

## Chairman's Report for the Depden Annual Parish meeting April 2019

Last year we held our regular six Parish Council Meetings and an extraordinary meeting after the last Annual parish meeting to discuss data protection (fortunately some sense of proportion was eventually employed by the government and we did not in the end have to appoint an external Data protection officer at considerable cost, although we have added appropriate privacy and cookie notices to the website and purchased a secure cabinet for storing records etc). During the year we held one planning meeting to consider the one planning application made in the parish.

Geraldine Arnold stepped down from the council in November after 10 years and Peter Payne has announced that he will step down in May after 15 years, which would leave us with just 4 councillors but fortunately 2 new recruits have allowed their names to be put forward for election so we hope to welcome Nicky Moncrieff and Andrew Read in May. However, we expect to still have a vacancy to fill – so if anyone knows of someone who might be “persuaded” please let us know.

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 continued to be the Tree Warden for the Parish for this year.

We are grateful to our Borough councillor, Cllr Clive Pollington, who will be stepping down at the election in May after 4 years. The situation regarding the development at Kelly's Meadow has been resolved and work is finally underway after many years of discussion. Clive has always taken a close interest in this issue and we are pleased that he has seen it through to the conclusion. With the creation of West Suffolk council, Depden will in future be in the Chevington and Chedburgh ward and we look forward to working with our new councillor after the election. We are also of course most grateful to Cllr Mary Evans our County Councillor who has regularly attend our Parish Council Meetings, despite her busy schedule.

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.

The Vehicle Activated Speeding Sign has been in use at the Centre of the Green or at either end of the Green for 5 periods of 4 weeks. On a recent occasion a speed of 95mph was recorded across the centre of The Green which seems unbelievably irresponsible. The data show that nearly 80% of drivers at the centre of the Green exceed the speed limit (and 20% of these are travelling at more than 40mph). The data have been passed on to encourage the police to consider taking some action.

Our annual litter pick was performed on March 30th and produced a sizeable crop of 18 bags of litter. I am very grateful to Andy and Angie Barnetson, Peter Ebbens, Nicky Moncrieff and Wendy (as well as Archie who I am sure was a great helper), Susan Boor, and Evelyn Payne for their participation, and I remain hopeful that more residents will get involved in future – and extra thanks to Andy for posting notes to residents around the Green, completely in vain as it may have been on this occasion!

The bus shelter is showing signs of dilapidation with the wood shingle roof reaching the end of its life, the council will discuss its repair at the next meeting. The seat on the green will also be replaced and re-sited at the centre of the Green the next year. We are awaiting new grit bins at Elm Farm turning and Hall Close, hopefully they will be in place before next winter... Millennium Farm Trust have continued with 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](http://www.depden.suffolk.gov.uk).

## DEPDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR ACCOUNT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

LAST YEAR		CURRENT
y/e 31.3.18	RECEIPTS	y/e 31.3.19
2700.00	Precept	2700.00
3.31	Bank Interest	10.79
17.60	VAT Refund	53.60
<b><u>£2,720.91</u></b>		<b><u>£2,764.39</u></b>
	PAYMENTS	
280.00	Insurance	291.20
162.61	Clerk's Expenses	32.62
1088.64	Clerk's Salary - net	1159.25
271.20	Clerk's Income Tax	289.80
150.00	Clerk's Home Facilities	150.00
26.40	Clerk/Councillor Courses	30.00
175.00	Grass Cutting	175.00
135.00	Graveyard Maintenance	135.00
131.08	Subscriptions	135.69
62.50	Hall Hire	75.00
60.00	Brackets for VAS Signs	0.00
60.00	Parish Council Website	60.00
285.00	Repairs to Village Sign	0.00
0.00	Cupboard for Clerk re Data Protection	201.60
0.00	ICO - Data Protection	35.00
<b><u>£2,887.43</u></b>		<b><u>£2,770.16</u></b>

#### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

£4,503.54	Balance b/f 1 April 2018	£4,337.02
£2,720.91	ADD Total Receipts	£2,764.39
<b><u>£7,224.45</u></b>		<b><u>£7,101.41</u></b>
£2,887.43	LESS Total Payments	£2,770.16
<b><u>£4,337.02</u></b>		<b><u>£4,331.25</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 2019 and reflects it's receipts and payments during the year

## COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

The two topics I usually talk to you about at your annual meetings are schools and roads.

Generally, Suffolk's schools have done well again over the past year.

Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths.

However, when I tell you that 64% of students in Suffolk are now achieving the expected standard in English and Maths, putting Suffolk in the top half of authorities, I expect we all appreciate there is still much work to be done to ensure that our young people gain both the competencies and qualifications to take them on in the world whether to higher educational, vocational training or work.

GCSE progress remains above average and Suffolk students have seen a steep increase this year with a Progress 8 score of +0.08, compared with -0.02 nationally. This figure puts Suffolk top within our statistical neighbour group.

Progress 8 measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Suffolk is in the top half of authorities for this figure, ranked 42nd out of 151.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths is in line with national figures. The Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged pupils is also above the national level and is in the top half of authorities, ranked 42nd out of 151 (up from 67th in 2016).

### **A Level**

The validated A Level results confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A\*- E grades remaining above the national average figures. The figures show that 98.1% of A Levels taken in the county have been awarded an A\*-E grade, compared to 97.6% nationally.

### **SEND PLACES**

In January Suffolk County Council's Cabinet decided we needed over 850 more specialist education places in Suffolk. This to cope with the expected 18% increase in demand and to educate children in-county  
Suffolk will need between 300 to 400 places for children with additional needs between now and 2020.

The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine, and the increasing complexity of specialist needs.

The recommendations include three new special schools and 36 specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools. This is likely to cost £45.6m and next week Cabinet is being asked to approve a project to borrow an initial tranche of £24.1m to create new special school places ready for September 2020.

### **Suffolk County Council 2019/20 budget approved**

On 14 February 2019, Suffolk County Council we set our budget and this year we will be spending £10m a week million.

Since 2011-12 Council has made over £260 million of savings

Recognising the unrelenting rise in demand and the complexity of support required by vulnerable children and adults in Suffolk, the Council are significantly increasing spending in these two top priority areas.

The net budget for Adult and Community Services (ACS) will rise to £243m and the net budget for Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services (HWCS) will rise to £147m. This is an increase of just over £14 million for ACS and HWCS. ACS and HWCS will account for 75% of the total spend in 2019/2020 – three in every four pounds the Council spends.

The fourth pound covers everything else that we do

Fire and rescue, emergency planning, archaeology, archives and records, roads and transport.

As you probably aware there was a change of leadership at SCC last May and I was appointed deputy leader and cabinet member for highways, transport and rural affairs

There are many challenges - we have 4,000 miles of roads to maintain and around 3,000 miles of footpaths and frankly not enough money to do all we would like to do. Vehicle Excise duty and fuel levy – charges raised by Government on all motorists raise £35b a year – how much do you think comes back to highways authorities - £1bn. It is shared between councils and Highways England.

To qualify for increased DfT grant we have to show evidence for what we do so we have HMOP.

My view was and is that it is too complicated there are times when it seems that we are more concerned with meeting the HMOP than dealing with a problem

We have been running a successful pilot project out of the Ipswich depot to simplify the criteria for filling potholes so we do more in one area together and we tackle the smaller 200mml potholes. I am awaiting the formal results but they sound positive and I am sure we will adopt this across the county.

### **Suffolk's roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology**

January 2019 saw Suffolk Highways celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology.

The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county's Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk's road surface.

Over the month of January, Suffolk Highways deployed three thermal road repair machines which repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide.

The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service's much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure.

The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration.

Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March 2019.

### **Suffolk wins £4.4 million for "smart" streetlighting**

A highlight of January was the announcement that Suffolk has won a grant of £4.4 million from the Government for a pioneering project to develop "smart" streetlighting. The project will see streetlights adapted in a range of innovative ways, including being equipped with wind vanes and solar panels to generate rather than consume energy. Highways' electricity bill is currently £2.3 million a year and set to rise, so anything that reduces the bill is very welcome.

The street lights will be equipped with sensors to undertake a range of tasks such as measuring traffic speed and volume; measuring road temperatures – so gritting runs can be better targeted; and indicating whether nearby grit bins need filling or gullies need emptying. The street lights can also be adapted to act as Wi-Fi and 5G transmitters.

### **We are working to be innovative and to harness new technology across the country**

On 6 February, EO Charging, one of the UK's leading electric vehicle (EV) charging manufacturers, launched 'Plug In Suffolk' in partnership with Suffolk County Council and renewable energy provider Bulb.

It allows EV drivers to make a contactless payment with no need to register with networks or become members of organisations.

'Plug In Suffolk' will see the installation of electric vehicle charging stations (up to 400 individual sockets) across the county at 100 key locations and business addresses. Once completed the charging network will be available for all plug-in

vehicle drivers with each charging location listed on [www.pluginsuffolk.org](http://www.pluginsuffolk.org) or searchable via Zap Map and Google Maps.

The 'Plug In Suffolk' charging network forms part of Suffolk County Council's ambition of Creating the Greenest County in the UK.

### **Plan for £6million upgrades to Suffolk recycling centres**

We are going to invest £6million into upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres.

The plan has earmarked £1m for Haverhill for "urgent improvements".

Currently at Haverhill the site has to be closed when containers are emptied because of space. The funding aims to double the size of the site and prevent such closures.

**The opening hours for recycling centres in Suffolk changed from the beginning of April. All 11 of Suffolk County Council's centres will be open from 9am to 5pm every day from Monday 1 April to September – bar Wednesdays.**

The new times will give residents an extra hour to recycle their waste during the summer months. **On Thursdays from May to August, all sites will be open until 7pm** - a good opportunity for residents to recycle on their way home from work. On Sundays and bank holidays, the recycling centres will also be open from 9am to 5pm from April to September. The Haverhill-recycling centre is having a £1m upgrade.

Yours with kind regards

Mary

Dear Susan,

Please accept my apologies as I am on holiday.

The report I have is as follows albeit very brief not much happening in April as you know.

1. The last full council meeting for St Eds has been held the next one will be joint.
2. Kellys Meadow still on target to be finished in August.

Very Best Regards

Clive.

## FOOPATH MEMBER REPORT

All the footpaths in the parish have been regularly walked and checked and are in good condition. Please let me know if you have any other issues with footpaths that the council should address.



## **St Mary the Virgin**

### **Depden**

Annual Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

The annual parochial church meetings were held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at St Mary the Virgin Church Depden. Churchwardens (2) and members (3) of the Parochial Church Council were elected in accordance with church representation rules.

The electoral roll has 18 people. The parochial church council met 4 times during the year at member's homes. Two baptisms were celebrated.

The tradition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month Eucharist at Depden continues as part of the Benefice rota. The Benefice Easter Sunday dawn service in the fields close to the highest point in Suffolk attracts the brave few followed by coffee and hot-cross buns. The pet service did not have any escapees. The donkeys were well behaved. Carols by candlelight was well supported regardless of weather conditions. The Harvest project was Farm Africa. Harvest celebration was an Agape Supper.

The church buildings and churchyard are generally in good condition. Minor maintenance has been undertaken as per the quinquennial report of 2017. The parish council continues to support graveyard maintenance with a grant.

The Benefice magazine is distributed to all households in the village. ACNY access is now established. A range of community events were facilitated by church members such as village BBQ, wine tastings and coffee mornings.

We are grateful to all villagers who support the church in our community.

The churchwardens and PCC remain concerned about our spiritual growth and future financial sustainability. The parish share was paid in full. Financial records have been independently examined. The PCC unanimous decision is not to join the new parish giving scheme

Anne Nicolson Churchwarden April 2019

## DEPDEN CHARITIES 2018 REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM 9/4/19

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

We continue to support Depden Residents in the form of small grants for those in need. We have reserved some funds for bad weather payments and help during medical emergencies and family difficulties.

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 regular free events open to Depden folk of all ages. In the summer the BBQ was held in Hall Close courtesy of Havebury Housing Association. The Day trip to Lavenham Christmas Fayre was held in December 2018. Then the village Christmas Party was at the usual venue, Hargrave village hall in December 2018. Nearly 30 people joined us to socialise, enjoy the two course buffet meal and music from local musicians, Celtham.

The Depden Charities Committee meet regularly to discuss the administration of funds and possible grants for those in need or social opportunities we may be able to assist with.

New Trustees this year are Mrs Emma Ashman and Mr Paul Shoesmith replacing two members of the committee who retired. We thank Mrs Suzie Bettison and Mrs Ruth Moyse for their contribution to the committee and the village. The current chair is Rev Dr Simon Hill, Secretary Dr Anne Nicolson and treasurer Mrs Janet Grant.

We are grateful for the support of Ms Susan Boors for ongoing financial audit.

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.

Anne Nicolson

Secretary on behalf of trustees of Depden Charities