



DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL- January 2024

Renewable Energy: The last Parish Council meeting was very well attended, with most attendees keen to express their views on the agenda item concerning solar energy. The healthy debate that it created helped clarify several points.

At the March 2023 meeting, an application for £1,000 to fund a public meeting had not been approved because members had felt there were a number of questions which remained unanswered and would need to be addressed before the proposal could be validated or in a position to stand up to scrutiny. No other decisions have been made about the project to this day.

Suggestions that a community working party, with Parish Council representation, should be formed to look at the various options and to carry out a feasibility study were well received, so the subject is expected to feature in future agendas.

Membership: We would like to welcome Councillor Ian Collins as our newest member. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish former Cllrs M Hammond and M Carpenter, who recently left, all the best.

Debenham Traffic and Parking Issues: A meeting between Cllr M Hicks and Parish Councillors was held to discuss several areas identified as potential considerations for inclusion in a Traffic Regulation Order, or that would benefit from improvements. The process is likely to take at least eighteen months as it is subject to legalities and public

consultations. More details of the scheme will be available to the parish in due course.

Funding: The Parish Council approved a funding application from the Debenham Green Team to support their efforts in monitoring the water along the river Deben. The samples collected are analyzed by the University of Suffolk in a ground-breaking research project that will record the history and health of a river from its source to the river mouth. This is a multi-organisation project which our Council was delighted to be able to support.

Planned works: The Parish Council is currently in the process of getting quotes for a number of works in the village. We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused once these works are in progress. The areas affected are as follows:

- Public conveniences – The facilities will be fully refurbished and will be closed for a short period. We will confirm the dates as soon as we can.
- Willow tree behind the bus Shelter (corner of Water Lane) - The tree will be cut back significantly to clear dead wood.
- URC Cemetery (southern boundary line) - The overgrown brambles and other vegetation will be cut back.
- Recreation Ground – Subject to funding, we hope to complete the project by Summer '24, just in time for the school holidays.

Debenham Emergency Fund: We have set up a fund to help victims of Storm Babet and would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to anyone who has donated so far. For further details on how to donate or apply, please contact the Parish Council.

Our next meeting will take place on **February 19th, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**, at Dove Cottage.

Mrs Dina Bedwell, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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