

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chairman of the Denham Parish Council, it is my pleasure to present the annual report for the year ending April 2024. This has been a year of progress, challenges, and community spirit, and I am proud of what we have achieved together.

1. Council Activities and Achievements

This year, the Parish Council has been actively involved in various initiatives to improve the quality of life for all residents of Denham. Key activities and achievements include:

- **Denham Village Hall Renovation:** Along with our colleagues in the Denham Community Council we commenced and continued the renovation of the Denham Village Hall.

The upgraded facilities will include a modern meeting room, improved accessibility features, and new kitchen equipment.

This project, costing £174,000, was funded through a combination of lottery funding, grants, and community fundraising efforts. Our clerk Wendy Alcock, supervised payment flows and VAT reclaim to allow for management of this project. We hope to complete this before the end of the summer.

- **Environmental Initiatives:** We held our annual litter pick which was well attended.
- **Planning Matters:** We have been engaged with MSDC, SCC, Suffolk Constabulary and others to deal with planning enforcement.
- **HGV traffic.** We have liaised closely and continue to do so with other parishes with regards the ETRO in Eye, and the proposed development of Cranswick plant on the Eye Airfield.

2. Financial Overview

The Parish Council has taken steps (after several years of freezing the parish precept) to put the finances back into good order. Going forward Denham Parish Council should be able to manage its budget and has enough reserves for unexpected outgoings.

3. Community Engagement

Engagement with our community has been a top priority. We hold regular meetings and councillors can always be contacted directly or via the clerk.

4. Challenges and Future Plans

While we have much to celebrate, we also face challenges. These include managing increased traffic, addressing concerns about local development, and safeguarding the village we live in,

Looking ahead, our priorities for the coming year include:

- Completing the Village Hall works
- HGV Traffic from Town Farm Mill,
- Cranswick Development on Eye Airfield
- Lack of public transport
- Sustainable development within the parish and its environs

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, our dedicated clerk, and all volunteers who have given their time and energy to our community. Special thanks go to our parish clerk, Wendy whose organizational skills and commitment have been invaluable.

In closing, I am optimistic about the future of Denham Parish. Together, we have laid a strong foundation for continued growth and improvement. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year to make Denham an even better place to live.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Duncan McGregor

Chair, Denham Parish Council