



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
DENBY DALE PARISH
COUNCIL**

2021 - 2022

DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22****CHAIR'S OVERVIEW**

In May 2021, when I was elected Chair of Denby Dale Parish Council, I had very little idea of what was actually going to be involved, and thanks to the tact and efficiency of our Clerk, Carole Wadsworth, some councillors might say that I am still in a state of blissful ignorance! However, I would argue that I have learned a great deal about the council, having taken part in meetings of more than the usual allocation of committees and working groups this year.

Once again, this has been a strange year with shifts in and out of lockdown due to the pandemic. We've had online 'consultations' rather than meetings, so that all our councillors could take part, even if they were shielding, with actions delegated to the clerk. Then, thankfully, we were able to return to the Council Chamber for chilly, socially distanced meetings (with all the windows open!) In addition to the challenges imposed by this cruel virus, there have been the usual changes to the council team as people joined, left, or made a welcome return, for a variety of reasons, and it's good to see that the gaps have been filled by new, keen volunteers. However, the passing of Councillor Neil Gemmell, a staunch and long-serving council member should be noted in particular – he is much missed.

The meetings have been busy, with grants of up to £1000 being offered to (and accepted by) all eleven of the local schools for extracurricular projects. Community Grants have been granted to various organisations such as our unique Denby Dale Pie Hall (a large grant to help pay for necessary renovations), or a smaller grant to the Friends of Churchfield to fund their web pages. Other community groups all across the ward have benefited from the schemes we offer, for example, a local pack of Brownies were able to buy craft supplies for use on a pack holiday when the lockdown restrictions were eased. One highlight of the year was a visit by three councillors to Emley Amateur Rugby League Football Club (in the grounds of Scissett Middle School). With the aid of a sizeable DDPC grant in the past, the club had been able to attract other grants from bigger organisations with deeper pockets. Without our grant, our hosts told us, they would not have been able to build the wonderful new changing rooms for both able-bodied and disabled male and female players, and for match officials. The new facilities also include a large well-equipped kitchen and classroom/function room, which can also be available to the school. It was truly heart-warming to see the way that the relatively small amount paid by individual households could lead to the creation of a valuable community asset which will promote good mental and physical health, and foster the community spirit in our area.

As well as our invaluable Clerk, DDPC is rightfully proud of its other employee, Dave Wilde, our Countryside Officer, who is dedicated to promoting and maintaining the natural scene, wildlife, and heritage of the area. One of the acts of the Climate Emergency Working Group this year was to buy Dave an electric bike (for use on short journeys which did not require the transport of heavy equipment in the DDPC pick-up truck). Given the hilly nature of the area, this was an essential purchase, and he can often be seen on it in the ward, zipping from meeting to meeting, and site to site, supporting, advising and encouraging a variety of different villages' groups and projects! For example, with Dave's encouragement, and the support of Kirklees' Countryside Officer, Andy Wickham, the Park Gate area in Skelmanthorpe has been much improved in the last 12 months by a group of dedicated local residents,. Unnecessary fences have been taken out, litter has been cleared, overhanging branches have been hacked away from paths, and invasive brambles in 'the wrong places' have been uprooted for good (we hope) by the trusty team of volunteers encouraged by the two COs. Dave has also gone into schools to encourage them to become Eco-Schools, and additional grants of up to £1000 were made available to each of our eleven schools. Local environment-focused groups such as the Upper Dearne Valley Environment Trust have found that many of their conservation aims are already being encouraged and implemented by the Parish Council's employees,

committees and working groups. Indeed DDPC has worked hard this year to encourage groups which promote and preserve our area's heritage and natural environment.

Another highlight of the year was when the Council were able to give permission for the return of Village Art to the Council Building. This organization is an offshoot of the Friends of Skelmanthorpe Community Library, which displays the work of local artists within the Council Building. Staunch supporters of the venture place different local artists' work around the building, for free viewing by members of the public, while staunch members of the group 'babysit' the works (for security purposes), and also promote the project to any visitors.

A final innovation to be mentioned here has been the installation of various local archives in the Parish Council Building. These invaluable documents, which can be inspected by appointment, are now safe and secure for use by current and future generations of researchers and historians.

Of course there have been some larger and smaller 'bumps along the road' this year. For example, the Council Office's door kept sticking, which occupied far too much of the clerk's time and energy, and the councillor who kindly took charge of hoisting the flag on high days and holidays found that on a windy day, it's a two person job...! But we all coped with the challenges of either being a volunteer (i.e. a Parish Councillor) or an employee, and I hope that all of us would agree that without this Council's activities, the Denby Dale ward would be less well cared for, less attractive, and a much less vibrant community! This Council is proud of its work, its location and of its inhabitants – and rightfully so!

Councillor Polly Flinders
Chair

May 2022

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 2021 TO APRIL 2022

MAY 2021

Meeting held remotely: 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 made 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. The Council received the Annual Accounts for 2020-2021 and approved the Annual Return.



Elected Chair, Cllr Polly Flinders

Further meetings were postponed due to Covid.



Volunteers working on the community allotment at Churchfield

SEPTEMBER 2021

Cllr Simpson announced the successful launch of the new bus services. The clerk's lockdown delegation decisions were ratified. The vacancy in the Skelmanthorpe Ward was to go to co-option. A Community grant was awarded to Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome. The Auditor's Report was received with no concerns raised. The Climate Emergency Working Group continued to meet on Zoom.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

OCTOBER 2021

Cllr Simpson reported on the Kirklees Council Waste Strategy. A Community Grant was awarded to Bromley Park Residents Association. Cllr Denby reported on St Aidan's First School achieving Green Flag Status. Wreath laying for Remembrance Day was agreed. Cllr Brook reported on the Heritage Open Days. Cllr Hannah McKercher was co-opted to the Council.



Path clearance and log redistribution in the 'Secret Garden' at Cliffe Woods

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee met and discussed the draft budget and the Reserves Policy.

NOVEMBER 2021

Cllr Simpson reported on Kirklees Council's green activity, in light of COP26. A vacancy arose for co-option in the Emley Ward. A school's grant was awarded to Emely First School. It was agreed to increase the donation to the Royal British Legion to £300pa.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee met and awarded small grants to four local community groups and a schools grant to Kayes First & Nursery. Torevell Dent were appointed as Internal Auditors. The grant process was reviewed to include the environmental remit on the form.

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

DECEMBER 2021

The Clerk reported on new Fire Safety arrangements for the Council Building. Cllr David Pearson was co-opted to the Council in the Emley Ward. The Budget recommended by the Finance Committee was adopted.

The Covid Risk Assessment for the building was reviewed. Dates for raising the flag on the building were agreed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

JANUARY 2022

No Full Council was held in January due to Covid concerns.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended to Full Council that the figure of £156,000 was raised via the precept.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

FEBRUARY 2022

A minute's silence was held in memory of Cllr Neil Gemmell. The precept recommended by the Finance Committee was accepted. It was agreed that The Climate Emergency Group would produce a newsletter and leaflet.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

MARCH 2022

A member of UDVET spoke to the Council regarding suggestions for the Climate Emergency Working Group. It was agreed to allow Village Art to hold exhibitions in the Council Building. A small grant was awarded to the 1st Upper Dearne Valley Navigators and schools grants were awarded to the Joseph Norton Academy and Cumberworth First School.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee reviewed the council's policies and awarded further schools grants so that all schools in the parish had received a grant. The level of Earmarked Reserves was also resolved for the year end accounts.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

APRIL 2022

Cllr Flinders reflected on the important work the Council had done in the past year. Cllr Depledge was co-opted onto the Council. Several schools grants were awarded, for Jubilee related activities, and a community grant was awarded to the Denby Dale Pie Hall Group. The Climate Emergency Working Group updated on their activities, including the take-over of the newsletter and up-coming community events.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2021-22

- The Parish Council precepted the sum of £151,000
- 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.
- The new Eco Schools Fund was established to support schools in the area.
- An increased donation was also made to the Royal British Legion.

Denby Dale Parish Council 2021-2022

Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 March 2022

	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
<u>Bank Statement Balances</u>			
1	31/03/2022 Current Bank A/c	24,681.96	
2	31/03/2022 Deposit Bank A/c	2,284.66	
3	31/03/2022 Kirklees Account	352,054.00	
			379,020.62
<u>Other Cash & Bank Balances</u>			
	Petty Cash	50.00	
			50.00
			379,070.62
<u>Receipts not on Bank Statement</u>			
0	31/03/2022 All Receipts Cleared	0.00	
			0.00
Closing Balance			379,070.62
<u>All Cash & Bank Accounts</u>			
1	Current Bank A/c	24,681.96	
2	Deposit Bank A/c	2,284.66	
3	Kirklees Investment A/c	352,054.00	
	Other Cash & Bank Balances	50.00	
	Total Cash & Bank Balances		379,070.62

31st March 2021

31st March 2022

31st March 2021		31st March 2022
	Current Assets	
2,648	VAT Control A/c	1,926
2,737	Prepayments	2,796
8,876	Current Bank A/c	24,682
2,283	Deposit Bank A/c	2,285
421,054	Kirklees Investment A/c	352,054
50	Petty Cash	50
<u>437,648</u>		<u>383,792</u>
437,648	Total Assets	383,792
	Current Liabilities	
2,238	Accruals	1,807
1,200	Allotment Deposit	1,000
<u>3,438</u>		<u>2,807</u>
434,210	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	380,985
	Represented By	
347,608	General Reserves	273,985
0	EM Res - Unspecified Community	50,000
5,000	EM Res - Elections	5,000
40,000	EM Res - Unfor Uninsured BE	40,000
3,200	EM Res - Small Grants	1,000
38,402	EM Res - Community Grants	1,000
<u>434,210</u>		<u>380,985</u>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2022 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

Signed :
Chairman

Date : _____

Signed :
Responsible
Financial
Officer

Date : _____

Denby Dale Parish Council 2021-2022

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2022

31st March 2021		31st March 2022
	Operating Income	
150,002	Administration	151,296
99	Heritage	113
570	Allotments	594
14	Council Building	983
<hr/>	Total Income	<hr/>
150,685		152,986
	Running Costs	
81,822	Administration	83,048
0	Civic	100
65,444	Grants	69,542
6,480	Events	6,380
0	Heritage	352
157	Allotments	275
32,149	Council Building	31,084
2,264	Countryside Project	13,991
920	Churchfields OS	1,440
<hr/>	Total Expenditure	<hr/>
189,237		206,211
	General Fund Analysis	
397,121	Opening Balance	347,608
150,685	Plus : Income for Year	152,986
<hr/>		<hr/>
547,807		500,594
189,237	Less : Expenditure for Year	206,211
<hr/>		<hr/>
358,570		294,383
10,962	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	20,398
<hr/>	Closing Balance	<hr/>
347,608		273,985

