

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
DENBY DALE PARISH
COUNCIL**

2020 - 2021

DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21****CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW**

An exceedingly curious year, as Alice might have said. It has been given various epithets - strange, difficult, unprecedented - a year when we have been in and out of 'lockdown', juggling ever more complex and opaque rules affecting our daily life, and hoping to come out of it at some time. Yes, it is the year of the pandemic, in which I have not chaired a single physical meeting of the council, have not spoken face-to-face with the clerk, have not even physically met some of our co-opted members, but nevertheless a year in which, as far as possible, the normal business of the council has been carried out, even though the building has largely remained closed.

The technology managed not to exclude anyone, despite the initial issues faced with remote meetings, and even allowed for the attendance of the public. Responding to local concerns is always a priority for Parish Councillors, so this was important. The June council meeting was the first one to be held remotely, a strange experience, which took some getting used to but problems with sound and video and broadband issues were all soon overcome.

Summer saw us emerging from the first lockdown, tentatively planning to reopen the council building, carrying out a risk assessment, liaising with the library service, then being knocked back by the resurgence of the virus. In Autumn it looked like we would emerge from restrictions in time for Christmas, but by December we were back into lockdown. One Councillor quipped that it was like the okey cokey - in, out, in, out, shake it all about. As I write this (April 2021) we are once again considering a return to something like 'normal'. We shall see.

Throughout, essential business continued, including our Countryside Officer and Clerk both still working and supporting our communities. Kudos to both of them.

Our Countryside Officer has been particularly busy, especially bearing in mind that, for much of the time, volunteers were not allowed. There were wildflower projects, path clearing, allotment management, the beginnings of a new country park in Skelmanthorpe (including a Herculean effort of tree-planting) and a commitment to the idea of eco-schools. Many schools have been encouraged to seek certification (and further funding - an Eco-Schools Fund of £1,000 available for each local school each year, as proposed by our Climate Emergency Working Group) through this route.

Our Clerk has also had to cope with extra work - interpreting government legislation, working on risk assessments, liaising with outside bodies, all whilst carrying out the normal work of the Council - financial, legal, community - at a social distance or remotely, for much of the time whilst also coping with home-schooling. Every eligible primary and secondary school in the parish received grant aid to support extra-curricular activities, whilst sporting and community groups also received grants in support of projects. These monies are usually critical to the success of projects so vital and, in many cases, have been for substantial sums. The heritage and tourist potential of our Parish have also been highlighted - we will shortly have an updated heritage website (<https://www.denbydalekirkburtonarchives.co.uk/>), new walks from Walkers are Welcome, (<https://www.denbydale-walkersarewelcome.org.uk/home>), and a commitment to support Kirklees Council's tourist and heritage strategy.

Unusually, but necessarily, have been the donations made to support the Denby Dale Centre and its Food Fund, established to help those who either could not obtain government help, or for whom it proved inadequate.

Yes, a curious and difficult year, a memorable year, but perhaps for the wrong reasons. I know that many of the volunteers, on which our projects heavily lean, are raring to get back to work, so let's hope next year proves to be more 'normal'.

*Cllr Neil Denby
Chair, 2020-2021*

May 2021

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.

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.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS MAY 2020 TO APRIL 2021

MAY 2020 (HELD IN JUNE as per Regulation 5 (6) of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Members appointments were left as existing on 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. A vacancy in the Emley Ward was reported, and remote meeting standing orders were adopted.



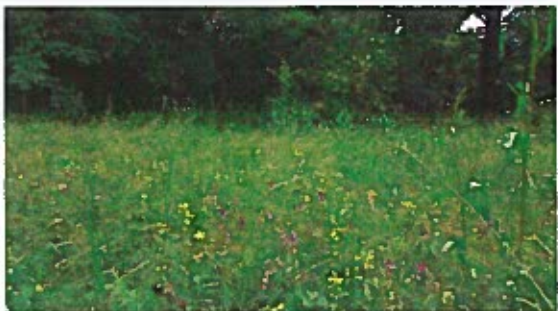
Elected Chairman, Cllr Neil Denby

The Council received the Annual Accounts for 2019-2020 and approved the Annual Return.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

JULY 2020

Grants were awarded to: Skelmanthorpe Bowling Club for £1369.00 towards a new mower, Clayton West Bowling Club for £1,000 towards kitchen equipment, Upper Dearne Valley Navigators for £800 towards social distancing equipment and Denby Dale Cricket Club for £9000 towards drainage scheme and schools grants were awarded to: Birdsedge First School for £1000 towards Kindles, Scissett Middle School for £1000 towards Kindles and Scissett First School for £860.53 towards gardening project.



East Hill Woods Wildflower Meadow

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

AUGUST 2020

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

It was agreed that in light of current Govt. legislation that the library could begin re-opening and a risk assessment was prepared. The Chairman stated that all councillors should be supported to ensure attendance at remote meetings. Cllr Turner reminded councillors of schools re-opening. Cllr Hayley Pink was co-opted onto the council. Three schools grants were awarded to Denby First, St Aidan's and Kayes First.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

OCTOBER 2020

The Council discussed the Government white paper on planning. Cllr Simpson reported on the wildflower project and Christmas lights at Denby Dale, which would be done without a launch event. Cllr Turner reported on assistance available for covid-affected businesses and those self-isolating. Schools grants were awarded to Denby Dale and Emley First. It was agreed to set up a fund to assist Eco-schools projects under the Climate Emergency Fund.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

NOVEMBER 2020

Ward councillors reported on the second lockdown and to further support given to the Denby Dale Fund. Small Grants were awarded to Scissett FC for £629.30 towards sports equipment and to Denby Dale Mens' Sheds for £1000 towards a band saw. Lockdown arrangements for Remembrance Day wreath laying were discussed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee met and agreed to upgrade the archives website. Torevell Dent were appointed as Internal Auditors.

A draft budget was also presented and discussed for recommendation to the Full Council.

DECEMBER 2020

Ward councillors updated council on the roll-out of the vaccine. The budget recommended by the Finance Committee was resolved, including the new Climate Emergency Fund which would award financial assistance to schools joining the Eco Schools Scheme. A small grant was awarded to the High Flatts Heritage Group. Cllr Simpson updated the council on the Parkgate Project in Skelmanthorpe.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

JANUARY 2021

A presentation was given on the Family Hub Model by Jackie Beevers. Ward councillors updated council on

the massive amount of work going on with the further funding to the Denby Dale Food Fund.

vaccination programme, The council agreed to give

The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended to Full Council that the figure of £151,000 was raised via the precept..

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

FEBRUARY 2021

The precept recommended by the Finance Committee was accepted. A grant was awarded to Skelmanthorpe Junior FC. Cllr Simpson stated that the vaccination programme at the John Smiths stadium was progressing very well.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

MARCH 2021

Ward councilors reported on the tree planting going ahead with only the Countryside Officer at present. Two further schools grants were awarded to Joseph Norton Academy and Cumberworth First School. The Climate Emergency Working Group reported on the Parkgate Project.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee reviewed the council's policies and reviewed the Heads of Terms for the sub-letting of the library room.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

APRIL 2021

Cllr Brook updated councillors on work on the updated Archives website. Covid Risk Assessments for the Council Building were adopted. Discussion was held around the progression of council meetings in light of Covid legislation. It was agreed the parish council would support the Heritage and Tourism Strategy.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2020-21

- The Parish Council precepted the sum of £150,000
- The Parish Council continued to employ two staff.
- £6,000 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
(see next page)

Denby Dale Parish Council 2020-2021

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2021

31st March 2020

31st March 2021

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| | Operating Income | |
| 153,124 | Administration | 150,002 |
| 216 | Heritage | 99 |
| 828 | Allotments | 570 |
| 2,533 | Council Building | 14 |
| <u>156,701</u> | Total Income | <u>150,685</u> |
| | Running Costs | |
| 90,919 | Administration | 81,822 |
| 39,637 | Grants | 65,444 |
| 6,580 | Events | 6,480 |
| 630 | Heritage | 0 |
| 9 | Allotments | 157 |
| 66,453 | Council Building | 32,149 |
| 2,720 | Countryside Project | 2,264 |
| 2,190 | Churchfields OS | 920 |
| <u>209,138</u> | Total Expenditure | <u>189,237</u> |
| | General Fund Analysis | |
| 78,539 | Opening Balance | 397,121 |
| 156,701 | Plus : Income for Year | 150,685 |
| 235,240 | | 547,807 |
| 209,138 | Less : Expenditure for Year | 189,237 |
| 26,102 | | 358,570 |
| (371,019) | Transfers TO / FROM Reserves | 10,962 |
| <u>397,121</u> | Closing Balance | <u>347,608</u> |

31st March 2020

31st March 2021

| Current Assets | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 6,104 | VAT Control A/c | 2,648 | |
| 447 | Prepayments | 2,737 | |
| 42,544 | Current Bank A/c | 8,876 | |
| 2,281 | Deposit Bank A/c | 2,283 | |
| 431,054 | Kirklees Investment A/c | 421,054 | |
| 50 | Petty Cash | 50 | |
| <u>482,480</u> | | | <u>437,648</u> |
| 482,480 | Total Assets | | 437,648 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| 8,518 | Accruals | 2,238 | |
| 1,200 | Allotment Deposit | 1,200 | |
| <u>9,718</u> | | | <u>3,438</u> |
| 472,762 | Total Assets Less Current Liabilities | | 434,210 |
| Represented By | | | |
| 397,121 | General Reserves | | 347,608 |
| 5,000 | EM Res - Elections | | 5,000 |
| 40,000 | EM Res - Unfor Uninsured BE | | 40,000 |
| 1,000 | EM Res - Small Grants | | 3,200 |
| 29,640 | EM Res - Community Grants | | 38,402 |
| <u>472,762</u> | | | <u>434,210</u> |

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2021 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

Signed :
Chairman

Date : _____

Signed :
Responsible
Financial

Date : _____