

Chairman's Report for the Depden Annual Parish meeting April 2017

Last year we held our regular six Parish Council Meetings and two Policy and Planning Meetings, to deal with 2 planning applications.

Andy Barnettson had to step down from the Parish Council in June due to changes in his work patterns which meant that he was unable to attend our meetings. We are very grateful for Andy's support as a councillor and lately as vice-chairman. Fortunately, Peter Ebbens volunteered to join the council and was co-opted at the September meeting. We are currently operating without a vice-chairman. However we still have a vacancy to fill – so any volunteers? If anyone is interested, please contact the clerk or one of the councillors. Despite the depleted numbers for part of the year, Council has managed to be quorate at all meetings.

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 for the Parish.

We are grateful to our Borough councillor, Cllr Clive Pollington and Cllr Mary Evans our County Councillor who have both regularly attend our Parish Council Meetings, despite their busy schedules.

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

The Vehicle Activated Speeding Sign has been in use at either end of the Green for 4 periods of 2 weeks at each location. The sign has survived an attack with airgun pellets and with spray can (the latter thanks to Susan's diligent efforts with nail polish remover). The data show that over 40% of drivers coming through Church End are speeding and 70% of drivers coming from the Water Tower end (and 40% of these are travelling at more than 35mph). The data have been passed on to encourage the police to consider taking some action. There have been several occasions when speeds up to 75mph have been recorded which seems unbelievably irresponsible on narrow winding roads where the signs are situated. We are investigating whether we can also site a monitoring point at the centre of the Green as people tend to speed up along the straight.

The improved signage and road markings near the Elms Farm turning have unfortunately not prevented a series of further accidents and we continue to monitor the situation with the help of Dr Huck and other local residents, please report any incidents to the clerk or other councillors.

Our annual litter pick was performed on March 25th and produced a crop of about 12 bags of litter. This year we had a record turnout of helpers so I am very grateful to Andy and Angie, Susan, Graham and Ruth Moyse, Elaine, Nicky, Hannah and Constance for their participation, and whilst disappointed that once again only the 'usual suspects' got stuck in I remain optimistically deluded that more residents will get involved in future.

The situation regarding the proposed development at Kelly's Meadow remains apparently no closer to being resolved, after more than 7 years of discussions in the most recent phase.

One of the most pressing issues for residents has been the provision of "high-speed" Broadband for the village and there was much excitement when a notice for construction of a new cabinet on the green was observed. Whilst being grateful to our MP Matthrw Hancock for organising a meeting where residents could express their views and then for following this up with BT Openreach, we are very disappointed with the unhelpful reply from Openreach which gives little prospect of improvement until March 2019 (although other residents have been given different dates by other BT sources, which confusion does not give a very good impression of the degree of organisation. Even when the improvements are in place, some 7 or 8

years after the programme started, we may expect speeds that are still at least a factor of 10 lower than those available in urban areas. We encourage residents to keep investigating alternatives and to express their dissatisfaction to Better Broadband Suffolk

The village sign is again in need of repair, and Angie Barnetson will be taking it down in the next few days for a couple of weeks. Millennium Farm Trust have taken over the mowing of the grass around the village sign and this has been completed to a good standard.

And finally, a reminder that all our meeting agendas and minutes are available in accordance with the transparency code for smaller authorities on our website www.depden.suffolk.gov.uk.

DEPDEN PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR ACCOUNT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017

LAST YEAR		CURRENT
y/e 31.3.16	RECEIPTS	y/e 31.3.17
2,700.00	Precept	2700.00
2.84	Bank Interest	2.11
36.00	VAT Refund	30.00
0.00	Suffolk County Council Grant	50.00
<u>£2,738.84</u>		<u>£2,782.11</u>
	PAYMENTS	
184.00	Insurance	275.00
90.54	Clerk's Expenses	87.18
1,075.24	Clerk's Salary - net	1087.69
268.40	Clerk's Income Tax	270.80
150.00	Clerk's Home Facilities	150.00
192.00	Clerk/Councillor Courses	19.20
175.00	Grass Cutting	175.00
135.00	Graveyard Maintenance	135.00
123.00	Subscriptions	127.03
85.00	Hall Hire	72.50
21.34	Parish Council Election Expenses	0.00
120.00	Brackets for VAS Signs	0.00
300.00	Posts for VAS Signs	0.00
0.00	Parish Council Website	60.00
<u>£2,919.52</u>		<u>£2,459.40</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

£4,361.51	Balance b/f 1 April 2016	£4,180.83
£2,738.84	ADD Total Receipts	£2,782.11
<u>£7,100.35</u>		<u>£6,962.94</u>
£2,919.52	LESS Total Payments	£2,459.40
<u>£4,180.83</u>		<u>£4,503.54</u>

THESE CUMULATIVE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY

COMMUNITY 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 2017 and reflects it's receipts and payments during the year

Signed:

Parish Clerk

Chairman

Date

Hi Susan

Please find below details of events that took place in Depden from Jan this year.

This report was given by me to the police at 10.52 On 22 January 2017

I have just reported to 101 a sighting of suspicious activity in Depden this morning.

A man in a red post office type van with no markings on it was walking around the tracks around Depden Green and asking if he knew anyone who could give him some Diesel.

I spoke to him and he immediately went back to his vehicle and as we drove past took the number plate which is R925 OWR or OMR.

We then turned around and came back to check if he was still around but he had left. He wasn't from Depden as we know most of the people here and he looked and acted very suspiciously.

There was a burglary in one of the properties here a few weeks ago so we are keeping a sharp look out for anything remotely suspicious.

Next activity reported to the police and then to me by householder on road through Depden Green. This occurred on Friday 7 April 2017 just after midday.

A silver pick-up truck stopped at the property and stole some of the plants on sale on a barrow at the front of the property by the roadside. Unfortunately the householder wasn't able to get any other details of the vehicle such as the number plate or even the make of vehicle.

Both these events were reported to the police and RSW Area Co-ordinator. The first one turned out to be an untaxed and uninsured vehicle and fortunately doesn't appear to have been seen since.

Apart from those incidents Depden has been crime free and there hasn't been anything to report. I constantly get emails from Police Connect informing me of crimes happening elsewhere and I forward on anything that may be relevant or of interest to Depden residents who I have email addresses for.

Angie Barnetson
NHW Co-ordinator for Depden

Report to: Depden Parish Council for 2016

From: St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council

Date: 11 April 2017

Author: A Nicolson Church Warden

The annual meeting was held on 16 April 2016. The Parochial Church Council were duly elected – 2 churchwardens and 3 members. The electoral roll has 15 people.

Regular worship continues with the support of Rev Sally Fogden and Liz Chenery Reader following the resignation of the Rev Cheryl Collins in the summer.

The parish share was paid in full. The Harvest Project was Women for Women International.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of villagers in church activities and building maintenance, including the parish council for graveyard maintenance

DEPDEN CHARITIES

The Trustees of the Poores and Depden Charities are pleased to report another successful year.

We have continued to increase support, in the form of small grants for residents in need / setting up new projects / needing help with educational expenses and to help combat isolation in our village. Winter payments, and help during medical emergencies or bereavement difficulties have also been appreciated by recipients.

At present we are discussing fund raising event ideas to help us to replenish our funds and augment the regular annual income we receive from rental raised by some land bequeathed to the Committee. We didn't hold a summer event in 2016 as the Trustees assisted instead with the village Queen's Birthday celebrations.

We held our two regular free events for Depden folk of all ages. The Day Trip to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre was held on November 26th, 2016. Then the Depden Christmas Party was at our usual venue - Hargrave village hall. Over 30 villagers joined us to socialise and enjoy a two course buffet meal, some carol singing, and live music from local band "Collage".

The Depden Charities Committee, and friends of the Committee, meet regularly to administer the funds and discuss grants / advice for those in difficulties and social opportunities we may be able to assist with.

Applications for financial grants can be made to the committee via the Trustees. All requests made by parishioners are considered and dealt with in confidence.

Ruth Moyse

Chairperson, Depden Charities

FOOPATH MEMBER REPORT

All the footpaths in the parish have been regularly walked and checked and are in good condition.

New signage was put in place by the County Council at the start of bridleway 10 on the Green, at the junctions of footpath 3 with footpath 1 , footpath 4 with footpath 1, at the ditch near the junction of footpath 3 and 2 and where footpath 1 enters onto the Green.

Unfortunately the signs at the end of footpath 1 (on the A143), and that at the start of footpath 2 have rotted off and are falling over and the sign at the junction of footpath 1 and 5 was crushed by a falling tree, these have all been reported to the County Council. Please let me know if you have any other issues with footpaths that the council should address.