

Debenham Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Debenham Parish Council held on Monday, 22nd of April 2024, at 7:00 pm, Dove Cottage, High Street, Debenham.

Present: Cllrs F Winrow-Giffin (Chair), K Barlow (Vice-chair), L Cockerton, A Finnissy, L Robbins, G Helm, J Sweet, Ian Collins, K Grimshaw, Mrs D Bedwell (Parish Clerk), District Cllr T Davis, and two members of the public

DPC/24/63: To consider apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs S Phipps and J Baldwin, which were approved by Council.

DPC/24/64: Declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda: None received.

DPC/24/65: Public participation section: There were no comments from the public.

DPC/24/66: Finance and Administration

- a) To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the AGAR Part 2) for the Year ended 31 March 2024: It was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement.
- b) To approve the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (includes accounts for Quarter 4): It was resolved to approve the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.
- c) To approve the Asset Register for the year ended 31 March 2024: It was resolved to approve the Asset Register for 2024.
- d) To approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the AGAR Part 2) for the year ended 31 March 2024: It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, following a minor amendment to the Total Assets section (from £264,543 to £264,546).
- e) To consider contingency provisions: It was resolved to approve a contingency emergency expenditure of £2,500 for employment matters.

County Cllr M Hicks provided members with a brief update on the Traffic Regulation Order presentation which had been deferred from the previous meeting. As the process was still in its initial stages, it was agreed that the deferred presentation should take place ahead of the next Parish Council meeting, at 6:30 pm on May 20th 2024. This would allow members the opportunity to review the draft proposal and analyse the relevant maps ahead of the public consultation process. Cllr F Winrow-Giffin asked Cllr M Hicks to thank the SCC Highways Officer who had been supporting the process on the Parish Council's behalf.

Cllr M Hicks also took the opportunity to thank and bid farewell to the Parish Clerk, as this was their last meeting, and praised her on being highly efficient over the ten-year period during which he had been in office.

Cllr J Sweet referred to an earlier note from the Parish Clerk recommending an increase in the Fidelity Guarantee, as it currently stood at £250,000, but following the receipt of CIL funds, the total held currently stood at over £290,000. The Clerk informed the Council that she had already requested an increase to the Fidelity Guarantee as a prudent measure due to the potential risks of not doing so. Confirmation should be received from the Insurers in due course.

DPC/24/67: Date of the next meeting: 13th May 2024 (Annual Parish Meeting); 20th May 2024 (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

With no matters to be transacted, the meeting ended at 7:20 pm.

Signed:..... dated:.....