

## Chairman's Report for the Depden Annual Parish meeting April 2018

Last year we held our regular six Parish Council Meetings and just the one Policy and Planning Meeting to deal with a single planning application.

We have operated with six councillors for the whole year and I am very grateful to my colleagues for ensuring that we were quorate at all meetings. So we still have a vacancy to fill –any volunteers? If anyone is interested or can think of someone who might be, please contact the clerk or one of the councillors.

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 Barnetson for continuing in the role of NW coordinator for Depden and ask all residents of the parish to support her in this role.

After concerns expressed by resident over the safety of crossing the A143 at the junction with the road to the Green, the Bus Stop has been moved further up the road, thanks to Councillor Evans for coordinating this with Highways and the bus company.

We continue to be concerned with the poor visibility at the Elms Farm turning and are attempting to persuade Highways to cut back the hedge on the N side of the road. We will continue monitor the situation; please report any incidents to the clerk or other councillors.

The Vehicle Activated Speeding Sign has been in use for 4 periods with 2 weeks at each location/direction. The data show that of the 31618 vehicles monitored over two-thirds are speeding with 40% going more than 35mph. There have been several occasions when speeds over 70mph have been recorded and one recorded at 90 mph which seems unbelievably irresponsible. The data may encourage the police to consider taking some action.

With all the snow, frost, rain (i.e. weather in general) there have been a lot of issues with potholes both across the Green and on the A143 – I encourage residents to use the online reporting system at "[highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk](http://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk)". Currently there are 12 reports logged as "under investigation". As soon as one is repaired, another appears to replace it.

Our annual litter pick was on March 24th and produced a bumper crop of 22 bags of litter. I am very grateful to Andy and Angie Barnetson, Susan Boor, Peter and Evelyn Payne and Ann Nicolson for their participation, and remain optimistic that in future we can widen participation beyond these 'usual suspects'.

The situation regarding the proposed development at Kelly's Meadow is perhaps hopefully finally possibly moving gradually towards a resolution that is satisfactory for the residents and their neighbours, - after more than 8 years of discussions.

The village sign needed some repairs last year, and we are very grateful to Angie Barnetson for a thorough job on this. Susan Boor retained the seat near the sign – thanks. Millennium Farm Trust have continued mowing of the grass around the village sign to a good standard.

The new more stringent data protection regulations (GDPR) come into force next month and this is likely to involve the council in additional costs and bureaucracy in future. Unfortunately, no one has yet offered us large sums of money for access to our register of members' interests or even copy of the electoral roll.

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](http://www.depden.suffolk.gov.uk).

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## DEPDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR ACCOUNT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018

LAST YEAR		CURRENT
y/e 31.3.17	RECEIPTS	y/e 31.3.18
2,700.00	Precept	2700.00
2.11	Bank Interest	3.31
30.00	VAT Refund	17.60
50.00	Suffolk County Council Grant	0.00
<b><u>£2,782.11</u></b>		<b><u>£2,720.91</u></b>
	PAYMENTS	
275.00	Insurance	280.00
87.18	Clerk's Expenses	162.61
1087.69	Clerk's Salary - net	1088.64
270.80	Clerk's Income Tax	271.20
150.00	Clerk's Home Facilities	150.00
19.20	Clerk/Councillor Courses	26.40
175.00	Grass Cutting	175.00
135.00	Graveyard Maintenance	135.00
127.03	Subscriptions	131.08
72.50	Hall Hire	62.50
0.00	Brackets for VAS Signs	60.00
60.00	Parish Council Website	60.00
0.00	Repairs to Village Sign	285.00
<b><u>£2,459.40</u></b>		<b><u>£2,887.43</u></b>
	RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY	
£4,180.83	Balance b/f 1 April 2017	£4,503.54
£2,782.11	ADD Total Receipts	£2,720.91
<b><u>£6,962.94</u></b>		<b><u>£7,224.45</u></b>
£2,459.40	LESS Total Payments	£2,887.43
<b><u>£4,503.54</u></b>		<b><u>£4,337.02</u></b>

THESE CUMULATIVE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY

**COMMUNITY A/C Barclays Bank PLC B.S.E.**

**BUSINESS PREMIUM SAVER A/C Barclays Bank PLC B.S.E**

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the Parish Council at

31 March 2018 and reflects it's receipts and payments during the year

Dear Susan,

I am sorry, I am on holiday that week, please accept my apologies.

My report is as follows,

1. The one Council moves on at a slow pace.
2. Boundary changes have been under discussion but the final decision will be up to the Commission.
3. Kellys Meadow is moving ahead with Mr and Mrs Willis solicitor looking over the documents I do believe this is the way forward given the fact that there will no longer be a problem with the visibility splay and at least this way we do have a great deal of control over what takes place.

Very Best Regards

Clive.

## FOOPATH MEMBER REPORT

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

New signage was put in place by the County Council at the end of footpath 1 (on the A143), at the start of footpath 5 (Beech Hall) and at the junction of footpath 3 and 5 (Beech Hall/Rookery Farm). The fallen waymark post on footpath 3 in the field just across the ditch from the junction with footpath 2 (path to the church) has been reported to the county council. Please let me know if you have any other issues with footpaths that the council should address.

## Depden NHW Report for meeting on 10 April 2018

**March 2017:** A van was broken into in Nunnery Green, Wickhambrook sometime between 10pm Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> & 6.30am, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. A chainsaw & torch were stolen from inside.

**April 2017:** Also 3 large 4x4 vehicles seen en route from Cowlinge to Gt Bradley where they headed off for Thurlow. If you see such a group of vehicles after dark in country lanes and can get a number plate, please call 101. The police need this information if they are to have any chance of intercepting such vehicles during or after a crime. This information helps guide police patrol priorities after dark.

**May 2017:** Many reports of traders going door to door across the County offering to sell chainsaws and generators.

Suspicious vehicle connected with 3 daytime burglaries in Hargrave(1) and Rede(2). Sightings of a black vehicle (GV10 ???) which could be a black Ford Focus. Advice was to call 999.

**In just 11 days, seven daytime burglaries have occurred in our area**, many on through roads and where pedestrians pass by. Rede (x2), Hargrave, Hundon, Barrow, Barnardiston and Thurlow have all been affected.

**June 2017:** An untaxed green Daihatsu Fourtrak S42 VGV was reported in connection with a workshop burglary in the early hours of Thursday (8 June) to the south of our area.

Suspect hare coursing vehicle spotted. A green Subaru Forester registered R799 MJB seen on the road down a farm track between Wratting and Thurlow, Tuesday (6 June) around 6.20pm. Multiple occupants and at least one lurcher-type dog in the back. Reported to 101. If seen parked in the company of other vehicles at the road-side or on fields/tracks, call 999.

**July 2017:** The fuel cap was broken off a Land Rover and diesel stolen from it overnight (Tues/Wed 25/26 July). The Land Rover was parked outside the owner's house in a cul-de-sac, Wickhambrook.

**August 2017:** In Chedburgh, a man was seen dropping leaflets and asking for calls from anyone with gold or jewellery to sell. The leaflet bore neither name nor landline phone number. Please do not give any information about the contents of your home to anyone especially a stranger and always discourage door to door enquirers/sellers and encourage your neighbours to do likewise.

On Friday, 11 August burglars struck in Denham (black Audi estate seen lurking nearby at the time) and thieves in silver Subaru estate [SW54 KTN](#) stole a white pickup in Wickhambrook later the same day. Also two properties in Dalham were broken into between 7am & 11pm. Entry was forced to both homes and numerous items stolen including jewellery. Also, in Ashfield Green, Wickhambrook, a home was broken into between 10.30am Friday 11th & 11am Saturday 12th August. Entry was forced and an untidy search made in a number of rooms.

On 23 August a black 4x4 was seen at the time as a quad-bike and trailer were stolen in **Barnardiston**. An unshaven 50s grey-haired man was interrupted taking photos of another house in **Barnardiston** from the cab of a black 4x4 VW Amorok. Later that day in the centre of **Clare** the same vehicle was seen and its registration ([AV 64 UOA](#)) was obtained. The police were informed.

A couple of village halls were broken into South of the region (Withersfield and Kedington) and some items stolen.

**October 2017:** 2 horses grazing in a paddock by a footpath in Stradishall were shot with an air rifle between 5.30 and 6.20pm on Thursday 5 October. Two men were reported to have been seen nearby with an air rifle around this time. Please note, that anyone seen carrying an uncovered gun or rifle (whether air rifle, shotgun or handgun) on the public highway should be reported to 999 immediately. Licensed users of shotguns will know the law and the practice on this and will only have their guns uncovered when on private land.

A Green (4x4) Honda CR-V registered [R91VOY](#) was wanted in connection with recent house burglaries in Barnardiston and a ram raid in Kedington and 2 more burglaries in Cowlinge and Gt Wratting.

Friday 27 October, 2 men disturbed taking photos of the interior of Lidgate Church, left immediately in white van.

**November 2017:** Residents were asked to be alert for a suspicious white Citroen Berlingo van following a series of rural burglaries & thefts in Suffolk.

An RSWP has reported that sometime between Tues 21 and Wed 22 Nov, thieves broke the padlock on a farm's barn in **Hargrave** and stole a small grey diesel bowser (approx 1 cubic metre tank on a single axle with new lightboard on the back). Used for fuelling combines during harvest.

**December 2108:** White/blue ford transit van AV54 ZUD seen touting for scrap and giving out dodgy business cards for landcape gardening after seen snooping around in a farmyard in Poslingford.

The police reported that, following 3 burglaries in Wkepstead on 31 December and 1 in Kedington on 30 December, Daryl McMahon, 34, of Watton (nr Thetford) was arrested on 31 December. He appeared before magistrates on 2 January, where he was remanded to appear at Ipswich Crown Court on 30 January on 4 charges of burglary.

**For the calendar year 2017 our RSW area experienced 93 burglaries.**

Hardest hit were Kedington (9) and tiny Stoke-by-Clare (9).

Clare and Cavendish each suffered 8 burglaries, while Stansfield experienced 7 (including a number of outbuilding burglaries on a single night: the offending vehicle that was spotted a couple of days later heading towards Clare just hours before further burglaries in Wixoe).

Wkepstead and Hargrave, 5 each. Stradishall, Hundon, Withersfield and Chevington 4 each. Wixoe, Barnardiston and Wickhambrook, 3 each.

The remaining 14 were spread across 13 villages, including 3 villages that were burglary-free (although Chedburgh succumbed in January this year).

**Jan 2018:** An RSWP reported a **small white Ford van LD04 GOU** with ladders on top, which took honey and eggs from a roadside stall in our area without making payment. The van was untaxed and without an MOT. The same vehicle repeated the offence in both Ousden and Hargrave.

A small red car (a VW Golf GT) was spotted stealing scrap from a garden just to the South of our area on Mon 22 Jan. The vehicle was untaxed.

In Haverhill, on 27 January the occupants of a white Ford Transit van, L reg., with a ladder and orange lights on the top, conned an elderly person out of £300 for cutting down a few branches of a tree. A report was made to the police with a description of the men involved.

**March 2018:** An RSWP has reported that Thurlow Nunn Standen, agricultural machinery dealers of Kentford, near Newmarket, were broken into on Sunday 4 March, Stihl chainsaws and other equipment were stolen. Police warned to be wary of being offered such equipment from the back of a van and to call 999 immediately.

**National Neighbourhood Watch Week 2018 will run from Saturday, June 16 to Sunday, June 24, 2018. Further details will be announced in due course.**

**Report to: Depden Parish Council for 2017**

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

**Date: 10 April 2018**

**Author: A Nicolson Church Warden**

The annual meeting was held on 20 March 2017. 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 the Rector Rev Dr Simon Hill and two Readers Barbara Hill and Liz Chenery.

The parish share was paid in full. The Harvest Project was EACH. The financial sustainability of the church remains an ongoing issue.

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

Church members continue to be active in the village as 'good neighbours'



## DEPDEN CHARITIES REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM 10/4/18

The Trustees of Depden Poor's Estate Charity, known locally as Depden Charities are pleased to report another successful year.

We continue to support Depden Residents in the form of small grants for those in need / setting up new local projects or with educational expenses / needing help when ill or to combat isolation in our village. Extra help has been given to enable people looking to return to work this year. We have reserved some funds for bad weather payments and for help during medical emergencies and family difficulties.

Two new village babies have benefitted from Boots tokens to help at this expensive time. New families moving into the village have received a "Welcome Card" from us and an invitation to join in local activities.

Depden Charities held the two regular free events open to Depden folk of all ages. The Day trip to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre in November 2017. The villagers' Christmas Party was at the usual venue, Hargrave village hall on December 8 2017. Nearly 30 people met to socialise, enjoy the two course buffet meal and music from local musicians, Celtham.

The Depden Charities Committee, and Friends of the Committee, meet regularly to discuss the administration of funds and possible grants/ advice packages for those in difficulties or social opportunities we may be able to assist with. At present we are planning this year's summer barbeque .... ever hopeful that this wet spring will end soon! ..... and to raise some funds to augment the regular annual income from pasture rental. It has been suggested that the Christmas fair trip could visit Lavenham for a change this year.

We would like to invite more help at our events, and also are seeking new Trustees this year as two members of the committee are retiring from that role due to family commitments.

Any applications for grants or assistance can be made via the Trustees. All requests made by parishioners are considered and are dealt with in confidence.

Ruth Moyse

Chairperson, Depden Charities