

## Chairman's Report for the Depden Annual Parish meeting April 2015

John Walladge has announced that after more than 39 years he will be stepping down from the parish council. So I would like to start by thanking John for this exceptional length of service to the parish council, including many years as our chairman. His long experience and detailed knowledge of the parish will be much missed by all of us. There were no other changes in the composition of the council this year and the six remaining councillors will continue for another term as the May elections are uncontested. This of course means that we have a vacancy to fill – so any volunteers? If anyone is interested please contact the clerk or one of the councillors. Last year we held our regular six Parish Council Meetings and three Policy and Planning Meetings, to deal with 5 planning applications. Susan Boor has continued as our clerk and treasurer and I would like to thank Susan for the smooth running of council business. Pearl Sugden continued as our Internal auditor. Councillor Mark Leadbeater continued as Footpath Officer. Councillor Dennis Bibby continued as our representative on the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Councillor Peter Payne continues to be the Tree Warden of the Parish.

We welcome again Mary Evans our County Councillor and Derek Redhead, our Borough Councillor. They have both regularly attend our Parish Council Meetings, despite their busy schedules, and we thank them for their support.

The council is very grateful to Angie Barnetson for continuing in the role of NW coordinator for Depden and ask all residents of the parish to support her in this role.

The council remains concerned about speeding through the village, in particularly across the green and this has been raised as a concern with the police at the Neighbourhood tasking meetings. We are still exploring the potential for Vehicle Activated Signs and are currently awaiting a site inspection by the highways department to ascertain whether there is a suitable installation point. We also remain vigilant about the use of the Green by heavy goods vehicles and in particular any Yara vehicles travelling in the “wrong” direction. Several accidents have also been reported on the A143 and we will discuss whether any actions could be taken regarding that at this meeting.

Councillor Payne reviewed the Borough council's Vision 2031 plans and reported there are no issues concerning Depden in the report as Depden is classified as 'countryside' so there is not prospect of development being permitted

Access to high-speed broadband was raised by a number of parishioners and we were disappointed to find out that after all most of the parish has not benefited from the first phase of the Suffolk Better Broadband programme. We remain hopeful that all of Depden residents will be included in the future phase in 2018.

Our annual litter pick was performed in a relay over 2 days this last weekend and produced a crop of about 20 bags of litter, 2 wheel hubs, a car grille, a traffic sign and a tube of electronics. Thanks to Andy and Angie Barnetson, Sandra Ashman, Anne Nicolson, Peter and Evelyn Payne and Susan Boor and for their participation, and I would urge more residents to get involved in future.

And finally, a reminder that we have a website for Depden, [depden.suffolk.gov.uk](http://depden.suffolk.gov.uk), where all our meeting agendas and minutes are available in accordance with the new transparency code for smaller authorities. Over the last year 478 people visited the website, 10% of whom checked the parish council page. I briefly got quite excited when I noticed that last month visitor numbers were approaching 200, however that turned out to be an automated software robot rather than a sudden surge of interest in the parish. Of the genuine visitors, 95% were from the UK with most common locations being London, Norwich, Cambridge, Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. If anyone would like to contribute photos or material to the website let me know.

## DEPDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR ACCOUNT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2015

LAST YEAR		CURRENT
y/e 31.3.14	RECEIPTS	y/e 31.3.15
2,745.00	Precept	2766.00
2.43	Bank Interest	2.60
14.34	VAT Refund	3.00
250.00	Suffolk C C Grant	0.00
<b><u>£3,011.77</u></b>		<b><u>£2,771.60</u></b>
	PAYMENTS	
159.00	Insurance	159.00
84.01	Clerk's Expenses	110.09
1,050.09	Clerk's Salary	1062.25
262.40	Clerk's Income Tax	265.40
150.00	Clerk's Home Facilities	150.00
18.00	Clerk/Councillor Courses	42.00
53.03	Publications	0.00
175.00	Grass Cutting	175.00
135.00	Graveyard Maintenance	135.00
36.00	Audit Fee	0.00
117.00	Subscriptions	120.00
105.00	Hall Hire	130.00
350.00	Re-furbishment of Notice Board	0.00
140.00	Neighbourhood Watch Signs	0.00
<b><u>£2,834.53</u></b>		<b><u>£2,348.74</u></b>

#### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

£3,761.41	Balance b/f 1 April 2014	£3,938.65
£3,011.77	ADD Total Receipts	£2,771.60
<b><u>£6,773.18</u></b>		<b><u>£6,710.25</u></b>
£2,834.53	LESS Total Payments	£2,348.74
<b><u>£3,938.65</u></b>		<b><u>£4,361.51</u></b>

THESE CUMULATIVE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY  
**CUMMUNITY A/C Barclays Bank PLC B.S.E.**  
**EVERYDAY SAVER A/C Barclays Bank PLC B.S.E**

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the Parish Council at  
 31 March 2015 and reflects it's receipts and payments during the year

Signed:  
 Parish Clerk  
 Chairman  
 Date

*S M Boer*  
*M L Lean*  
 14 APRIL 2015

Last year I spoke in my annual report of the need for Suffolk County Council to do better in education and in highways.

I am pleased to say there have been improvements in both areas – not maybe as fast and as far as I would wish to see but progress has been made.

Nikki Edwards, who joined SCC, last summer as deputy director for education has galvanised our education team and we are much quicker off the mark now in stepping in when schools need help. At last Suffolk is working its way back up the school league tables.

The appointment of the Fire Chief Mark Hardingham last summer to head up the highways team has been critical in tackling the problems that developed in the operation of the highways contract. His experience as a leader, from a discipline working to command and control, enabled him to gain a rapid and thorough insight and understanding of the problems – and begin to tackle them.

A large backlog of about 800 small scale works had built up – projects that take place in local communities. A big effort has been made to clear the lists – about 50 are still outstanding. And a new system for ordering these works, with a set timescale for completion has been set up to prevent any slippage again

We also have the new online fault reporting system which is proving efficient and effective.

The highways team in West Suffolk is now up to full strength. It has been hard to retain and recruit staff, which has added to the difficulties. In addition Matthew Riches has returned to the county council from our contractors KMG and has taken up a newly created part time position in the West Area office working with county councillors and local communities on the delivery of the local schemes.

As we are all aware speeding is a constant problem in our rural communities. Locally I have been working across the parishes in the Clare division to provide Vehicle Activated Signs. This project has again taken longer than I ever anticipated to complete. But we are nearly there and I hope soon you will have a sign in the village which will deter drivers from speeding.

I know you have Dr Huck here tonight to talk about the accidents on the A143. I agree with him that action needs to be taken and I have asked the highways team to organise a site meeting with our local engineers and a road safety expert so we can take action to prevent further accidents.

One of my duties at SCC is to chair the councillor group concerned with the roll out of high-speed broadband in our rural communities. The first phase of the Suffolk Better Broadband Programme will be completed this summer and will reach 85% of the population. In the

autumn we will see exactly who is covered when under the second phase. BT engineers are currently working out the order in which they will deliver the second phase and I have yet to get any advice from them as to how it will be done in this area. However I can assure you that Suffolk will meet the Government's target of ensuring by the end of this year everyone will have access to speeds of a minimum of 2mbs. We have yet to finalise how this will be offered – most likely householders will have to apply for the free connection. When this is decided, I will, of course inform the parish council.

We have had a change of leadership at the county council in the past week. Decisions and announcements about which councillors will take what roles have yet to be made. I just very much hope I am allowed to retain the chairmanship of the broadband group. I believe that the provision of good high-speed broadband and strong mobile reception are desperately important to areas like this and I want to be in a position to ensure we in this corner of Suffolk are not forgotten.

Mary Evans

County Councillor Clare Division

## **St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor's Report**

**2014 – 15**

This last year has been a strange one with very little to report, yet we have been kept busier than ever with extra meetings, many of which revolve around the re-organisation activities of the two councils, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.

There have been some areas of success in that a number of committees are now joint with venues alternating between councils and within the last month a joint constitution has been agreed.

In the summer of 2014 the locality budget scheme was launched giving councillors the sum of £2500 each to help community projects within their area.

The changes in working of the two councils have brought about savings including the reduction of staffing levels however, this has not been without incurring further costs. The last health and safety report showed that across St Edmundsbury Council alone we had lost 460 working hours over the last quarter through absentees due to stress. We have witnessed considerable change in personnel with staff redundancies and other senior staff leaving because of uncertainty. It is pointless to say that these savings are made without affecting frontline services because they do have a considerable impact on all activities and on the morale of staff.

I spoke earlier of the success of the locality funding and I attach herewith a list of recipients. I am pleased to say that the scheme is to continue over the council period as is the RIGS.

**Derek Redhead**

**Wickhambrook Ward**

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Wickhambrook Carnival Committee	Christmas Parties	500
Chedburgh, Chevington, Rede & Depden Community Council	Cleaning equipment for social events	110
Hargrave Village Hall Committee	Village welcome pack	500
Theatre Royal	Childrens Arts Festival	300
Wickhambrook Carpet Bowls	Replace equipment with better disabled access	500

Regards

**From:** Ross, Claire [Claire.Ross@suffolk.pnn.police.uk]  
**Sent:** 14 April 2015 17:24  
**To:** 's.boor.123@btinternet.com'  
**Subject:** Tonights meeting

Good evening,

Just wanted to send a report for tonights meeting due to us not being able to attend.

There has been one crime in Depden since the date of the last meeting .

Criminal Damage to a padlock on a gate leading on to private land. Nothing was taken, only entry gained then offenders left the area.

Apologies for not being able to attend your meeting, if there is anything you require in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards

Claire Ross

PCSO 3031 Ross  
St Edmundsbury Rural South  
Safer Neighbourhood Team  
Clare Police Station  
Clare  
CO10 8PH

Tel: 101

This e-mail carries a disclaimer

Go here to view [Suffolk Constabulary Disclaimer](#)

Item 8 on Agenda

SNT Meeting 10/3/15 BSG Police Station

20.5 million to be saved by 2020

SNT's to be affected + front line  
policing.

Less response officers

SNT Co-ordinators to be involved with  
More in-depth and serious crimes

Previous priorities. Speeding, burglaries, ASBO's

Future meetings to be diminished to once a  
year due to reduction in policing and cuts  
backs on finances.

Speeding 15 Ousden.  
16 Hargrave  
15 Withersheld

Lots of RTA's in Withersheld in one particular  
area.

Lots of work with Community speedwatch  
218 letters sent out.

ASBO's in Clare Country Park, seem to have  
improved.

(PTO)



Burglaries

18 in total

6 Dwellings

12 other buildings

Priorities (new priority settings).

Speeding checks - Wilkesheld

Burglaries - to be maintained hopefully to reduce these.

Clare police station to close

Cut backs to policing over next 5 years

Some already started.

No date set for next meeting but will probably be around December to commence with annual meeting at end of the year.

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**Report to:** AGM Depden Parish Council

**From:** St Mary the Virgin Depden Parochial Church Council

**Date:** Tuesday 14 April 2015

**For:** Year ending 31 December 2014

The PCC held the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April 2014. The electoral roll contains 17 villagers. The PCC continues with 2 Churchwardens – Mrs Evelyn Payne and Dr Anne Nicolson, Treasurer – Mr Tim Freathy, Secretary – Mrs Sandra Ashman and Rev Cheryl Collins.

The financial state of the local church continues to be “in the black” although deteriorating. The church continues to support local endeavours, such as “Farmers in Crisis” as well as participating in local community life with BBQs, coffee mornings and concerts. The building is in good condition.

The support of villagers continues to enable the provision of regular worship at the church. The Thursday “Knit and Natter” at Depden Farm Shop is a success with both laughter and knitting!

The churchyard remains open for burials. The churchyard has benefitted by the purchase of a new lawnmower (and the “death” of the previous mower being beyond repair). We value the ongoing financial support of the Parish Council for maintenance of the churchyard.

We hope to purchase a replacement marquee in 2015 for village use to replace the previous one.

Anne Nicolson

Churchwarden

Report to Parish Council AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Depden Poors Estate Charities**

We are pleased to report another successful year of charity events in Depden.

The table sale, held as a fund raiser and social event for Depden residents raised a total of £158.25 on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

The regular annual income received from the rental of land at Jarman's meadow in Hargrave has boosted the funds which Depden Charities can devote to helping local residents, especially in times of hardship or for educational projects etc.

Our ongoing mini bus trips to Bury St. Edmunds on market day are now being run every two months still providing a good service for this rural village now unsupported by any bus service.

The free annual Christmas meal event was well received as ever. Around 40 villagers enjoyed an even wider variety of home cooked savoury and sweet dishes on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2104. We also had a band this year – local musicians 'Collage' provided great entertainment and a refreshing change. The turnout was the best yet only just having enough chairs for everyone.

Depden Charities Committee are planning the summer social event for 2015 – a barbeque to bring together Depden residents old and new. This event will be held at Beech Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Three prospective committee members have been invited to join the Charity.

## FOOPATH MEMBER REPORT

All the footpaths in the parish have been regularly walked and checked and are in good condition. Overhanging trees have been cleared from the bridleway at the top of the Green and the sign on footpath 4 has been repaired.