

Draft Minutes of
Dennington
Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 9th May 2022 at 7pm
Dennington Jubilee Hall



1. **Matthew Lunn, as Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.**
2. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Ward Councillors Cook and Freeman, Charles & Jo Denton, Roy Steward, Jenny Dyne, Penny Evers and Doris Dearing.

Present:

Matthew Lunn, Robert Wardley, Nick Watts, John Calver, Sam Steward, Charys Rushbrook, Mark Kendall, Pamela Turner, John Jarvie, Vashti Mouncer, Peter Lamb, Robert Rous, Geraldine Schofield, Shirley Cunningham, Jo Cartwright, Lydia Kirk (minute taker)

All written reports will be filed with the minutes and can be found on the village website.

3. **The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2021 were noted.**
4. **Parish Council**
The Chair of the Parish Council thanked various volunteers who give up their time and work hard to keep the village special. Full details of these volunteers can be found in the written report. He also noted that as well as the Platinum Jubilee, 2022 is also a special year as it is Robert Wardley's 50th year on the Parish Council.
He was pleased to confirm that the Parish Council received an Enabling Communities grant in order to purchase a second Speed Indicator Device. The Parish Council has effectively frozen its precept.

4. **Reports from Local Government Representatives:**

- i. **Suffolk County Council**

- Stephen Burroughes provided a comprehensive Annual Report before the meeting, which ML précised.

- ii **Ward Councillor**

- Maurice Cook provided a written Annual Report before the meeting, which ML précised.

5. **Reports from Village Clubs and Organisations**

- i. **DENNINGTON C.E. SCHOOL**

The Headteacher, Charys Rushbrook, provided a verbal report. The school is currently well subscribed, with 78 pupils and two more joining next week. The intake for September is lower than normal, which is possibly linked to the preschool being located in Framlingham currently. The school community is looking forward to celebrating the Jubilee and there will be a Garden Party on the 27th May. New fencing has recently been erected around the school, and additional fencing will be installed over the summer holidays. Initial surveys have been conducted regarding a crossing near the school and letters are regularly sent out to parents asking them to park considerately. The school is pleased to now be operating as normal post-covid.

ii. **DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL** *Jo Cartwright had hoped to give a report in person but was delayed so Matt Lunn read her report.*

The Hall is back in full use following lock-downs and restrictions. It is busy most days with various clubs and organisations regularly using the Hall. The Village Hall has established a strong reputation for a well-functioning, well managed Hall that attracts hirers from not only within Dennington but surrounding areas. The Hall remains in a strong financial position and has received over £10,000 in additional Covid grants this year. The Trustees are considering a number of maintenance and improvement projects and also will be monitoring utility expenditure. She thanked Mrs Mary Mann and Mrs Anne Keyes who have stepped down as Trustees. She thanked the other Trustees who give their time and energy to support the management of the Hall for the community.

Pamela Turner gave a report on the 100 Club that is ran by the Village Hall Committee. She took over the club 8 months ago and it currently has 108 members who each pay £12 per year. Half of the funds raised go to the Village Hall and the other half goes as prize money. The draw is held on the last Thursday of the month during the village coffee morning. May is the start of the club's year and subs are now due.

iii **DENNINGTON SPORTS CLUB**

A financial report was received from the Sports Club. The Club has a healthy bank balance currently but it was noted that funds are soon spent when a project is started.

iii. **DENNINGTON CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES**

Peter Lamb provided a verbal report from the Trust for the period to May 2022. The Trustees met three times over the year. The number of grants given at Christmas has remained static over the last few years, but the number of higher educational grants has shown a decline. The Trust has continued to support the church restoration fund and it donates a bible to Year 6 pupils leaving the primary school. It has also supported the Parish Council and Sports Club with a donation to be used for the future purchase of a replacement mower to cut the village's green areas. The Trustees are very supportive of the pre-school that will be built on its land opposite the Village Hall and building works are due to commence in the next few weeks. The Trust is in contact with Suffolk Wildlife Trust who are providing ideas of how to use other areas of the charity's land.

v. **DENNINGTON ALLOTMENT AND GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION**

John Jarvie provided a report from the Allotment Association. They are very grateful to the Consolidated Charity for letting them use its land, and also to Nick Watts for maintaining the perimetres and Robert Wardley for cutting the grass. The allotments are currently fully occupied and look well presented. The Association joined in with the village fete celebrations and many visitors complimented the allotments. Storm Eunice did not do too much damage to the allotments, but Mark Kendall kindly cleared away some small trees that fell down. There is £850 in the current account.

vi. **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** *A written report was provided.*

The WI has now returned to face-to-face meetings, but in the main hall to help with social distancing measures and currently only 50% of members are re-attending. The committee was re-elected on mass at November' AGM. The Christmas get-together had a new format and there have been interesting monthly talks. The WI is looking forward to holding a centenary tea party in August, and hopes as the year progresses more members will return to meetings.

vii. **There was no report from the Coffee Morning club.**

viii. **DENNINGTON HORTICULTURAL CLUB**

A written report was provided. Having been inactive during lockdown, the Club held a Flower and Produce Show at the Village Fete last July and will now make this a biennial event. 300 Daffodil, tulip and narcissi bulbs have been planted near The Neathouse, as have 270 red, white and blue wildflower plugs to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. The group started its meetings again in September and their next meeting is on 18th May when they will be seeing rewilding at Robert Rous's farm.

6. Open Forum

Some questions were asked about the Consolidated Charities Trust, including about eligibility for the Christmas grants and where these grants are advertised. Robert Wardley will do a notice to go on the village website about the Trust. There is a flyer up in The Neathouse and the village noticeboard. It was suggested that the primary school could also inform parents in the village about the grants, and the governors at Thomas Mills and Stradbroke High Schools be informed of the Higher Education Grants to pass to ex-pupils who might benefit from the grant. Peter Lamb advised that older people in the village with savings of less than £16,000 were eligible to receive a grant at Christmas. It was suggested that this should also be advertised in the parish newsletter.

More questions were asked about the history of the Consolidated Charities Trust, how it came about and its aims. One resident noted that there was an article many years ago in the village newsletter. Peter Lamb will try to find this, and for it then to go on the village website, and in the next newsletter.

One resident noted that the hole in the church hedge is still there years after the motor accident and Matt Lunn responded that the Parish Council continue to chase this and it is most frustrating.

The same resident asked how long it would take for the playschool to be built, when would it be likely to open, and would the preschool be responsible for cutting the hedge near the allotments. Matt Lunn will ask the playschool to keep the Allotment Association up-to-date with timeframes, and also for them to put updates in the village newsletter. It was agreed to ask the playschool to attend the next Annual Parish Meeting. The playschool will sign up to a 25 year lease of the land, and then after this the building will belong to the Consolidated Charities. Peter Lamb advised that the lease has not yet been signed and that the lease will contain references as to hedge cutting responsibilities.

The meeting was closed at 8.10pm