

# Parish of Dennington in the County of East Suffolk.

Robert C.T.Wardley.  
Chairman's Report 2014/2015  
Annual Parish Meeting 18th May



*Good evening everyone, May I welcome you to the Dennington 2015 Annual Parish Meeting?*

*I will try to be brief as I can with my report as we have a number of visitors with us tonight. Our visitors, who, incidentally, I must thank, include our County Councillor District Councillor and Village representatives they are here tonight to give their own respective reports.*

*This being election year, councillors have now been elected to serve you, and look after the village affairs for a further four year period. I must thank those Councillors who have represented the village over the past four years.*

*Dennington Parish Council is made up of nine elected members; these nine Councillors act independently of any political influences. As we stand at present we have one casual vacancy to fill in the coming months.*

*Your Councillors have a wealth of experience and skills, which enables them to make sound democratic decisions.*

*During the year the Parish Council has held 5 Meetings of the Council and as a result has been engaged in a number of activities or projects over these past 12 months.*

*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.*

*I would also like to thank Matt Lunn, my Vice Chairman, who has supported me over the past year.*

### **CLERK**

*This is the fourth year we have enjoyed the services of Ruth Hart our Parish Clerk.*

*Ruth continues to do a sterling job for us. I am extremely grateful to Ruth for the help and support she has given me again over this past year.*

*Ruth is the ideal person to work with. Nothing is too much trouble when dealing with Parish affairs. Ruth is extremely efficient in every aspect of what she does in connection with the Council's business.*

*All Council activities have been thoroughly audited and examined by our independent auditor and by the local government appointed external auditor.*

*Another exemplary record for Ruth, I am again pleased to inform you that Ruth has completed and presented the 2014/2015 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 goes to show how lucky we are to have such an efficient Parish clerk.*

### **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, the Council had 8 planning meetings and took decisions on 11 Planning applications.*

***Decisions made by the Council are as follows: -***

- i. Tower Bungalow, Owls Green 2 storey extension - recommended refusal (APPLICATION WITHDRAWN)*
- ii. Little Orchard - resubmission of application, Sept 2011 - recommended approval. SCDC approved.*
- iii. 1 Spring House, gunsmiths premises - conversion to dwelling - recommended approval. SCDC approved.*
- iv. Shortacre/Oseir House - land to rear, 8 new properties - a well-attended meeting, lengthy discussion - recommend refusal (APPLICATION CURRENTLY WITHDRAWN)*
- v. Fieldway - alterations - recommend approval. SCDC approved.*
- vi. Land NE of Glebe Farm - erection of new holiday unit - recommend refusal. SCDC approved.*
- vii. Wynney's Hall - demolition of cart-lodge, erection of single storey extension to accommodate swimming pool - recommended approval.*
- viii. Wynney's Hall - retrospective application for pod, decking and Jacuzzi - recommended approval.*
- ix. The Severalls - erection of home office, gym to rear of cartlodge - recommended approval. SCDC approved.*
- x. White House Farm - erection of agricultural building - recommended approval. SCDC approved.*
- xi. Fair Oaks Farm - 2 storey rear and single storey side extensions - recommended approval.*

*The Council also considered and redefined physical limits for the village and submitted these to SCDC.*

*During March of this year two members of Framlingham Town Council came along to our Council meeting to discuss the resent planning permissions that have been granted for Framlingham along with discussions concerning the Framlingham Town Plan and how the Plan will affect or help residents of Dennington.*

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

*Planning Applications, which we consider at the Parish Council Planning Meetings, 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.*

*I am pleased to say the Council put this policy into practice this year when discussions took place between members of the public in connection with the planning application at Short acre.*

## **RISK MANAGEMENT HEALTH & SAFETY**

*Risk is inherent in all our corporate and personal activities and we, the Council, are no different, we continuously manage these risks, a comprehensive set of risk assessments have been carried out to cover all Council's activities.*

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

## **DENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE**

*The website address is <http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/DenningtonPC/>*

*This is a Local Government site, and is worth looking at; it will contain all of the relevant Parish Council information including minutes, agendas, reports, and also useful village organisation contacts.*

*In addition there are various links within the site, which connect to the School, village hall, WI and Church web sites.*

*Shirley does all the work and is the designated administrator manager for the site; any events or matters of local interest including other suitable Parish web links can be included on the site. e-mail: [pc@dennington.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@dennington.suffolk.gov.uk)*

*I must thank Shirley again for taking control of this project on behalf of the Council, as accuracy is essential.*

## **HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS.**

*On behalf of Village Hall the Council contacted SCC regarding drainage at entrance to car park. Although SCDC were unable to assist, County Councillor S. Burroughes has been able to fund some of these repairs out of his amenity budget.*

*Capon's Green Trees - following concerns expressed by members of the public regarding overhanging trees close to the power lines, as this is adjacent to the public highway SCC contacted UK Power Networks and they have now undertaken some remedial work.*

*Following litter pick in August, the vice chairman Matt Lunn carried out a photographic survey of blocked drains and gullies in the village and the photos were referred to SCC and subsequently cleared.*

### *Other highway matters.*

- i. *Junction B1116/1118 – poor visibility due to tall vegetation – referred.*
- ii. *SCC are cutting verges only twice a year now, in addition*
- iii. *Dennington Hall farms have also cut this area as well.*
- iv. *Defective street lighting referred to SCDC twice – repaired.*
- v. *Gravel at bottom of Clay Hill – referred to SCC twice – removed.*
- vi. *Frozeley Bridge flooding – reported to SCC.*
- vii. *Road patching has now been completed around the Severalls and Maypole Green I must say we were hoping for this to be resurfaced.*

### **KING GEORGE V JUBILEE SEAT.**

*You will no doubt have noticed that the Jubilee Seat is now in its rightful position the Square.*



*The Oak seat has been a fixture in the village since the 1930's when it was placed to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George v and Queen Mary.*

*The seat to my knowledge has never been removed; it has remained in the prominent position in the centre of the village since that time.*

*Last year I had discussions with "Treeincarnated" This is a well-established joinery and Woodworking Company. You may recall this company makes the well-known "Medlesham chair" and other exceptionally high quality handmade furniture. Their workshop is situated in the Village in an old farm barn at Lodge farm.*

*The owner of "Treeincarnated" Jeremy Lain, pictured left, along with Andrew Smith, has refurbished the Jubilee seat at no charge to the Village or to the Council. This is much appreciated.*



*The seating area has been turned over, is now flat and free of grooves, the side panels have also been replaced and three new posts have been installed.*

*I am hoping that the Council this coming year will replace the remaining posts to match the new ones.*

*To this end, I would personally like to place on record my thanks to Jeremy of "Treeincarnated" along with Andrew & Robert.*

#### **BUDGET & PRECEPT.**

*Councillors voted in November for a precept of £8.325 for the financial year 2015/2016.*

*They also voted to budget for maintenance of the Bus Shelter in the Square, Funding of grants to village groups and clubs were maintained for another year.*

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

*Councillors made the following donations:-*

*£250 village hall*

*£250 Dennington Sports Club*

*£400 external church lighting*

*£50 CAB*

*£50 Air Ambulance.*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

*The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is still running well. There has been two new neighbourhood watch signs erected in the village, both on the A1120 one on the East and one on the West side of the Village. The signs have been provided free of charge by Suffolk Police.*

*My thanks go to all the co-ordinators that keep a close watch on their particular patch within the village.*

## CORONATION SHELTER

*The coronation shelter is in need of repairs as the windowsills and barge-boards are rotten. During this coming year the Council will be hoping to replace the oak windows reciting the metal bars into the new windows.*

*The work will hopefully will be carried out during the summer months.*



*Coronation Shelter*

## TRANSPORT

*Speeding has been always been a concern of villagers.*

*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 been able to report a number of offending motorists exceeding the statutory 30 mph speed limit. During Oct 2014 the camera van recorded 7 offences.*

*By having the van in a high profile location, will I hope, act as a deterrent to reduce the speed of motorists through the village.*

## SUFFOLK LIBRARIES.

*Just a reminder that the Saxmundham library van calls at Dennington Square every four weeks between 10.25- 10.45.*

9<sup>th</sup> June - 7<sup>th</sup> July - 4<sup>th</sup> August - 29<sup>th</sup> September - 27<sup>th</sup> October - 24<sup>th</sup> November - 22<sup>nd</sup> December



## NEWSLETTER

*The newsletter will shortly be back in production.  
The Village hall committee has decided to produce a newsletter four times a year this should recommence in June.*

*Organisations in the village who wish to broadcast their news and events to the residents will have contact details issued shortly.*



## Village Green

### TRACTOR

*The Parish Council continues to maintain the Ransomes Parkway gang mower which was purchased second hand in 2010. The mower is now approximately 14 years old.*

*Maintenance costs have been increasing since we purchased the mower, this has resulted in the council setting aside funds each year for a replacement mower. A £1000 grant has been received from Dennington Consolidated Charities which has been embedded in a contingency fund.*

*I would just like to add there are a number of people who either give their time or supply items free of charge which does help to keep costs down.*

*I would also like to thank Roy Steward for supplying the fuel for the mower, Roy has supplied the fuel ever since we have had a mower.*

*In addition Nick Watts has been able to cut and trim the hedges around the village green and allotments again at no cost to the Council.*



*Ransomes Parkway Mower*

### PARISH COUNCILLORS

*I must thank all Parish Councillors for their help and support which they have given to me over the past year, along with Matt Lunn, my Vice Chairman. Matt has attended some of the external meetings in particular planning on behalf of the Council. This is much appreciated.*

*My thanks go to those Councillors, who have taken on other various representative appointments on behalf of the Council. Thank you again.*



### *Well-kept village allotment plots May 2015*

#### **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

*The Council appreciates the input from our Ward Councillors; they have taken an interest in our Parish affairs and are always willing to assist with matters on behalf of the Council.*

#### **EMPLOYEES**

*It is with much regret I have to tell you that our two employees, Peter Reeve and David Wright have decided to retire.*

*Over the years they have done a sterling job in all weathers keeping the village neat and tidy. We have been very fortunate to have such a dedicated team.*

*Peter has cut the smaller areas of grass in the Village centre around the traffic directional signs, Village seat and pond site.*

*David has cut the long grass around the small trees, and also along the public footpaths around the village. David has also been our village tree warden.*

*Finally, I must thank Ian Mann of "Clay Hill landscape" for offering to cut the grass in the village previously cut by Peter. Ian has already taken over this role and has agreed to carry out this work at no charge to the Council. The centre of the village I must say still continues to look very tidy.*

*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, Village Hall, 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.*

**Robert C.T.Wardley**  
**Chairman of the Dennington Parish Council.**  
**18<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

