

Parish of Dennington in the County of East Suffolk.

Robert C.T.Wardley.
Chairman's Report 2015/2016
Annual Parish Meeting 18th May



View from the church Centre of village looking north.

Good evening everyone, I would like to welcome you to our Dennington 2016 Annual Parish Meeting?

Firstly, I would like to thank those Village representatives that give us their own respective reports.

Dennington Parish Council is made up of nine elected members; these nine Councillors act independently are elected to serve you and look after the village affairs, they are elected and serve for four years.

During the year the Parish Council has held 6 Meetings of the Council and as a result completed a number of 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.

CLERK

This is the fifth 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.

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 2015/2016 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 7 planning meetings and took decisions on 7 Planning applications.

Decisions made by the Council are as follows: -

- 1. 2 Place Farm Cottages - single storey extension - recommended approval*
- 2. Barleycroft, Saxtead Rd - outline application for new dwelling - recommended approval.*
- 3. Wynney's Hall, Saxtead Rd - demolish existing porch and erect replacement - recommended approval.*
- 4. Little Wish - erect 2 new dwellings with garages, improve access - recommended approval.*
- 5. Barnsdale, The Street - construction of detached workshop/store for domestic use - recommended approval.*
- 6. Wynney's Hall - erection of orangery - recommended approval.*
- 7. Wash Farm - conversion of redundant stable block into 2 holiday lets - recommended approval with conditions.*

SITE ALLOCATIONS AND AREA SPECIFIC POLICIES.

The Council considered the SCDC "Site allocations and area specific development plan" in relation to its soundness for the redefined physical limits for the village along with the inclusion of the site opposite Townsfield Cottages. The council has agreed that the document content in relation to Dennington is sound and fit for purpose.

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.

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, The Parish Council has produced its own Health & Safety Policy and has a comprehensive set of risk assessments have been carried out to cover all Council's activities.

DENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE.

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

This is our Local Government site, this is worth looking at; it contains all of the Parish Council information including minutes, agendas, reports, and also useful village organisation contacts.

In addition there are various links within the site, which has a link to the School, village hall, and 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

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

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS.

Councillors have received a number of complaints relating to parking on the highway verge along the Saxtead Road near Blyth Villas causing damage to the highway The County Council has now written to those responsible.

I would like to thank County Councillor Steven Burroughs for putting forward a proposal for a scheme for some additional off road parking at Blyth Villas this, as I understand could be funded from his amenity budget.

During April, the chairman took a number of photographs around the village of highway problems they included potholes, damage to 30 mph signs, reflector posts, these photographs were sent to highways for repairs.

Other highway matters.

- i. Reported a number of cracked drains and depressed manholes-repaired.*
- ii. Noted and reported several times to highways of poor visibility at Frozely Bridge B1116-B1116 junction due to overgrown vegetation. Dennington Hall farms have again cut this area back.*
- iii. Reported cracked/sunken manhole at Owls Green outside The Gables repaired.*
- iv. Requested the widening of the pavement between the school and Laxfield road junction, Passed to Highways.*
- v. Reported the ongoing concerns with overgrown hedges impeding pavements - 2 locations - both cut back.*
- vi. Followed up complaints from residents re new openings onto the A1120 highway at Blyth Villas, referred to County Council Planning Department.*
- vii. Road patching has now been completed in the village and the Severalls along with Maypole Green has been resurfaced.*

KING GEORGE V JUBILEE SEAT.



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

The Coronation Seat in the square has now been fully restored, new posts have also been installed, however since replacing the posts four of them have been hit and pushed over, I have straightened all four and packed them with concrete so hopefully they will now stay in position.

I would personally like to place on record and thank Jeremy of "Treeincarnate" who refurbished the Jubilee seat and provided his labour to do this work free of charge.

This year I am hoping that we will be able to do something about the posts around the pond site as they are looking a bit worse for wear.

BUDGET & PRECEPT.

Councillors voted in November for a precept of £8.666 £8.325(2015) for the financial year 2016/2017. An increase of 1.5%.

The Council voted to budget for the refurbishment of the picnic tables on village green, and a scheme for replacing the pond site posts or something similar. Funding of grants to village groups and clubs were maintained for another year but increased by £50 for each group.

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

Councillors made the following donations:-

£300 (2016) £250 (2015) village hall

£300 (2016) £250 (2015) Dennington Sports Club

£450 (2016) £400 (2015) external church lighting

£55 (2016) £50 (2015) CAB

£55 (2016) £50 (2015) Air Ambulance.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is still running, I would like to thank those co-ordinators that keep a close watch on their particular patch within the village.

BROADBAND.

As you may have seen, traffic lights have been placed in the village recently at the junction of the A1120 and B1116. I have been reliably informed that this is the first stage for the installation of superfast broadband for the village.

CORONATION SHELTER.

The windowsills, barge-boards along with the replacement of two new oak windows and the reciting of the metal bars into the new window frames. The work was been carried by Trevor MacKenzie Stevens.



Coronation Shelter

LITTER PICK.

On 4th April Councillors along with members of the WI carried out a litter pick in an area about half a mile from the centre of the village and in just over an hour collected over 17 bags of rubbish.

TRANSPORT

Speeding has been always been a concern of villagers. Dennington is still on the Suffolk Constabulary village list and will they will continue with their presence in 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, the Poilce Camera team made 11 visits during 2015 and there were 56 offences.

By having the van in a couple of high profile locations, will I hope, not only act as a deterrent but will reduce the speed of motorists through the village.



Village Green.

VILLAGE GREEN AND SPORTS FIELD.

The Parish Council continues to maintain the Village Green and the sports field. During April of this year the Council purchased a nearly new Ransomes Parkway 3 gang mower direct from the manufacture the mower has been totally rebuilt. The mower has 129 hours use since new and approximatelly 3 years old.



The Council is extremely grateful for the grant from Dennington Consolidated Charities of £4000 with this grant and money in the Councils continguency fund, enabled us to purchae this mower.

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 like to thank Roy Steward for continuing to supply the fuel for the mower, Roy has supplied the fuel ever since we have had a mower.

And not forgetting Adrian Neill he cuts the sports field.

PARISH COUNCILLORS.

I must thank all Parish Councillors for their help and support which they have given to me over the past year, and those councillors who have attended the external meetings in particular planning on behalf of the Council. This is much appreciated.

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

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

The Council appreciates the attendance from our Ward Councillors at our meetings they have taken an interest in our Parish affairs and are always willing to deal with County or District matters on behalf of this Council.

DEFIBRILLATOR.

Following an enquiry from a member of the public who is connected with the primary school, asked the parish council if they could provide a defibrillator for the village. Dennington Consolidated Charities was approached and have kindly given a grant to the council to purchase and install a defibrillator. The defibrillator will be installed in the coronation shelter.

EMPLOYEES.

We are very fortunate to have a small dedicated team who work hard to make sure the village look its best all through the year.

My Thanks to David Wright, he continues to cut the long grass around the seats on the green, and along the path and also the hedge by the shop.

Until last year David was our village tree warden, this role has now been taken over by Kathy Whitbread.

I must also thank Ian Mann of “Clay Hill landscape” for cutting the grass in the village. This being the second year Ian has taken over this role, he has agreed to carry out the work at no charge to the Council. The centre of the village I must say looks very neat and tidy. In addition to this Ian has removed all of the dead wood and reshaped the oak tree in the square, by removing all of this dead wood will aid new growth over the next 5years or so.



Before trimming.



After trimming.

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 of course a very 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.
16th May 2016





View from the church Swainston Way looking Westwards.

*Robert C.T. Wardley
Chairman of the Dennington Parish Council.
16th May 2016*