported in the January summary, this is largely due to recognition of village support for the Leisure Centre at the public meeting held January 2009. Financial support thus far for the Centre has been allocated from Parish Council reserves but in recognition of our ongoing support a sum of £5,000 has been included in the 2010/11 precept. All other budget head increases have been kept to a minimum or held at the same level taking into account specifically the sinking fund for the public lavatories, costs related to the purchase/registration of the Lock Close Green, a contribution towards the cost of grit bins and maintenance of the cemetery. For information, increases in previous years since 2005/06 have been as follows (approx):

2005/06 precept £45,998 = 15% increase on previous year (due to taking over management of WC's from Mid Suffolk District Council)

2006/07 precept £45,998 = 0% increase

2007/08 precept £49,370 = 7.3% increase

2008/09 precept £53,512 = 8.3% increase

2009/10 precept £56,383 = 5.3% increase

A breakdown of the budget 2010/11 is available to view on the website and displayed on the parish notice board.

There are still three remaining parish council vacancies. Existing members would welcome any interest from parishioners (18 years and over) in joining the council. Please contact the Clerk or any councillor for information.

A sum of £3,000 has been agreed from Parish Council reserves for the purchase of a new oil tank at the Leisure Centre. The existing tank is urgently in need of replacement. This amount was agreed after consideration of the various quotations obtained.

We would like to congratulate the Woodland Steering Group on having been short listed for the Creating the Greenest County Award in the Landscape and Biodiversity category, a huge achievement for the Group and the project.

Date of next meetings: Saturday Surgery, 3 April 2010, 10.30am – 12noon at Dove Cottage, please call in to discuss any queries you may have concerning the village.

12 April (planning/finance), 19 April (Ordinary) 26 April (Annual Parish Meeting)

