

# DENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm at Dennington Village Hall



### 1. Councillors present

Robert Wardley (Chair)      John Calver      Nick Hopewell-Smith  
Matt Lunn (until item 9)      Kevin Shelver      Sam Steward  
Cllr. Mouncer sent her apologies and these were accepted.  
County Cllr. Burroughes sent his apologies.

### In attendance

Lydia Kindred (clerk)      2 members of public      District Cllr. Langdon Morris

### 2. Declarations of interest

None

### 3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were approved as a true record.

### 4. Matters arising

The Chair advised that finalising the sports club title registration is unlikely to be completed by HM Land Registry until September.

The tractor service has now been completed and he reported on the various repair jobs that were necessary.

### 5. Public Forum

This included a presentation by a representative from the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. He also explained more about the new Suffolk Connected scheme which is replacing Police Connect. Councillors had the opportunity to ask questions about the schemes.

District Cllr. Langdon Morris gave a report, detailing water testing that will be carried out imminently in local rivers and actions by the Framlingham Flood Recovery and Resilience group. He advised on upcoming changes to recycling and waste collections. He will ask if the Katch bus can be extended to Dennington and Saxtead.

### 6. Chair's report

The Christmas lights switch-on event was successful, and he thanked Vashti Mouncer for organising this event. A resident has donated £160 to purchase a communal tree, but this was not needed this year so will be ring-fenced to purchase a tree next year. He will attend East Suffolk Council's next Town and Parish Council planning forum on 2<sup>nd</sup> February with the clerk.

### 7. Clerk's report

The clerk has written articles for the next village newsletter and has created a Mailchimp account and sign-up list for the Parish Council's digital mailing list.

She is collating a list of volunteer mowers who have provided their driving licence and confirmation of no convictions and will chase those who haven't responded.

Suffolk County Council agreed on 9th January to support the introduction of 20mph speed limits across the county in residential areas and locations with high pedestrian use, particularly where current average vehicle speeds are below 28mph.

The consultation on Local Government Review, including proposals on the number of unitary councils for Suffolk, closed on 11th January and the government should make its decision in the coming months. It was reported that the mayoral elections originally scheduled for May 2026 have been postponed until 2028. A consultation is currently underway seeking views on whether County Council elections should take place in May, in light of the Local Government Review and the upcoming abolition of the County Council.

From April 2027, payroll services will be included as part of the Council's membership subscription with Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC).

## **8. Responsible Financial Officer's report**

a) The following payments were approved:

| Amount    | Payee                             | Details                           |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| £239.20   | HMRC                              | PAYE to 05.01.2026                |
| £1,034.83 | L. Kindred                        | Pay to 31.12.2025                 |
| £20.00    | Dennington Village Hall           | Hall hire January                 |
| £150.00   | Dennington Consolidated Charities | Village green rent 2026           |
| £70.00    | Suffolk Cloud                     | Website accessibility reviews     |
| £875.94   | Thurlow Nunn Standen              | Tractor mower service and repairs |

b) Receipts since the last meeting were noted:

£160.00 (Ear marked for a community Christmas tree)

£43.20 Barclays interest

£11.38 Barclays interest

c) The bank balances, statements and bank reconciliation as at 31.12.2025 were reviewed and signed by the Examining Councillor.

d) The year-to-date financial statement was considered, including the level of earmarked and general reserves. The budget will be considered further at item 14.

## **9. Highways and footpaths issues in the village:**

9.1 Car parking issues near the church

Cllr. Wardley shared a photo of cars parking on the village green here. It was agreed to purchase 3 signs to try to deter this before it damages the grass.

9.2 Report on the Chair's site meeting with the Liaison Engineer on 8<sup>th</sup> December

Illegible road markings and potholes were reported. The repeated flooding at Frostley Bridge and Wash Farm was discussed and Cllr. Wardley has since written to Cllr. Burroughes in this regard to try and get these longstanding issues resolved sufficiently. A representative from SCC Highways should be attending the next Parish Council meeting.

## **10. Residents' welcome pack**

This will be deferred until Cllr. Mouncer is present.

## **11. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

Councillors considered resurrecting the scheme and agreed that it would be useful for the village and that they would like to rejoin the scheme. It was noted that a named co-ordinator is needed and the clerk will do this temporarily to get the scheme up and running and then a volunteer within the village will be sought. When the scheme is active, leaflets will be distributed around the village showing residents how they can sign up.

## **12. Assertion 10**

12.1 The clerk provided an update on responsibilities that the Council will need to consider. She now has access to her gov.uk email address and has started the switchover process.

12.2 The revised Data & IT policy was considered and adopted.

12.3 The Website Accessibility Review was noted. The quotation for a new website solely for Parish Council business including the domain, hosting and support, setting up the template and transferring data and assets to the new website was accepted. The community website will contain extra information, news and events and it was noted that this will not be subject to the WCAG2.1 accessibility standards that the Council website is bound by.

**13. Community jobs list**

No suggestions had been received before the meeting. It was agreed that jobs need to be considered individually when they arise to see if it would be appropriate for volunteers from within the Council membership to carry it out, or to extend it to other residents or pay a professional to do it, noting the insurance and risk assessment implications of all three options.

**14. Budget 2026-2027**

This was considered and figures were agreed, noting that most of the Council's costs are fixed. It was agreed that extra funds need to be allowed for insurance, business rates and administration.

**15. Precept 2026-2027**

This was considered alongside the budget and the level of general and reserved funds after tonight's expenditure. It was agreed to ask for a precept of £13,000 which will be £51.78 per band D property. Due to the fluctuation of number of chargeable Band D properties in the village, this will show as an increase of 6.57%. It was noted that this is less than £3 extra a year for a Band D property which Councillors considered reasonable.

**16. Correspondence**

ESC Casual Vacancy re Cllr Dearing' resignation – this can now be filled via co-option.

Request for funding from St Elizabeth Hospice – agreed not to donate at this time.

ESC Consultation on how to engage the public with local planning processes

Suffolk Bus Service Improvement Plan call for proposals

Local government review consultation- Circulated and Councillors were encouraged to respond as individuals due to consultation ending 11.01.2026

Emails of thanks from the Air Ambulance, CAB, Village Hall and Sports Club re donations made in November

**17. Councillor Reports on actions and updates**

There were no additional reports.

**18. Matters to be raised at the next meeting**

Update on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Residents welcome pack

**19. The next meeting was confirmed as being on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026.** There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

**Signed** .....

**Chair**

**Date**