

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of meeting held Monday 18 January 2010

We are very pleased to report that Mrs Dina Bedwell, our Responsible Financial Officer for the last two years has taken over the joint roles of Parish Clerk and Finance Officer as of 18 January. Dina can be contacted at the Parish Council email address: debenham.pc@btinternet.com Dina is already familiar with a large part of the role and we wish her every success in her new position. As ever, we are very grateful to Mrs Carol Williamson for having stepped in to help us at such short notice.

Members approved a precept request of £61,290 for the next financial year 2010/11. This figure does represent an increase of 8.31% over last year but does take into account our support for the Leisure Centre and a new or refurbished skatepark in the village.

The ownership of the public lavatories has now been completed and transferred to the Parish Council, this is a well-used facility that must be maintained.

The purchase of five grit bins to be sited in areas in the village mostly affected by ice/snow was approved. County Cllr Eddy Alcock has offered a grant from his Locality Budget of up to 75% of the total cost for these. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Alcock for his offer. The majority of other budget expenditure has been kept to a minimum or no increase. A copy of the schedule setting out the budget for the coming year is available to view on the website or the Parish Council Notice Board.

We were obviously disappointed by the unnecessary damage caused to the Market Green Christmas tree and lights on New Year's Eve. The police are investigating but the suppliers of the tree lights have advised they are not repairable. We thank Cllrs Ian Baldwin, Richard Blackwell, Kevin Voller and his wife Vicky for removing and making the area safe so promptly.

The Lock Close application for Village Green status received one objection supported by a petition. The Council decided to continue with the application which, if successful, would ensure the Green remained open to the public and could not be developed or encroached upon.

Dates of next meetings: Monday 8 February (Planning & Finance), Ordinary Meeting Monday 15 February.