

Parish of Dennington in the County of East Suffolk.

Chairman's Report 2017/2018 Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2018



Winter Feb/March 2018

May I welcome you to the 2018 Dennington Annual Parish Meeting.

During the year, the Parish Council has held five Meetings of the Council and as a result has been engaged in a number of activities or projects over these past 12 months, some of the content I wish to share with you tonight.

Dennington Parish Council has nine elected members; these nine Councillors act independently of any political influences. I must thank each Councillor for placing their trust in me over the past year. I would also like to thank those Councillors who have taken on the various appointments on behalf on the Council.

I would also like to thank Katherine Whitbread, my Vice Chairman, who has supported me over the past year, Katherine has stepped in to chair planning in my absence.

This is the seventh year we have enjoyed the services of Ruth Hart our Parish Clerk she still continues to do a sterling job for us.

Ruth has to ensure that the Council Business is run in a strict and efficient manner, which incidentally has to comply with the law of the land, in particular the Law of Local Government.

I am again pleased to inform you that Ruth has completed and presented the 2017/2018 accounts and obtained approval from our internal auditor as well as the Local government auditor.

I am also pleased to report that this past year both these audit professionals have approved our books with complimentary comments. This again goes to show how lucky we are to have such a dedicated and efficient Parish clerk.

RISK MANAGEMENT HEALTH & SAFETY.

Risk is inherent in all our corporate and personal activities, and we, the Council are no different, a comprehensive set of risk assessments have been carried out to cover all Councils activities.

The Parish Council has updated its own Health & Safety Policy and believes that the adoption of a formal approach to risk management will improve decision-making, performance and accountability.

PLANNING.

The Clerk receives notice of all planning applications from SCDC following this, the Clerk then calls a meeting of the Council, the Council normally has 21 days to meet and respond.

The Clerk then has to publicise notice of the meeting in the Parish in accordance with the local government act. The statutory requirement for notification for these meetings is three clear days' notice.

During the year, there were 12 planning meetings, four more than last year. Councillors considered 18 planning applications, 13 were supported and 3 were recommended for refusal. 3 withdrawn.

- **Glen House White House farm** - Side extension – approval.
- **Spring farm House**- removal of French doors replacement of windows – approval.
- **Shortacre, Saxtead Rd** - change of use of former paddocks to residential, develop 2 private custom build residential properties - refused - application later withdrawn.
- **Bell House, Laxfield Rd** - demolish existing garage and outbuildings, new rear extension - approval
- **Wynneys Farmhouse** - conversion of barn with underground rooms - approved
- **Grange Farm, Laxfield Rd** - conversion of outbuildings to 3 holiday lets and studio - approved
- **Severalls, Severalls Lane** - 2 storey rear extension and outdoor swimming pool - approved, later withdrawn
- **White House Farm, Saxtead Rd** - agricultural machinery store - approved
- **Greenways Barn, Owls Green** - proposed extension, front porch canopy plus bedroom to rear - approved
- **Granary Barn, Church Farm** - various internal structural timbers, windows, doors - approved
- **Oaklands, Laxfield RD** - campsite - refused, later withdrawn
- **Bamfield, Saxtead Rd** - various single storey extensions - approved
- **The Fields, The Street** - proposed new dwelling - refused
- **Wynneys Hall** - extension to gym - approved
- **Village Hall** - entrance canopy, raised paved terrace, PV panels, - approved
- **Grange Farm, Laxfield Rd** - 2 storey hipped roof extension to rear, erection of lean to etc - approved
- **Wynneys Hall**- erection of new chapel - refused
- **Severalls, Severalls Lane** - erection of 2 storey rear extension, single storey side extension, plus swimming pool – approved.

Further information can be found on the Suffolk Coastal planning portal.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHEN THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER A PLANNING APPLICATION?

The Parish Council must be consulted on all Planning applications and it has legal duty to give notice on all planning meetings.

An agenda is placed on the Parish Notice Boards. One situated on the West side of the Clothes Peg shop wall, one at Owls Green and the other on the wall of Fidoes Cottage, Laxfield Road.

The Council has a policy which allows residents to speak at planning meetings before planning applications are discussed. Members of the Council will consider the views of objectors and supporters before making a decision on the application.

I NEED TO SPEAK AT THE PLANNING MEETING?

You can submit your views in writing well in advance of the meeting by e-mailing the clerk. If you wish you can telephone the Clerk, Mrs Ruth Hart (01728) 685622 at least 48 hours before the meeting starts if you wish to speak about the planning application.

Generally, each speaker will be given a maximum of 3 minutes. In the case of more than one objector or supporter wishing to speak, 3 minutes for each relevant group.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS.

The Square - reported on worn or missing Central Road reflector pads (cats eyes) on double bends. Replaced.

The Square – Illegible white lines though village and at both junctions of A1120 and B1116 – Replaced.

Buttons Hill - reported overgrown hedge covering chevron sign. Sign barely visible. Hedge has now been cut back.

Buttons Hill – Damaged bend sign post – post replaced.

Frozley Bridge – road ruts and wearing away – reported

Potholes - various - ongoing problem reporting these as they occur via SCC's electronic reporting system.

B1116 overhanging hedge onto highway obstructing view to 30mph sign and bend – reported to highways – occupier dealt.

Footpath 20 - overgrown vegetation along path landowner dealt - **Footpath 20** blocked pipe under footpath reported to highways - outstanding.

Swainston Way - highway verge damaged by vehicles – reported

Speed Enforcement Van. a number of visit have been made with prosecutions for excess speed one vehicle speed was recorded at just over 40 mph.

A1120 Maypole green junction – flooding several times onto highway - reported.

A1120/B1116 – faded signage - reported.

Road signs and Directional signs. Have you noticed when driving through the village most of the signs were dirty and some covered with vegetation, take a look now, not anymore, I have cleaned them.



Before.



After.

Frozley Bridge restricted visibility. Following a number of accidents at B1118 junction – I had a meeting with two County Councillors and Brundish PC to see what could be done to make the junction safe.

Thanks to an agreement with Dennington Hall farms they will make additional cuts to those that SCC carry out and cut the grass verge back to the hedge boundary during the year as needed to enhance visibility. (first cut was carried out early in May of this year.)

Saxtead Road - Councillors and residents are still concerned about the increasing number of vehicles that have been parking on the highway verge abutting the A1120 on Saxtead Rd/Swainston Way. The Council asked SCC to deal with a Caravan which was parked on the verge at Blyth Villas We have asked Suffolk County Council if they could write a letter to the residents, informing them, of the legal consequences about parking on highway verges.

B1116 Laxfield road - parking in Laxfield Road and to junction of A1120, notably at beginning and end of school day, in 2017 we wrote to the school and requested that they remind parents about safe and considerate parking, in 2018 this is still a problem.

Village Square and pond site. This year, 2018, Vehicles have yet again damaged two oak posts in the village square. I have repositioned these, replaced the chain hooks and hopefully made these posts more secure by placing them in concrete.

During the past year the posts around the pond site have also been damaged this has been caused by motorists parking too close, we have now removed these posts and laid new kerbs from the shelter to the Church gates. Completed late March 2018.



New kerbs from the shelter to the Church gates.

Dead Elm Trees Sports field car park. Three elm trees which were subject to Dutch Elm disease have now been felled.

Capons Green – a large poplar tree which had previously been poorly lopped to give clearance to the overhead electrical cables was inspected by our tree surgeon this year and although was safe it was decided to fell this tree to prevent any possible damage that may occur to these cables and nearby property.

Police. Wrote to Police Commissioner objecting to the increase in the police community charge levied as there has been a notable lack of police presence and poor police response in rural communities.

The Litter pick should have taken place on 30th April but was cancelled at short notice due to the forecast of inclement weather, a revised date has yet to be fixed.

Dog Fouling. Following complaints from residents and the allotment society it has become apparent that dog fouling on the Village Green, round the allotments and the Playing field is continuing to be a problem.

There are plenty of doggy bins located around the village, The District Council will now allow the use of the standard waste bins for people to place their doggy waste in, provided it is placed in tied bags. SCDC and the Parish Council will be monitoring the situation. This is a criminal offence under the public space legislation SCDC will prosecute any offenders.



Rob at work painting the sign.

Village sign – after a close inspection of the sign it was noticed that the metal frame was rusted completely through and the sign was in danger of collapsing. The sign was originally made by Harry Moore in the Eighties, his two sons Nigel and Robert carried out a complete refurbishment of the sign along with replacing the external steel frame. The sign was then repainted by Rob Staff, and erected in April this year. Nigel, Robert and Rob have carried out the work repairing and repainting the sign at no cost to the Council.



The new bench placed on the village pond site.

Pond site bench, the one made from recycled plastic bottles, has been moved and placed on a number of concrete slabs this is to prevent the bench from sinking and distorting.

Defibrillator. Dennington Consolidated Charities gave £1500 to purchase a defibrillator for the village, this has now been installed in the Coronation Shelter in the Square. The defibrillator is now live and registered with the East of England ambulance service.

Telephone Box. The Parish Council has adopted the red telephone Box at Owls Green which it now owns. Councillor John Calver has agreed to refurbish and repaint telephone Box in traditional Post Office red.

County Councillor Burroughes has agreed to provide funding in 2018 out of his locality budget for the Council to purchase a defibrillator which will be installed in the Owls Green telephone box after it has been refurbished.



The Jubilee seat which was placed at the back of the pond site and 40 years on, was suffering from an attack of moss and tree stains. After pressure washing and reoiling the seat along with minor repairs, the seat has come up like new. Having now realised that in 1977. I placed this seat in the wrong place. I have now moved the seat to a better location on the village green away from trees

SCDC -From 2016/17 our District Councillor was asked to investigate/locate in the SCDC 1980/90's housing committee transfer agreement papers, where the Parish Council was granted local housing nomination rights for Orwell properties in Swainston Way. - this is still outstanding.

Consolidated Charities. The Council appointed Robert Rous as our nominative trustee to Dennington Consolidated Charities.

Budget & Precept.

Following discussions, councillors agreed to raise the precept by 1.5% in line with inflation from £8,500 to £8.892 for 2018/19.

Councillors agreed that they should continue paying the SCDC community charge rate for the recreation field.

Councillors made the following donations: -

£300 village hall. Year 2016/17 £300 - £500 *Village Hall Refurbishment.*

£300 Dennington Sports Club. Year 2016/17 £300

£450 external church lighting. Year 2016/17 £440

£55 CAB. Year 2016/17 £55

£55 Air Ambulance. Year 2016/17 £55



Dennington Parish Council Web Site. <http://www.dennington.suffolk.cloud> will contain all of the relevant Parish Council information including minutes, agendas, reports, photographs and other useful village organisation contacts.

In the last 90 days, there have been approximately 340 regular and short-term users of the site - mostly from UK, but also USA and Australia where there is also a town called Dennington.

There are over 100 regular users and it is hoped that this number will increase as we try to develop the site as a source of information for the benefit of parishioners.

In addition, there are various links within the site which connect to the school, and church web sites.

Shirley Cunningham is the designated administrator manager of the site, any events or matters of local interest including other suitable Parish web links can be included on the site.

I must thank Shirley for continuing to be the web administrator and taking control of the site on behalf of the Council.

Employees. Finally, I must thank our employees; they do a sterling job in all weathers, keeping the village neat and tidy. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

Firstly, David Wright, David takes control of the weeds along the village footpaths.

Rob and Jane Staff have done a magnificent job in painting the Coronation Shelter, took over three days to complete, he has not charged the Council for their labour.

Roy Steward who provides a substantial amount of diesel throughout the year, free of charge for the Councils Mower which is used to cut the Village Green and recreational field.

I must thank Councillor Kathy Whitbread the Council's tree warden, who looks after the trees which are placed all around the village.

I am extremely grateful to Ian Mann, he spends a lot of time cutting the grass in the centre of the village, this is being done at no cost to the Council, Ian has also rotovated and seeded the area around the pond site in the square.

Lastly, **Snow clearing**. following the heavy snowfall, we had in late February and early March, I would like to thank our farmers, their employees and those businesses who either provided tractors or just turned out to clear snow and drifts from the roads around the village, I am led to believe that in some instances, this work was carried out without payment to the individuals concerned.

I would also like to thank those who helped vulnerable people and their neighbours in the village to clear paths and pavements and furthermore ensuring contact was made to see if they were all OK. in addition to this, the help that was given to residents who couldn't get to the shops for food or attend the doctors for appointments, this certainly has been appreciated.

This is why I can say, Dennington is a great place to live, in times like this we can rely on everybody to pull together and work as a team.

Your help has been very much appreciated, Thank you.



Robert C.T. Wardley May 21st 2018