

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Monday 25th April 2016 at 6.00pm at the Colne Valley Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham.

Cllrs:	Mrs M Heath (Chairman)	Mr S Sproul
	Mrs T Riley (Vice Chairman)	Mr A Pamment
	Mrs M Skelton	Ms K Bowen
	Mrs S Williams	# Mr B Harding
	Dr J Newby	# Mr G Hollis
	Mr A Hans	Mr W Davey
	Miss S Jefferys	
Clerk:	Mr J Coleman	
Co-Clerk	Mr R Hill	
	Mr S Pomeroy Colne Valley CIC	
	Ms D Valman Colne Valley CIC	

Residents of Denham

1. Apologies for Absence
As denoted by # above
2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 20th April 2015
The minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
3. Chairman's Report
The report below was presented by Cllr. Mrs Heath, Chairman of Denham Parish Council. The report will be reproduced in the next edition of 'In and around Denham' magazine.

Many residents do not understand the role of the Parish Council. Whilst recently explaining at a meeting what our role was within the community, they said 'oh, that sounds like you're managing a huge estate' and I suddenly realized they were correct, that's it precisely – estate management.

We tend a large area.... Denham Village, Denham Green, Higher Denham, Tatling End & New Denham.

To give you some instances, this includes installing & maintaining bus stops & play areas & keeping them clean & tidy. Managing the allotments, maintaining street lamps, organizing grass cutting in all 30mph areas. Clearing rights of way, cleaning street furniture, installing dog bins and basically dealing with all issues that arise. Either by tackling them ourselves or directing people to the agency that is responsible – for example potholes – that's Transport for Buckinghamshire and litter that's South Bucks District Council - Not us!

All in all it is a massive task (for which by the way we don't get paid for) but we direct 2 Clerks that do, and thankfully they do a superb job.

Of course, on top of all that regular work, we also take on ad hoc tasks on your behalf, such as – we've recently petitioned the House of Lords for some HS2 money to re-lay the pathway from Denham Station up to the A40 junction. We want lights, a cycle way, and a new footpath – but without the mud!

There is also the District Councils Local Plan for which we set up a working party to address all the issues that it is raising. So we are kept busy!! There is a couple of copies of the Parish Councils response to the Local Plan here at the meeting if anyone wishes to see it.

Being part of Colne Valley Park (and you'll hear more from Stewart on that later) we have miles upon miles of footpaths and scenery to enjoy so it is very important that we keep the area as we all would like to see and enjoy.

*So please, look upon us as your estate manager and it will help you understand the role we play..... But also I'd like to talk about the role **you** can play.*

We cannot be successful without your input. You are our eyes on the ground. We want everybody to take pride in the parish where we live. Therefore we rely on you to bring things to our attention. We can't fix everything but I like to think that if it is within our remit we do our best to resolve it.

So there you have it.

We pledge as your Parish Council and 'Estate Manager' to do our best on your behalf, please do your best to help us.

Cllr. Marilyn Heath - Chairman, Denham Parish Council

Finance Committee Report

The Parish Council Finance Committee, with the approval of Full Council, sets the budget and expenditure to run all the services for which it has responsibility. This budget is known as the Precept, being the amount allocated by the District Council from the Council Tax. This year, as you have been informed in the Chairman's report some services have been devolved from Bucks County Council to the Parish and this has impacted on the Precept to a small degree.

The computer accounting software installed last year has been a great success and greatly improved efficiency with the office and thus provided councillors with the latest budget information. Since then we have gone on to the 'cloud'. All our systems are now protected. Online banking facilities have been implemented to include direct payment transfers enabling greater efficiency in the office.

We have continued to support both young and old of the Parish through our Grant scheme, monies of which can be applied for in October each year - successful applicants receive the monies the following April. This year we have been able to offer financial expertise to the Ladies Football team based in New Denham to build new changing rooms to expand their standing in their league.

An internal audit is carried out on an annual basis and documents are available for inspection by residents. An external audit by independent Auditors also takes place annually. The Parish has also adopted the National Association of Local Councils Financial Regulations.

Monies which are not required for immediate use are invested until such time as they are required, to ensure that residents obtain value for money in the services offered.

Cllr. Margaret Skelton - Chairman, Denham Parish Council Finance Committee

Communities and Events Committee Report

The Communications Committee has changed a lot over the past year, in years gone by it was responsible for overseeing the publications and communications required to keep our community informed, including the updating of the notice boards throughout the Parish and other information sharing items such as the website, of which we are in the process of updating. With the ever emerging responsibility handed down from District the committee has grown in its duties to our residents and with that the Old name of communications no longer fitted and we therefore changed this to Communities and Events at the beginning of 2016.

On our committee we are aware of the need to bring the communities together and work with residents to achieve an environment where everyone feels included. We began this process with the WW1 and Village Christmas events in 2014 and in 2015 we organized the first Denham Green Christmas Fayre and supported Denham Village and Higher Denham with their Christmas events. We have also proactively lit all areas of Denham with a wonderful display of Christmas lights and hope to improve on this in 2016. This year we Plan to hold several more events such as a tea party for the Queens 90th Birthday, Jazz on the Village Green, celebrations for Shakespeare's 400th anniversary and many others. We have also started our own Facebook page, please check it out and like it, so that you can keep informed of things as they happen.

2016 will see us working on other projects as well, which will help us become a more inclusive area to live and we are looking at groups we can support such as Dementia friendly, youth and elderly groups. We will also be working towards ways of identifying the needs and concerns of our residents starting with a resident's survey, sometime this year.

Our committee welcomes input and support from the community and would love to hear from residents who would be happy to volunteer any spare time to support our projects or with ideas on events or new ways of keeping you informed so please do contact the clerk with any ideas or suggestions you may have.

Cllr. Sylvia Jefferys, Chairman- Communities and Events Committee

Planning Committee Report

Whilst the Parish Council is consulted by the District and County Councils on many planning matters, this is in an advisory capacity only. With the benefit of local knowledge, the Parish Council endeavours to give practical local views to the South Bucks District Council and hopes these are taken into consideration when making their decisions. The committee is always keen to hear resident's views on developments occurring near them and encourage you to copy us in on any communication you have with South Bucks District Council, so that we are aware of your views and can consider this when passing our comments.

The Inn on the Green development is now well underway and should hopefully be completed this year. The DeLuxe Studios site in Broadwater Park, North Orbital Road, has been granted full planning permission for the redevelopment of 70 new houses, 105 apartments and the conversion of the film laboratory building into 49 new apartments, with the retention of the existing cinema for residents use.

As many residents will be aware South Bucks and Chiltern District Council have prepared a new Local Plan, which will guide the future development of the area until 2036.

The new Plan includes:

- *An overall vision and strategy for delivering sustainable development in the District to 2036.*
- *Site specific land use allocations and development proposals to meet future needs for housing, employment, shopping, community facilities and open space.*
- *New policies which will be used to determine future planning applications.*
- *Infrastructure requirements to support new development.*

*More information on the new Local Plan can be found at:
<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/planning/localplan2014-2036>.*

Cllr. Sylvia Jefferys, Chairman-Denham Parish Council Planning Committee

4. Accounts for 2013/14

The Clerk presented the accounts for 2014/2015 which had been externally audited, signed off and distributed widely. A brief summary had also been included in the Summer 2015 "Denham Today", which were sent to all households in Denham.

5. Accounts for 2015/16

The Clerk presented a preliminary summary of the accounts for 2015/2016, a full version of which will go to Parish Council on 9th May 2016, and then to internal and external audits.

6. Questions, Resolutions and Announcements from Electors.

There were no questions raised by the electors.

7. Presentation by Colne Valley CIC

Mr Pomeroy and Ms Valman gave a very informative presentation on the new lease and improvements that are being made to the Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre; The improvements include new toilets, play area, enlarged and improved café and activities.

Cllr. Heath thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm