

# Annual Meeting Report- Denham Community Council

## May 2024 -25

The priority for Denham Community Council over the last year has continued to be the complete renovation of the Village Hall, in conjunction with Denham Parish Council.

Needhams had started the renovations and had made progress with the structural repairs of the hall. However, their original quote was escalating considerably, and we had to put a halt on the works taking place due the funds not being available from the original grant received.

After numerous communications with Needhams regarding the monies that had been paid to them verses the works carried out as per schedule of works, the trustees felt it necessary to employ the help of a quantity surveyor to assess the work carried out to date. It was agreed that we had overpaid Needhams by £3503.22, which was requested back from them to enable this money to go towards completing the project.

A review of what was needed to complete the project to get the hall to building control sign off took place and at this time a local builder agreed to take on the completion, however this meant going back to the National Lottery to first agree that they accepted the change of builder and secondly to request further funding to enable the project to be completed. This took some time, which slowed down any work from commencing.

Once we had to go ahead of TNL the project started once again and was due to take six weeks to complete. Sadly, there were several delays in this schedule, some due to weather, which stopped any rendering and external painting taking place and others, to do with sorting out the electrics from the first fix.

Th PC council had to work with TNL to agree legal terms of how the hall would be run in future, which again took some time to agree and complete.

After further delays in completing the hall, it was agreed that Tania Farrow would step down from her role as a trustee and treasurer of DCC and become a Parish councillor, who would continue to work alongside the DCC going forward to give some continuity between the two organisations. Nick Farrow would step up at this time to become a trustee to enable DCC to remain compliant and Pamela Sowter would take on the role of Treasurer. However this would not take place until the hall was finally completed.

In the meantime, DCC trustees met and started to make plans as to how we could proportion the roles to ensure we were ready to take over the hall, as and when the time came. There was a lot of work needed in making sure all Health & Safety & Legal policies would be up and ready to go from taking on the license. We also needed to look at utilities and alcohol & entertainment licensing so we could start to rent out the hall. Unfortunately, due to the continued delays with getting a completion date from the current builder, we were unable to complete the utilities, as we had no starting date to give the companies, so this has been put on hold until further notice.

The current Trustees of DCC met, as we had concerns that we were not meeting our governance to fulfill the charity commission. It was decided that unless the PC were in a position to hand over the license of the Village Hall by 31st of May 2025, then we would regrettably have to take a vote to dissolve the DCC on these grounds and we would no longer be able to manage the village hall. If this was the case, then all monies held by the DCC would be handed over to pay for the good of the community of Denham.

We are still supportive of the Village Hall project and will continue to work with the Parish Council in the hope of coming to an agreement that is acceptable to all parties.