



**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
DENBY DALE PARISH  
COUNCIL**

**2015 - 2016**

**DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL****ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016****CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW**

Here we are, another hectic year has just flown past in no time at all, where do the years go? The end of the civic year and time for me to hand over the Chairman's Chain and Office to someone else, to carry on the good work that the Parish Council has been involved in over the last year.

Two major projects that the Council have been involved with are the take-over of the ownership of the Council Offices in Skelmanthorpe to keep the library in its present home which was successfully signed over to the Parish Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. This Community Asset Transfer, along with the Friends of Skelmanthorpe Library, will secure the long term future for the Library Service in the parish area.

The second project the Council has been involved with is to take over the lease of Churchfields in Denby Dale for the establishment of 14 allotments and public open space which is already being looked after by the 'Friends of Churchfield'. Unfortunately due to drawn out legal issues we (the council) have not yet been able to sign the lease but I am confident this will be done in the near future.

Another project that the Council has helped, with a £40,000 grant, was the Denby Dale Community Partnership's building of the new library in the village.

Councillors, in addition to their attendance at council meetings, are widely involved in supporting voluntary groups in the parish, these include amongst others the Penistone Line Partnership, the Heritage Working Party, Kirklees Rights of Way Forum and the Kirklees Rural Committee. The Heritage Working Party is involved and fully supports the 'Friends of Skelmanthorpe Textile Heritage Centre on Queen Street, who, with a large grant from the Lottery's Heritage Trust, have been able to purchase the museum and all its contents from the relatives of the late Leslie Robinson who owned and started the museum with the help of local people, including Stanley Sheead.

Grants, both large and small, have been distributed around voluntary projects and local schools. Two grants that are close to my heart (note the pun) are the two defibrillators that have been installed at Denby Dale Cricket Club and in the old telephone box in Upper Denby. These have been provided by Denby Dale & District Rotary Club with grant support from the parish council.

Various other community groups have been set up with the help of the Council and Denby Dale Countryside Project, this partnership has been a joint project for almost 20 years and has been headed by Andy Wickham until just recently. Due to financial constraints by Kirklees Council this funding has been stopped, but the good news is that the Parish Council will now be fully employing a new person to head up a similar Countryside Project. I'm pleased to say that we have recently appointed Mr David Wilde to this post. David comes with a wide range of experience and knowledge about the countryside and will be starting in his new post of the 7 June 2016. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Andy Wickham for his hard work which has helped raised the profile of the ward.

There is some good news about Broadband, that is by the next year 2017 we should have far greater speeds than we now have, already BT are doing survey work ahead of installing fibre optic cables in our area.

There are many more challenges to come over the next year, with the changes in Kirklees Council continuing to affect the work we do. More and more, there will be opportunities for volunteer

groups to fill in where District Councils across the country are now unable to provide services. We, as a Parish Council, are already enabling volunteers to get things done, primarily with our support of environmental groups. We hope to strive to meet the needs of the community as far as we can, and welcome feedback from local residents on what they would like to see the Parish Council doing.

It has been my pleasure to Chair the Parish Council over the last year which has been a productive and harmonious one, and I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support in achieving this. I look forward to continuing to work as a member of the council over the next 12 months.

**Cllr J C Cook**  
**Chairman, Denby Dale Parish Council 2015 –2016**

**May 2016**

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### **Plans Scrutiny Committee**

There has been a meeting every month and the Council discusses approximately fifteen applications at each meeting.

There have been many meetings attended by members of the public who have had the opportunity at the beginning of each meeting to give their views about the applications.

The Committee does its best to consider the views of the public when making decisions and input from local residents is very much appreciated.

All planning applications and decisions are available for the public to view on Kirklees Council's website.

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### **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

The F&G Committee met quarterly throughout the year to monitor expenditure against the Council budget.

The Committee is responsible for routine and administrative matters of the Parish Council, in particular setting and monitoring of the budget and expenditure.

This year the Committee requested that the Council set aside an additional £30,000 in next year's budget for the Skelmanthorpe Library Building.

**SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS MAY 2015 TO APRIL 2016****MAY 2015**

The Annual Council Meeting was held on 19 May 2015 and Cllr John Cook was elected as Chairman of the Council with Cllr Billy Jewitt as Vice Chairman.

Members were appointed to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Plans Scrutiny Committee, the Staffing Committee, the Appeals Committee, the Working Party on Public Transport, the Business Plan Sub Group, and the Heritage Working Group and as representatives to a number of other outside organisations.

It was resolved that as the council met the legal criteria set out in the Localism Act 2011 it was eligible to use the General Power of Competence with immediate effect.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

**JUNE 2015**

The Skelmanthorpe Library Building Community Asset Transfer was discussed and it was resolved that this would be undertaken.

Cllrs Jackie Senior, Neil Denby and Brian Banawich were co-opted onto the Council.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications and the Finance and General Purposes Committee met.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee awarded grants to the Denby Dale District Rotary Club and Nortonthorpe Hall School

**JULY 2015**

The Ward Councillor reported on changes to the library service. Councillors received an update from the new Rural District Committee including the New Homes Bonus grant scheme. Progress on the asset transfer of the Skelmanthorpe Library Building was discussed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

**AUGUST 2015**

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications. (No full council meetings are held in August)

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

A presentation and request for support was received from 'Street Wise' based in Scissett. Churchfields Lease Agreement and the Asset Transfer of the Council Offices were discussed. A report was received from the Heritage Working Party around Skelmanthorpe Textile Heritage Centre.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

**OCTOBER 2015**

Grant applications were approved. A presentation was received from PS Marsland on the changes in the police service.

Arrangements for the laying of wreaths on Remembrance Day were agreed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications and planning issues at Clayton West.

**NOVEMBER 2015**

The ward councillor reported on progress on the Library Report and updated councillors on the budget. Details of the Local Plan were also distributed to councillors. A report from the Rural District Committee highlighted Kirklees' Dementia Action Alliance and Mencaps' Safe Places initiatives.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications and the Finance & General Purposes Committee met to decide on the small grants allocation for the year totalling £3,945.30, and to discuss next year's budget.

#### **DECEMBER 2015**

Cllr David Sheard, Leader of the Council, gave a presentation on partnership working to the parish council. The draft budget was agreed. A request for support was received from the Friends of the Skelmanthorpe Textile Heritage Centre to enable them to obtain Heritage Lottery Funding.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

#### **JANUARY 2016**

Rob Dalby, Parks and Green Spaces Manager at Kirklees, spoke to the Council about the re-deployment of the Countryside Officer due to the service changes.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications. The Finance & General Purposes Committee discussed the draft budget and precept. Grants procedures were also reviewed. A discussion was held around the Countryside Officer post.

#### **FEBRUARY 2016**

A presentation was received from Rural Action Yorkshire on Dementia Friendly Communities. It was resolved that the parish council employ a full time replacement Countryside Officer. It was agreed to finance the lighting of a Beacon at Emley for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The precept was agreed totaling £219,359.00. The revised budget of £212,170.00 was agreed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

#### **MARCH 2016**

A presentation was received from Duggs Carre on Kirklees Council's Comoodle initiative. The ward councillor spoke to the council about the consultation on Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. It was agreed to recruit a replacement Countryside Officer employed by the Parish Council.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications. The Finance and General Purposes Committee met and agreed grants to local primary schools.

#### **APRIL 2016**

It was formally announced that the Community Asset Transfer of the Skelmanthorpe Library Building had been signed and witnessed by the Parish Council. The ward councillor reported on a Full Council Extra Meeting held to discuss Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

**SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2015-2016**

- The Parish Council precepted the sum of £189,170
- As a co-funding partner, the Parish Council's contribution to the Denby Dale Parish Countryside Management Project was £25,000.
- £3,000 was allocated to the Environment Trust for the environmental small grant scheme.
- The Parish Council has also supported, by grant aid, the Primary, Nursery, Special and Middle Schools within the Parish.
- A donation was also made to the Royal British Legion.

**Unaudited Balance Sheet****BALANCE SHEET 2015/2016**

	£
Receipts	193,218.55
Payments	<u>117,090.10</u>
	76,128.45
Opening Balance 1.4.15	<u>230,851.22</u>
Balance as at 31.3.16	<u>306,979.67</u>
<b>Represented by</b>	
Earmarked grants	2,372.63
Election Fund	5,000.00
General Reserves	20,000.00
Reserves for Future Projects	<u>279,607.04</u>
	<b><u>306,979.67</u></b>

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2015/2016

2014/2015

2015/2016

## PAYMENTS

£

£

1,439.00	Subscriptions	1,573.00
165.00	Councillor Training	493.40
28.80	Councillor Travel	58.05
3,175.00	Newsletter	1,780.00
1,005.00	Websites	727.50
4,800.00	School Project	5,491.42
2,873.32	Small Grants	3,763.68
25,000.00	Countryside Project	25,000.00
3,000.00	Environment Trust	3,000.00
8,380.38	Community Grants	10,240.62
50.00	Community Grant Aid	22,000.00
0.00	Christmas Tree (inc last year)	1,800.00
200.00	Wreaths	200.00
5,280.00	Floral Displays	5,280.00
1,373.35	Dog Bags/dispensers	1,962.30
816.89	Insurance	842.42
3,129.81	Administration Costs	2,981.48
20,727.82	Employment, Training and Associated Costs	21,711.30
905.00	Audit Fees	930.00
525.00	Heritage Working Party	0.00
145.45	Civic Do Payments	70.00
4,066.00	Litter Bins	524.00
3,322.67	VAT	3,019.89
635.00	Allotments	550.00
0.00	Election Expenses	2,141.04
0.00	Skelmanthorpe Library Building	950.00
1,155.00	Neighbourhood Planning	0.00
<b>92,198.49</b>		<b>117,090.10</b>

17,738.61	Current Account	9,695.15
3,029.61	Deposit Account	3,031.52
210,033.00	Kirklees Investment	294,203.00
50.00	Petty Cash Float	50.00
<b>230,851.22</b>		<b>306,979.67</b>

**323,049.71****424,069.77**

## DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL 2015-16

<b>2014/2015</b>		<b>2015/2016</b>
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
£		
140,768.00	Precept	171,560.00
17,610.00	Council Tax Reduction Grant	17,610.00
719.89	Bank Interest Received	862.20
248.00	Heritage Working Party income from sale of books	134.00
3,360.75	Repayment of VAT	3,052.35
1,855.00	Locality Grants	0.00
<b><u>164,561.64</u></b>		<b><u>193,218.55</u></b>
8,755.34	Current Account	17,738.61
3,027.73	Deposit Account	3,029.61
146,655.00	Kirklees Investment	210,033.00
50.00	Petty Cash Balance	50.00
<b><u>158,488.07</u></b>		<b><u>230,851.22</u></b>
<b><u>323,049.71</u></b>		<b><u>424,069.77</u></b>