

Denham Parish Council MINUTES

**November 30th, 2021, at 7.30pm in St John the Baptist Church,
Denham**

1/201121	<p>To appoint a Councillor as meeting Clerk/RFO under LGA 1972 111(5)</p> <p>Cllr Nick Farrow was appointed as meeting clerk and RFO for the duration of this meeting.</p>
2/301121	<p>Apologies and Approvals of Absence</p> <p>In addition to Parish Councillors Tania Farrow (in the Chair), Kerina Jane and Duncan McGregor, 8 members of the public were present.</p> <p>District Cllr Matthew Hicks and County Cllr Peter Gould also attended the meeting.</p>
3/301121	<p>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>None</p>
4/301121	<p>To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 28th 2021</p> <p>The minutes were approved with no amendments.</p>
5/301121	<p>Members of the public are invited to make any comments on items on the agenda or to raise issues for consideration at future meetings. Reports may be presented by County Cllr Peter Gould and District Cllr Matthew Hicks</p> <p>Members of the public wished to make comments on the issues around Denham Mill and School Transport to Hartismere.</p> <p>Cllr Hicks reported that Mid-Suffolk District Council using £5.1M of its own money to help with the recovery from Covid in the area.</p> <p>Bin collection timetables were now available but may change due to staffing issues. Residents are asked to leave their bins out and they will be emptied as soon as possible</p> <p>Also, there had been an increase in Bird Flu and information had been sent out around new guidance.</p> <p>Members of the public raised the issue of the boundary/fence of the new build at Denham Corner not meeting the original building planning regulations. Council Hicks requested an email of our complaint and would follow up on this.</p>

	<p>A commitment to follow up on this with Planning Enforcement was made and further update will be provided at a future meeting.</p> <p><i>Nb: Following on from the meeting a communication from the owner of the new property, Steve Hodson, which had been sent prior to the meeting was noted. This made it clear that he had been in contact with the planning team and steps were being taken to move the fence back to the correct position and that a native hedge would be replanted along the other boundary.</i></p> <p>Cllr Gould mentioned the current HGV Consultation and the Budget Consultation which would be clearer in January 2022.</p> <p>Highways had confirmed that they could monitor speed and type of vehicle with an approximate cost to the Parish of £600. This would be discussed further by Councillors with regards to Denham Feed Mill.</p> <p>Home-to-school transport was discussed following on from the last meeting. There were strong views expressed by local residents due to the route suggested and the lack of any public transport services in the area.</p> <p>Cllr Gould declined to express a personal view on the school transport issues relating to the safety of the routes that school children are required to take but stated it was for the experts to decide.</p> <p>Cllr Gould committed to provide details on the routes that children are expected to walk to school.</p> <p>Cllr Gould committed to provide information on the number of road repairs and the sites in the area.</p>
6/301121	<p>To consider an update on the issues regarding the Denham Feed Mill, as discussed at the previous meeting.</p> <p>A Traffic survey was discussed with respect to cost and timing. It was voted in favour to be implemented from January 2022 after full consideration of the budget.</p>
7/301121	<p>To discuss the Suffolk County Council HGV Community Review.</p> <p>Cllr McGregor reported 16 responses had been received to date and highlighted the link on the Denham Parish Website with closing date of 17th December. Responses would then be collated and forwarded to Cllr Gould who would endorse them as representing the views of the Parish.</p>
8/301121	<p>To consider an update on the Denham Community Council and the Village Hall renovation project.</p> <p>Cllr Tania Farrow reported that DCC currently had £64,000 'allocated' funds for the renovation of the Denham Village Hall, with Lottery Heritage applications currently in progress for an additional £75,000. The results for these applications to be known by December, by which time it was hoped that we would have sufficient funds to at least complete Phase 1.</p>

	<p>This requires around £53,000 of funding in total. A further update will be given at the next meeting.</p> <p>Project Manager: Derek Drane is currently requesting a re-quote from Needhams Builders due to increased costs and some anticipated changes in spec.</p>
9/301121	<p>To consider updates on any other current planning applications</p> <p>None for consideration</p>
10/301121	<p>To note the resignation of the Suffolk Local History Council recorder for Denham</p> <p>The Suffolk Local History Council are looking for a volunteer to record Denham Activity and History. The position was discussed but no volunteers came forward.</p>
11/301121	<p>To discuss the appointment of a new Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Tania Farrow respectfully mentioned the passing of Rod Caird, our previous Clerk and paid tribute to him and all the good work he had contributed to date.</p> <p>A new Clerk position is open with potential working hours between 12-16hrs.</p> <p>It was agreed by all Councillors to advertise for the position on the SALC website with the existing terms and conditions indicating that they were open to review. It was also decided that we should appoint a locum Clerk from the New Year until a permanent Clerk could be identified to deal with year-end etc.</p>
12/301121	<p>To receive an updated financial report, and to deal with any payments due. To consider and review a draft budget for 2022/23 and the precept for that year.</p> <p>The current financial report had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and the accounts were accepted as accurate. Mandate arrangements had been put in place to allow Cllr Jane to act as second signatory on cheques, but online banking had not yet been authorised. Cheques were authorised for £37.73, the final salary for Rod Caird and all outstanding HMRC contributions were paid (£52.40 and £9.40)</p> <p>Cllrs then reviewed the proposed budget for 2022/3. This required an increase in the precept of 3.5% which was the equivalent of the increase in the tax base for the Parish. This would mean an increase in the precept from £3192.00 to £3418.00. This would allow us to meet all anticipated financial obligations and provide some leeway if the cost of employing a Clerk increased or if new IT equipment was required to support the role. Cllrs unanimously supported the budget and the suggested increase in the precept.</p>

13/301121	<p>Correspondence and urgent matters to the brought to the attention of the Parish Council</p> <p>Community events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee would be discussed at the Denham Community Council Meeting scheduled for Saturday the 12th of February 2022. The group were happy to plan events in the Village with a view to encouraging ongoing community support for the renovation of the Village Hall.</p>
14/301121	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday January 25th of January at St John the Baptist Church, Denham.</p>

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