

Robert C. T. Wardley.
Chairman's Report
2018/2019
For the Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2019



An aerial view of our village.

INTRODUCTION:

Good evening everyone. Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

I would also like to welcome representatives from organisations within the village they are here to give reports, I know you will find what they have to say interesting.

Councillors are elected to serve you, and to look after village affairs, I must thank those Councillors who have given their time voluntary to represent the village over the past four years.

This being the first meeting of the newly elected Council.

I would like to welcome back those Councillors, who have agreed to stand following the recent elections.

This has been an uncontested parish election; the parish Council should consist of nine Councillors during the next few weeks the clerk will be giving notice of a casual vacancy.

I must thank all councillors for their trust & support which they have placed in me over the past year. I would also like to thank those Councillors who have taken on various appointments on behalf on the Council.

PLANNING:

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

Planning Applications, which we consider at the Parish Council Planning Meetings, we do allow applicants and objectors to speak about planning applications subject to informing the clerk.

Each speaker is given a maximum of 3 minutes. The time must be allocated to a spoke's person or shared between all speakers for each group.

Speakers will not be allowed under any circumstances to exceed this time limit. Further information is contained on the Parish Council web site.

Decisions made by the Council are as follows:

14 Planning applications and 2 tree conservation work.

DC/18/1750	The Fields, proposed alterations and 1 st floor extensions - recommend approval.
DC/18/1816	White House, Owls Green, single storey and 2 storey extension recommend approval.
DC/18/2960	Church Cottage, alteration to bathroom window, extension to dining room - recommend approval.
DC/18/2937	2 Spring House, erection of single story dwelling - recommend refusal.
DC/18/2971	The Fields, proposed conversion and extension to workshop to form annexe - recommend refusal.
DC/18/3222 -	Grange Farm, Laxfield Rd, conversion of outbuildings to 3 holiday lets - recommend approval.
DC/18/3566 -	Land north of Saxtead Rd, retention of landscape features and equipment sheds to forming part of previously approved wildlife pond, recommend approval , we also supported recent appeal to remove condition 4.
DC/18/4651	Sunnyside, Saxtead Rd, erection of greenhouse - recommend approval.
DC/18/4785	Lodge Farm, Laxfield Rd, conversion of dairy barn to nursery school, recommend approval. We also approved revised plans.
DC/19/0618	White House Farm, Saxtead Rd, erection of grain dryer, recommend approval.
DC/19/0484	Old Post Office/cowshed insertion of doorway - recommend approval.
DC/19/1464	Mill House, The Street, conversion of redundant building to holiday let, recommend approval.
DC/19/5161	tree work, Corner House, The Square felling of willow - recommend approval.
DC/18/1823	tree work, Dennington Queen - 3x crown reduction - recommend approval.

All these applications can be viewed on the Suffolk Coastal Web site

Members of the Council are governed by strict guidelines, which ensure that those decisions that are made by the Parish Council are made in compliance with the law.



Storm Clouds towards The Street - Badingham Road.

WEB SITE:

Have a look at our website address, <http://www.dennington.suffolk.cloud> this is a Local government site and averages around 300 visitors to the site every month.

It contains all of the relevant Parish Council information including minutes, agendas, reports, and useful village organisation contacts. In addition, there are various links within the site, where you can connect to the school, village Hall and church web sites.

Shirley is the designated administrator manager of the site; If you have any newsworthy items or have any forthcoming events, or matters of local interest which can be placed on our web site please. *No Advertising please*).

You can send notification to Shirley, e-mail Shirley.cunningham1@btinternet.com

I must thank Shirley for managing and controlling the web site on behalf of the Council.

This Local Government site, is worth looking at; it will keep you in touch with whats going on in and around the village.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL:

The Parish Clerk these days doesn't just turn up at meetings to take minutes. The Clerk has to ensure the Parish Councils Business is run strictly in accordance with the law of the land and in particular compliance with the Law of Local Government act.

In addition to this ensuring that a tight rein is kept on Councillors so they don't detract from the Code of Conduct and break the law.

Every aspect of our business is thoroughly audited by our independent auditor and furthermore by the local government appointed external auditor.

I am again pleased that Ruth has completed and presented the 2018/2019 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.

Ruth Hart has been the Parish council clerk for seven years now, The Council appointed Ruth as our Parish Clerk during 2012. How time flies!!

Ruth is such a delightful person to work with and nothing is too much trouble when dealing with Parish affairs we are so privileged to have a very responsible, honest and hard-working person to be our Parish Clerk, unfortunately Ruth has decided to retire by mutual agreement and will retire at the end of May.

Ruth has been an extremely efficient clerk in every aspect of what she does in connection with the Councils Business. We have been very fortunate to have such a dedicated person one who has taken such a keen interest in our Village over these years.

I'm sure you will join with me and wish Ruth all good wishes and happiness in her retirement.

The Council placed an advert with SALC for a clerk, I'm pleased to inform you that following an interview in March Councillor Lunn, Calver and myself appointed Lydia Kirk. Lydia is an experienced clerk and currently the clerk for Saxtead and Parham.

HIGHWAYS:

The Council placed a request with SCC for replacement Footpath 20 signs.

Norse removed rubbish and scrap removal from ditch.

A1120 blocked drains, carriageway repairs.

Clay Hill/B1116, uneven SCC have looked at this request and has given this a low priority problem.

A1120 Missing cat's eyes and white lines, depressed manholes resolved.

General hedge cutting village green. (Nick Watts).

Verge and grass cutting (Robert Rous).

Sought advice from SCC over illegal parking at Blyth Villas and general parking on grass area in front of Blyth Villas.

SPEEDING:

Speeding has been always been a concern of villagers and rightly so.

During the year the Council contacted the Poilce Camera team and following disussions they have placed Dennington on their list and will visit the village on a regular basis.

The camera van has already reported a number of offending motorists exceeding the statutory 30 mph speed limit during the year.

By having the camera van visiting the village on a regular basis, will I hope, act as a deterrent and go someway to reduce the speed of motorists through the village.

Following a petition which was received from a resident relating to vehicles speeding through the village on the A1120. Councillors decided to investigate what they could introduce to make drivers aware of the 30mph limit.

Council agreed to investigate the cost of purchasing a (VAS) Vehicle Activated Sign, which could be placed in various locations around the village, the cost for a VAS would be approximately £3,000. The council thought this cost could be spread across 2 financial years.

The have also agreed to investigate the cost of a hand held speed camera that will be used in compliance with Suffolk Constabulary's procedures. Another suggestion was to make contact with Suffolk Police to place the parish, on their list so we could use one of their smiley signs.

Councillors also felt that enquiries could be made with the adjoining parishes such as Earl Soham or Saxtead to see if they would be prepared to share in the purchasing cost, and thereafter use the equipment on a rotational basis in their particular village. These considerations will be investigated further again during the coming year.

LITTER PICK:

We had a very successful litter pick which took place on April 1st Councillors were joined by members of the WI and a member the public who brought her children to help, many thanks to everybody. We collected about 12 bags of rubbish; I would say we noticed the village itself was remarkably litter free we thought this must be down to the residents who are keeping their patch litter free.

INFORMATION CENTRE:

The recently restored cow shed on the green has been renamed "The Neathouse Cafe" this will be an asset to the village, not only is this a café, it is an Information Centre as well, so passing tourists can pop in for a cup of tea and at the same time be able to obtain local information and free maps of the area.



Remember Speed Kills.

General maintenance.

Village seats repaired and re-varnished.

Due to damage to the oak posts in square one has had to be replaced.

Thanks to Councillor Calver, John has kindly repaired and repainted the council owned red phone box at Owls green.

Amenity improvements.

We have purchased a new picnic bench which is sited at bottom of sports field.

DEFIBRILLATOR:

Thanks to County Councillor S. Burroughes for giving the parish a grant to purchase a defibrillator, the defibrillator is located in the phone box at Owls Green.

SIZEWELL:

The council responded to EDF re Sizewell C consultation.

PARISH MEETING:

in order to keep my independence as Chairman, Councillor Lunn professionally chaired a Parish meeting which was attended by over sixty residents to discuss the SCDC draft planning policy document along with the Laxfield road allocated site.

At the next Council planning meeting Councillors agreed to send a response to SCDC.

DUCK SIGNS:

Following a resident's request for the council to provide and erect duck awareness signs on the village, resulting from correspondence and enquiries with Suffolk County Council Highways. Suffolk Highways would not allow such signs to be placed on the highway.

NEWSLETTER:

The newsletter continues to be produced and is managed and produced by the Village Hall Trustees, four times a year the newsletter helps organisations in the village to broadcast their news and events to the residents.



**New Holland CR9080 Combine, working in the village in 2018.
This combine has a 30-foot cutter bar & automatic GPS Steering.**

PRECEPT:

Finance - received precept of £8,982 for 2018 and set the new precept of £9,517 for 2019 in order to use the contingency fund to finance a donation of £500 to the church towards the refurbishment of the gates, and a £500 donation towards the cost of surface coating the square and fund the cost of VAS across 2 years

The Council made donations:-

V/ Hall	£	£300	
Leiston CAB	donation		55
Sports Club	donation		300
EAAA	donation		55
Parish Church	donation		450

received £120 Community Infrastructure Levy which has to be spent on village improvements



St Mary's Church.

VOLUNTEERS:

I must thank our volunteers; 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, Ian Mann continues to cut the area of grass in the Village Centre around the traffic directional signs, village seat and pond site, Ian has also cut the long grass and hedge at the edge of the village green. Thanks Ian, The Centre of the village always looks very tidy.

Secondly, Adrian Neill, has continued to cut the Village Recreation Field on a regular basis over the year and more often at the height of the growing season, Adrian has done an exceptional job. I am sure you'll agree with me by having this area of open space kept tidy, gives us an important recreational area within the Centre of the village.

I would like to thank Roy Steward who provides the fuel for the mower, fuel these days is expensive and having this provided free of charge makes a considerable saving for the council.

I would also like to thank Nick Watts for providing the labour and equipment at no cost to the council, incidentally it was a good half days work, to cut the hedges around the village green and allotments.

I would also like to thank Robert Rous for continuing to cut the grass verge at the Frosley Bridge junction, this has made a great improvement.

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

The Council appreciates the input from our County Councillor Stephen Burroughs, the District Councillor Christopher Hudson, both have attended meetings of the Council and taken an active interest in our Parish affairs they have always been willing to assist with matters concerning the County Council and District Council.

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Finally, I must thank all Parish Councillors for supporting me over the past year.

I would also like to thank those persons, for taking on the various appointments on behalf of the Council, thank you again for agreeing to do this. This certainly reduces the workload for the Chairman.

Lastly, you will be pleased to know that there has been no claim for expenses in connection with the business conducted by the Chairman or members of this Council.

To conclude.

I am sure you will agree with me, that when you look around at other Villages around the same size of Dennington, many are not as fortunate as we are in the way facilities are provided for all.

We have a good active Sports Club; children's play space and a great playing field.

We also have a large Village Green, a fantastic Village Hall now completely refurbished, and have of course a tidy Churchyard.

I have to thank all those people who are working on these Committees and those people who carry out the hard-manual work, on a voluntary basis do in the end, keep the Village ticking over, and thus make Dennington one of the nicest places to live.

Thank you.

Robert C.T. Wardley: May 2019.



Dennington Silver Jubilee Celebrations - 7 June 1977

All the children with their Jubilee Mugs which had just been presented by Major Rous
(boys holding envelopes are prizes for Art Competition)

Do you remember anyone in the photo?