

**Denham Parish Council**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
Notes and Minutes**

**Held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 at 7.00pm, at St John Baptist Church, Denham.**

**Present:** Cllrs Tania Farrow, Nick Farrow and Kerina Jane, Duncan McGregor, the Clerk Wendy Alcock and 3 members of the public attended the meeting

**Annual Parish Meeting**

1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  None
2	<b>Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 13, 2021</b>  It was agreed the minutes would be re-circulated together with the current minutes
3	<b>Chair's welcome, introduction and report on 2020/21</b> See full report in Appendix A
4	<b>Reports from the Church and other local organisations, including if appropriate the District and County Council</b>  <b>District Councillor Report – Matthew Hicks</b> was present.  Council Tax was frozen for 2022/23 along with housing and garage rental charges. Tenants rent has gone up by 4.1%  Ukraine – Suffolk CC working together. Properties of volunteers are inspected for suitability before payments can be made to the fostering families. Congratulations to all involved.  MSDC is reducing the amount of office space rented at Endeavor House.  Environment – 18k subscribe to the garden waste scheme. Waste fleet to non-fossil fuel. 45% HH waste sent for re-use, recycling. Fly tips collected within 48 hours.  3312 homes in MSDC have solar panels.  DM – asked about progress at Paddock House Eye. MH to find out more details.

	<p>TG – Is still awaiting a response from Planning Officer Philip Isbell and asked if this could be progressed. MH asked to TG to send a request to him for an additional meeting.</p> <p>MOP asked about grass cutting on quiet lanes and if the frequency would be increased. MH environmental reasons for keeping the verges uncut.</p> <p>MOP asked about the issue of speeding traffic on the country lanes. MH responded that this would be a police matter. PC to monitor at harvest time.</p> <p><b>County Councillor</b> report from Cllr Gould has been submitted but Cllr Gould was unable to attend. The report has been published on the parish website for information.</p> <p>Report from <b>St John Baptist Church</b> – Helen Joslin PCC Secretary presented the report of activities at the Church. The full report has been published on the parish website for information.</p> <p>Report from the <b>Tree Warden Association</b> – The full report has been published on the parish website for information. It was noted that David Flowerdew has been TW for 25 years. It was felt that the parish should commemorate his service and establish his position going forward as Tree Warden.</p> <p>Report from Simon Green, Community Engagement Officer, <b>Suffolk Constabulary</b>. The full report has been published on the parish website for information</p> <p>TG would like to thank the Red Feather Club for their donations to the Village Hall from dance classes held at the club.</p>
5	<p><b>An opportunity for discussion based on any issues residents of the Parish wish to raise</b></p> <p>MOP asked about Blue Badge which has been charged but not received. KJ agreed to look into this issue.</p>
6	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>May 23 2023, details to be confirmed.</p>

## Appendix A

### Chairs Report- Denham Parish Council

This has been another challenging year for the Parish Council. We started the year with only three Councillors after Jane Gilmore stepped down. As we have run the Council with one Council member short over the last 5 years, we were delighted when Duncan McGregor agreed to join the Council in May. We do however still need a 5<sup>th</sup> Councillor and would encourage anyone who may be interested in supporting the Council to inform Wendy, our new Parish Clerk.

In the County council elections, Peter Gould became our new Councillor and Matthew Hicks remained in his role as District Councillor and we have continued to work closely with both of them on issues affecting the Parish.

We have continued to consider local planning applications and have been active in wider involvement by commenting on applications that are leading to an increase in poultry rearing sites across the district. We have also been particularly active in supporting residents with complaints linked to the operation of the Denham Feed Mill. We have represented residents concerns to both the District and County council in relation to the noise, traffic, road and verge damage and environmental impacts of the mill and this work is continuing. We have also continued to monitor the speed of vehicles along the main Hoxne Road, and the speed indicator appears to be moderating traffic speeds.

Over the course of this year, we, in conjunction with Hoxne, successfully applied for Quiet Lanes designation for both the Denham Low Road from Shingle Hill Corner to the Hoxne Primary School and from the Low Road Junction with Church Road, with Hoxne Rd. We have completed all the necessary stages and are now awaiting signage to be installed.

Throughout the year we have maintained a constant focus on moving forward with the renovation of the Village Hall. In conjunction with the Denham Community Council, a charity in which all Councillors have invested significant additional time to support, £22,000 has been raised with another £15,000 dedicated to the project. The Parish Council has also secured another £28,000 of funding, the first £10,000 of which has now been agreed for release against the replacement of the roof which we hope will be completed before the summer. We have a grant application that is currently with the national lottery and which we should hear the result of shortly. Failing that we will continue to fundraise and another £15,000 would allow us to move forward with phase 2 of the project.

In October the Council was shocked by the sudden death of Rod Caird, our Parish Clerk. Rod had been with the council since 2018 and had supported the Parish throughout the pandemic. He was a wonderful character, and he is still greatly missed by the Parishes he served. After 5 months without a Clerk, we were fortunate to appoint Wendy Alcock who has a wealth of experience in local government and has been able to hit the ground running. Due to the reduced expenditure over that period, we accrued additional reserves which allowed us not to significantly increase the precept this year. However, having fully reviewed the governance of the committee it is likely that there will need to be a significant increase next year to support the effective functioning of the Council.

As the year end approached, the Parish Council worked with the Community Council to make plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Details of the event to be held on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June from 1:30 pm at Greenlands Farm opposite the village hall. Please join us if you can to for a Right Royal Garden Party with afternoon tea, strawberries and cream and cocktails or a beer. There will be traditional music from local musicians and an old fashioned sing along. We look forward to celebrating this historic occasion with you all.

Signed by Chair  
Tania Farrow

Signed by Clerk  
Wendy Alcock

Date:

DRAFT

Signed by Chair  
Tania Farrow

Signed by Clerk  
Wendy Alcock

Date: 4