

Sarah

Chairman's Report for the Depden Annual Parish meeting April 2023

I start by apologizing for not being Andrew Read. Unfortunately Andrew is unable to join us tonight, his partner has just come out of hospital following an operation and he needs to be with her as I am sure you all understand. Our best wishes to Andrew and family for a rapid recovery. Accustomed as I am to chairing this meeting, Andrew asked me to step in. We should also thank Andrew for the innovation of offering refreshments at this meeting, which I hope you all appreciated and thanks to Susan Boor and Andrew Rabett for organising.

We held our regular six Parish Council Meetings, as well as planning meetings, and very pleased that we were able to hold them here in the parish in this new meeting room.

As only 6 people submitted nomination papers, the Council will not need to hold an election – sparing us considerable expense. Andrew Rabett has decided to leave the parish council after 10 years - in his second stint on the council. We are very grateful for Andrew's input over the last decade and look forward to welcoming him back for a third in another decade or so. This does mean that there is a vacancy so if anyone is open to having their arm twisted...

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 Peter Ebbens has been our Footpath Officer, and thanks for the detailed reports. Councillor Nicky Moncrieff has continued as the Tree Warden for the Parish.

We are most grateful to Cllr Mike Chester our District Councillor who has regularly attend our Parish Council Meetings, despite his busy schedule. Also pleased to welcome our County Councillor Bobby Bennett.

We are very grateful to Anglian Water for the donation of a defibrillator unit and to Coun Chester for £500 from his locality budget for the case and to Coun Bennett for £300 which will go towards installation and supplies. I hope it does not need to be used any time soon. As we can all see work on the pipeline has commenced and all should traces of the compound and excavations should be removed within 2 years of the start.

The parish council is very pleased with the response to the village survey conducted online over Christmas. Over 40% of households responded. A lot of useful information was gathered which will help the council understand local priorities. There was not felt to be strong consensus of support for any increased development in the parish or change in its designation as countryside, so the parish council is unlikely to pursue the development of a village plan at this point. We will have a short presentation on the survey at the end of the meeting.

Our annual litter pick was performed on March 25th and it was very gratifying to see a record turnout of 14 residents for the occasion - very grateful to all for their participation.

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 2023

LAST YEAR	CURRENT
y/e 31.3.22 RECEIPTS	y/e 31.3.23
2732.00 Precept	2700.00
0.51 Bank Interest	9.32
10.00 VAT Refund	10.00
0.00 Grant from Suffolk County Council	300.00
<u>£2,742.51</u>	<u>£3,019.32</u>
PAYMENTS	
346.34 Insurance	409.58
23.44 Clerk's Expenses	15.59
1253.04 Clerk's Salary - net	1386.95
313.20 Clerk's Income Tax	346.60
0.00 in Credit	300.00
150.00 Clerk's Home Facilities	150.00
175.00 Grass Cutting	175.00
135.00 Grant to Church for Insurance	135.00
143.70 Subscriptions	143.53
77.50 Hall Hire	80.00
60.00 Parish Council Website	60.00
35.00 ICO - Data Protecton	35.00
25.00 Courses	0.00
0.00 SCC	300.00
<u>£2,737.22</u>	<u>£3,537.25</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

£3,896.60 Balance b/f 1 April 2022	£3,901.89
£2,742.51 PLUS Total Income	£3,019.32
<u>£6,639.11</u>	<u>£6,921.21</u>
£2,737.22 LESS Total Payments	£3,537.25
<u>£3,901.89</u>	<u>£3,383.96</u>

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 2023 and reflects it's receipts and payments during the year

April 2023 District Councillor report for the

Depden Annual Parish Meeting

The current term of West Suffolk Council ends with the local elections on May 4th, it has been a privilege and a pleasure serving as your District Councillor over the previous four years. In this, unlike the previous two elections I've been unopposed in the candidacy of the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward of which Depden is part and consequently, there will be no election and I remain as your Conservative Councillor for the next term. Of the 64 Councillors at West Suffolk, 4 will be elected unopposed.

As Councillors we are now in a Purdah or the pre-election period which puts constraints on how we publicise our role and any proposal that may influence the election outcome, even unopposed I must comply.

My role as Chair of West Suffolk Council ends on May 27th when I open the West Suffolk Council AGM, announce the new Chair and hand over the Chain of Office. On a personal level I have found role of Chair and that of District Councillor to be a life affirming and humbling experience. I look forward to continuing working with the village of Depden over the next four years.



Councillor Mike Chester and Willow
the Lurcher

Both hirsute Mike is on the right.

Mike Chester

West Suffolk
Council

District Councillor for the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward

Continued on overleaf

One question I'm often asked is who does what in Suffolk

Town and parish councils

The responsibilities of town and parish councils vary, depending on the locality. In broad terms, they may be responsible for:

- allotments
- bus shelters
- cemeteries
- footpaths
- open spaces
- village spaces

District/borough councils

- Benefits - Housing and Council Tax
- Car parks - in Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Clare and Newmarket (parking charges apply), plus some in Mildenhall, Brandon and Lakenheath (free parking)
- Council Tax collection for county, borough/district, parish/town councils and Suffolk Police Economic development
- Elections - General, European and local
- Emergency planning
- Environment - including pollution and noise
- Food safety
- Heritage
- Housing - strategic (neither council has its own council houses), homelessness, housing options and housing needs register.
- Leisure
- Licensing and regulation
- Parks and open spaces
- Planning and building regulations
- Tourist information - Brandon, Bury St Edmunds, Clare, Haverhill, Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Newmarket
- Waste and recycling.

Suffolk County Council (SCC)

- Adult social care and health
- Fire and rescue service
- Libraries
- Public transport and concessionary travel
- Registrars
- Road maintenance and improvements, public rights of way
- Schools and children's services
- Support for local businesses
- Trading standards
- Waste disposal (St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath collect all the waste and deal with recyclable materials; SCC is responsible for disposing of waste that cannot

The new term for West Suffolk Council will bring new members, new ideas, all of which will continue to build on the successes of previous years (see list for 2022/3) as well as maintaining our statutory responsibilities outlined above.

Depden Parish Council Footpath Report

April 2nd - 2023



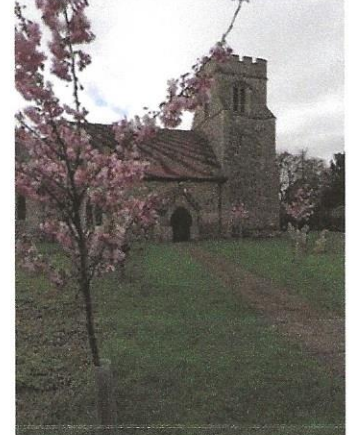
Footpath 1: (A143 through to Depden Green)

This Footpath is all clear and well maintained with no issues right through to Depden Green. Starts off from the A143 over a footbridge onto a concrete roadway followed by a Grassy track towards the Village Green



Footpath 2: (Footpath from old A143 road up to Church)

Footpath to the church is all clear, well maintained although very muddy in places due to the recent rainfall.



Footpath 3: (From A143 road behind Rookery Farm, across field Joining Footpath 1 at Depden Hall)

This footpath is in good condition across an open meadow and farmland with clearly signposted footpaths which are easy to follow. Wonderful views across the fields.



Footpath 4: (From near the Church, across the field joining Footpath 1 at Depden Hall)

A short stretch of footpath from near the church with a well signposted footpath across farmland heading towards the Village Green.



Footpath 5: (From Beech Hall behind Highweek joining Footpath 3)

Starting from old A143 near to Beech Hall passing behind the Garden centre and joining footpath 1 This footpath is in good condition and clearly signposted.



(Peter Elbens (02/04/2023))

Depden NW report for 11 April 2023

In January last year there was the thefts of post boxes across the county which have all since been replaced with modern versions. No more information has been received regarding this so assume the culprits have yet to be caught.

In March there was a report of a suspicious Mercedes van cruising around the roads of Chedburgh. Inside were two men wearing hoodies and hi-vis vests driving around very slowly the vehicle reg was not registered.

In April 2022 a report of night prowlers breaking into cars in Hundon also sheds and outbuildings in both Hundon and Wickhambrook. Several items were stolen including golf clubs and a bike.

In May 2022 A Hundon rural householder received an unsolicited notice of a new bank account with debit card opened in their name. The householder promptly called the bank and alerted credit agency etc. However various actions had already been taken by the fraudsters. A £1,300 computer was ordered for delivery to the householder's address, the DPD driver was intercepted by two men at the gate who took possession of the computer. All other known activities by the fraudsters were thwarted by the prompt action of the householder.

At 5.45pm Saturday, 28 May a white Transit type van towed away a Citroen Berlingo van that had been parked on a grass verge in Stradishall. A similar white Transit van had been seen cruising in the area earlier that day.

In June, I was contacted by a Depden resident about a young man knocking on the front door of their house, trying to sell garden furniture. When the householder said she wasn't interested, he then tried to persuade her to come and have a look in the van. When she refused he drove off. Similar activity was reported in Chedburgh and Stradishall. RSW was notified and the police via 101.

Site plant machinery was stolen in the Barnardiston/Wickhambrook/Thurlow area in the early hours of Tuesday, 19 July. A Volvo 3.5 ton digger and a twin axle trailer were taken from Hall Lane, Barnardiston between midnight and 5 a.m. The thieves broke through a locked gate at Barnardiston School to get access to the trailer.

Early in the morning of 30 July 2022 a 4 door Suzuki Swift (approx 2008 model) was set on fire in a dead end lane near Hundon. The heat from the fire was so intense it melted the side of a nearby dog waste bin, scorched neighbouring trees and burned grass along the verges. Fortunately, the flames did not spread to the immediately adjacent field containing a valuable standing crop.

In August 2022, the police warned of a surge in rural criminal activity, especially after dark. Items of site plant and equipment were stolen, diesel taken from farm and site vehicles, tools taken from tradesmen's vans and GPS/computer equipment stolen from combine harvesters. Quad bikes and pickups had also been targeted. A blue Renault Master van (Transit style vehicle) was of particular interest and was wanted in connection with rural thefts.

In October 2022, two men (one in mid-40s and short hair) called on a vulnerable person in Haverhill who was persuaded to pay them £200 to go away and then found they had also taken a purse containing £600. The men were thought to be in a white Transit-style van with a light bar on the roof.

In January 2023, two or more men in a black Volvo estate with blacked out windows were reported to police having been seen taking an interest in 3 properties at Pound Green, Cowlinge. There were no cars visible at the houses, possibly suggestive of no-one being at home. A similar car had been reported in Newmarket.

This month, 18 months ago there was an RSW Alert regarding a scrap tout wandering about building sites and unoccupied dwellings in Wickhambrook, operating from a white Vauxhall Zafira NU14 HRG. The same vehicle had been linked to scrap touting and subsequent theft of an old boiler from private property in Gt Bradley in March 2021. The same vehicle has recently been spotted in the area again, this time wandering on to a site in Stansfield and enquiring about scrap.

We are also facing a wave of thefts of site plant and machinery and mechanised garden equipment. In one case, plant was 'tracked' to a Thames-side port and on to a Baltic state. Organised crime is at work but may have a fairly innocent appearance when scouting for opportunities.

The message as always is, be vigilant at all times, keep equipment out of sight, preferably locked away in an outbuilding with robust locks. Install security devices such as video cameras and report anything remotely suspicious. Be vigilant, be safe.

Angie Barnetson
Depden NW Co-ordinator.

Report to Depden parish council annual meeting:

St Mary the Virgin church Depden

As at 31 December 2022, the Parochial Church Council has 5 elected members including 2 churchwardens. Also an ex-officio treasurer.

The electoral roll has 14 people.

Rev Clive Fairclough was installed as Rector of Suffolk Heights Benefice June 2022.

Regular services continue in the church as well as Easter day dawn service at Elms Farm and harvest Agape service at Rookery Farm. A wedding and baptism have been held in summer 2022.

Donations have been made to the Farming Community Network and a local foodbank. Jointly with the parish council a food pantry cupboard in the bus shelter is stocked for the use of all in need.

Church buildings are generally in good condition confirmed by inspection.

A variety of events have taken place over the year such wine tasting and cake stall. A bat survey in the summer found 4 species of bats via DNA analysis and audio recordings.

Seven cherry trees were planted in the churchyard for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These were funded from the community fund of Councillor Mike Chester and donations from villagers. The trees were planted and watered throughout the dry summer by the Depden Care Farm team and Andrew Moncrieff.

Financial records have been independently audited. The parish share has been paid in full. The official carbon footprint is zero.

Thank you to all who support the church in Depden.

Anne Nicolson

Churchwarden

April 2023

Report to Depden parish council for 2022:

DEPDEN POOR'S ESTATE CHARITY REG CHARITY NO 277477

Aka Depden Charities

There were 2 meetings of trustees in 2022. Current trustees are Anne Nicolson Simon Rumble Paul Shoesmith and Janet Webb. Ex-Officio trustee Rev Clive Fairclough joined in mid 2022.

Major village events for the year were the BBQ held to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and the Christmas meal held in Hargrave Village Hall in December

Villagers in need were supported.

The land at Hargrave is currently leased

Current account balance as at 29/3/2023 is £3144.29 (Remember village events were not held during COVID lockdown)

Anne Nicolson 10 April 2023