

Draft Minutes of
Dennington
Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 17th May 2021 at 7pm
Dennington Jubilee Hall



1. **Matthew Lunn, as Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.** Apologies for absence were received from Peter Lamb. Rebecca Fox advised that she would be late to the meeting as she was working.
Present:
Parish Councillors:
Matthew Lunn (Chairman), Robert Wardley, Nick Watts, John Calver, Sam Steward, Rebecca Fox (*during item 11*), Tom Mountain, Doris Dearing, Mary Mann
L. Kirk (minute taker) & six residents
2. **The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th July 2020 were noted and signed by ML.**
3. **Parish Council**
Matt Lunn gave his first report as Chair of the Parish Council. He was pleased with how well the village has continued to work to look out for each other, and for the businesses that have offered free local delivery during lock-downs and to those self-isolating. He thanked volunteers who have continued to work hard through the year, and named some individuals.
He was pleased to report that the Parish Council had a full cohort of Councillors again, with Rebecca Fox joining the Council since the last APM. He thanked Councillors for giving their time voluntarily to look after village affairs. The Parish Council has managed to freeze the precept for 2021/2022 at £9,998.
4. **Reports from Local Government Representatives:**
 - i. **Suffolk County Council**
There was no report from Stephen Burroughes.
 - ii. **Ward Councillor**
Maurice Cook provided a written Annual Report before the meeting, which ML precised. Since the report was issued it has been announced that Lydia Freeman has been elected the other Councillor for the Framlingham Ward and she will be Dennington's main point of contact.
5. **Reports from Village Clubs and Organisations**
 - i. **DENNINGTON C.E.V.C.P. SCHOOL**
#No report received
 - ii. **DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

Joanne Cartwright, the new Chair of the Village Hall, provided a report. The past year has been challenging for the Village Hall but the committee have been focused on keeping the Hall in the best possible condition for a safe and secure re-opening.

She thanked the Committee and other personnel who have helped put the Hall in a strong financial position despite not being able to open for most of 2020. Grant funding totalling nearly £26,000 has been secured and the Committee are discussing ways of spending some of this money. A copy of the full financial report will soon be made available from the Treasurer.

Jo thanked Jo Denton and James Maberley for their help with the new Village Hall website and its online booking system. She also thanked Vashti Mouncer for all her hard work as Hall Bookings Manager.

The Committee are organising a fete on 17th July, which will be a chance for the village community to get together once again and they are pleased to confirm that each hall user group from the village should be taking part.

New curtains in the hall now provide more privacy to hall users and give warmth in winter. The kitchen blinds will be finished soon and delivery of the new chair pads is awaited, although this has been severely delayed.

Jo thanked the committee for continuing to work tirelessly behind the scene and coping with everything that has happened over the last 15 months. She is looking forward to a more sociable 2021 and taking a more active role within the Dennington Community.

iii DENNINGTON SPORTS CLUB

ML read a written report from Roy Steward. It has been a quiet year for the Sports Club due to the Covid pandemic but due to grant funding obtained by Charles Denton, the tennis courts have been resurfaced and the children's play area will hopefully be upgraded. The Sports Club has continued to support the Bowls club which is looking for new members. It is hoped that the Friday night club can start up again soon.

A resident asked if a new Secretary had been found yet. They are still looking but encouraged people looking to get involved in the village to make contact.

iii. DENNINGTON CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

Peter Lamb provided a written report from the Trust for the period to May 2021, which was read by Robert Wardley. Due to the restrictions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic there have been few calls upon the Charities in this period although grants for education purposes and Christmas were made to those resident in the village who meet the specified criteria. The Trustees met twice as a body, first in September and again in October 2020. As part of their discussions the trustees considered a report from the land agent concerning the possibility of the Badingham playschool relocating onto Charity land and they received representations from the playschool trustees. *RW confirmed that this application has now been approved at a recent Planning Committee.*

v. DENNINGTON ALLOTMENT AND GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

A written report was provided by Pamela Turner and John Jarvie.

Once again the Allotment has had to adapt to the continuing weather variants this past winter and, in particular, this spring. The consistent chill and almost total lack of rain for most of March and April prevented an early start to the season's planting. However, the allotment continues to thrive and is now looking at its best with all of the plots prepared and ready for the new season.

Last summer members produced a great variety of crops and are looking forward to another productive season this year. They also look forward to participating in the forthcoming Village Fete this year when they will have the opportunity to display some of their produce, and to meeting up with other villagers.

Unfortunately there has been a recent spate of dog fouling around the perimeter of the Allotment and we will position new 'Reminder' signs on the gates and fencing.

Once again we thank Robert Wardley for providing his grass mowing skills throughout the year, and we also thank Nick Watts for maintaining the perimeter trees, hedging and ditches.

They were pleased to confirm that they now have full occupancy of the Allotment, with two enquiries on the waiting list. The finances remain in good order with the Treasurer maintaining a cash balance of just over £900.

Furthermore, they hope to get the school involved and have children visit the allotments soon.

vi. WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Jenny Dyne provided a brief written report. The WI has not been able to hold face-to-face meetings since March 2020, but members have kept in touch via monthly zoom meetings. Some meetings have had a guest speaker and others have been a social coffee morning. It is hoped to hold an outdoor meeting in July, and for the WI to take part in the village fete.

Copies of all written reports can be found on the village website and will be filed with the minutes.

6. Open Forum

Jo Denton provided a brief update on the Horticultural Society. The H.S will be hosting a flower shower at the summer fete and everyone is welcome to take part. Some verges on the village green near The Neathouse have now been re-wilded. The Society's next meetings are July, September and November.

The 100 club is looking for a new co-ordinator and is hoping to re-start from 21st June. *The clerk will ask for this to be advertised on the website.*

Robert Rous wanted Dennington to remain a smart village and urged the Parish Council to take on responsibility for some jobs that historically SCC have completed but which funding no longer allows such as signage repairs/replacement in order for the village to continue looking well-kept. *Matt Lunn responded that we are continuing to correspond with SCC re signage and agreed that we must work together to keep the village looking smart.*

2022 will be the Platinum Jubilee and nationwide tree planting is planned for the event. Robert Rous thought this would be the ideal opportunity to plant a parish wood, perhaps near to where the playschool will be built. He hoped this might also be a project that younger residents might get involved with. *Matt Lunn confirmed that we have started setting funds aside for significant national occasions and that tree planting plans can be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.*

A resident was disappointed to see that there is still the gap in the church hedgerow, years after the car accident. *Robert Rous confirmed that this was replanted in summer, but it was such a dry period that the hedging had died.*

The resident also asked if the missing sign on Framlingham Road could be replaced and noted that the debris was still there. *ML responded that these signs cost £1000s, and one sign would be a large percentage of our annual precept but that SCC are carrying out a review on their sign replacement work.*

One resident asked if more dog bins could be located in the village, particularly around the allotments, or if the existing bins could be emptied more frequently. *The Parish Council will raise this at a future meeting.*

The allotment would be very glad to receive wood chippings. *Rebecca Fox said that her partner should be able to provide regular supplies.*

The meeting was closed at 7.56 pm