

Debenham Parish Council - Summary of Meeting held 16 February 2009

Contribution to Debenham Leisure Centre

Following the DLC Management Board request for Parish Council funding towards the running of the Centre, the Parish Council resolved at its January meeting to make a contribution of £15,000 from its reserves for the financial year 2009/10. We understood this payment could be made under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and we were seeking clearance of this from our governing body the National Association of Local Councils. We are now informed by them that due to a technicality involving charities we may not be able to donate under that Act. Pending clarification by the National Association (which could take some time, we are told) we have resolved to make a payment to the DLC under our Section 137 powers. This may involve a slightly lesser donation at this stage but acting in the interests of the DLC, and the support it received at the recent public meeting, we are hoping that the full contribution of £15,000 can be met within our powers.

We have asked NALC to look into this further and provide us with a solution for future reference.

Debenham Website

Sponsorship support of the Website has fallen resulting in a lack of funding to cover the running costs of the site. We appreciate this is a difficult time financially but the site offers an excellent advertising and communication point for the village, locally and worldwide, so please, all existing and new businesses, consider and sign up your continued support of the website. Please contact our Website Editor, Barry Woods at www.debenhamsuffolk.co.uk for information.

Friends of Sir Robert Hitcham School

A request was received from the Friends for a contribution from Parish funds towards the cost of a new play area and equipment estimated at £20,000. £6,000 has been raised by the Friends themselves and funding towards the remainder is being sought from other bodies. Our Members commended the Friends on their work and agreed a contribution of £1,000 towards the project.

Information Board – Cross Green

The Information Board containing the Debenham Village Trail is being updated by Mid Suffolk Tourist Board – we hope this will provide a useful information point for residents and visitors.

Parish Council Vacancies – there are still a number of vacancies on the Council. We would be pleased to hear from any parishioners 18 years and over who might be interested in joining the Council.

Dates of next meetings - 7.30pm at Dove Cottage unless stated otherwise :

Monday 9 March 2009 – Planning & Finance

Monday 16 March 2009 – Ordinary Meeting

Saturday 4 April 2009 – Surgery (please call in - Dove Cottage 10.30am – 12noon)

Monday 27 April 2009 – Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 12 May 2009 – Debenham Leisure Centre AGM 8pm at Leisure Centre