

# Denham Parish Council

## MINUTES

Wednesday July 25, 2018 at 7.30pm in the Red Feather Club,  
Denham

1/250718	<p><b>Apologies and Approvals of Absence</b></p> <p>None</p> <p>In addition to all four Parish Councillors, eight members of the public were present, together with Cllr Elizabeth Gibson-Harries and Cllr Guy McGregor</p>
2/250718	<p><b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b></p> <p>None</p>
3/250718	<p><b>To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the AGM of the Parish Council on May 23, 2018</b></p> <p>The Minutes were approved</p>
4/250718	<p><b>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 Guy McGregor and District Cllr Elizabeth Gibson-Harries</b></p> <p>Cllr Gibson-Harries drew attention to the 52,000 tons of household food waste being disposed of each year in the district. This is a major problem which reduces education to resolve. In addition, the District is planting an avenue of oak trees to mark the centenary of the end of WWI; the district is reviewing its management of public conveniences, upgrading them for wheelchair use; and reviewing street cleaning. In response to a question she said that the upkeep of verges and hedges is the responsibility of the County's Highways department, although often it is hard to identify the owner in an individual case. In rural areas such as Denham this is a real problem for farmers, walkers and cyclists, The District's Local Plan will reach its next draft in September. The District has now identified and declared a five-year supply of building land in line with the national housing plan.</p> <p>On home-to-school transport, Cllr McGregor said the government should provide funding for school students beyond the age of 16 to attend the area's excellent schools. He said the new library in Eye should be finished at the end of the year, and noted that with Cllr Mary Evans taking cabinet responsibility for Highways, that</p>

	<p>department's performance should now improve. The Barclays Bank branch in Eye is still closing, in spite of assurances received by Dr Dan Poulter MP. It would be helpful if the Parish Council could raise this with Dr Poulter. It was considered an invitation could be extended to Dr Poulter to attend a Parish Council meeting in order to hear residents' concerns first-hand.</p> <p>Cllr McGregor asked for details of funding required for the Village Hall renovation work in order that a contribution of £500 could be made from his budget.</p>
5/250718	<p><b>To consider an update on the work required to bring the Village Hall back into use, including involvement of volunteers who came forward at and after the Annual Parish Meeting, and how best necessary funding can be arranged</b></p> <p>Around £2,500 is required in order to complete an architectural and quantity survey of the Hall. A structural survey has established that the building is mostly sound. Cllr Farrow restated the decision at the Annual Parish Meeting in May to work towards returning the building to general use by the community. It was agreed to reinstate Denham Community Council as a properly constituted charity in order to open the door to new funding sources. Volunteers who have come forward since the APM to help with running the Hall are warmly welcomed and will be involved once the next stage has been achieved. A meeting is to be held on site with Mid Suffolk grants officers on August 30. Community Action Suffolk is also involved in the process. Thanks were expressed to the neighbouring landowner for continuing to help with maintaining the surrounding ground. Cllr Gibson-Harries confirmed she will contribute £2,000 to the survey costs from her budget and asked for the necessary paperwork to be completed and sent to her.</p>
6/250718	<p><b>To consider recruitment and co-option of further Parish Councillor(s)</b></p> <p>There is still one vacancy and volunteers will be sought.</p>
7/250718	<p><b>To consider any current or new planning applications</b></p> <p>None</p>
8/250718	<p><b>To receive a report from the Clerk on the current financial position and any payments due; to receive and approve the internal audit report for 2017/18, including any necessary action points</b></p> <p>A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance after accounting for uncleared cheques of £3,918.15. Payments were made to: Eon (Village Hall electricity supply, £3.01); SALC (audit fee, £117.60); Rod Caird (Clerk pay, £197.82). All payments were made under the General Power of Competence</p>

	<p>conferred by the Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8 and in the case of the Village Hall the Local Government Act 1972, s.133</p> <p>The internal audit report was noted and approved. The bank reconciliation now includes a regular budget-tracking section, and powers under which payments are made will be noted. Other matters will be dealt with at regular meetings.</p>
9/250718	<p><b>Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council</b></p> <p>None at this time</p>
10/250718	<p><b>To confirm dates and venues for Parish Council meetings during 2018/19</b></p> <p>September 26, November 28 and January 30, 2019 at 7.30pm. The September meeting will be held at the Church and the others are to be confirmed.</p>

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