



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
DENBY DALE PARISH
COUNCIL**

2013 - 2014

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CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

It is now the time of year when we review the achievements of this council, I would therefore like to highlight the ways that we have tried to help the local community since my election as Chairman last year.

One of the issues we have been working on has been trying to raise awareness of the Parish Council and the various ways it is able to work for the benefit of the community it serves. I believe we have achieved a significant degree of success in this regard and this is evidenced by the attendance of members of the public at the monthly Parish Council meetings. We warmly welcome anyone coming along to raise matters with us!

The Council has been active in allocating part of Churchfields in Denby Dale as allotments, with the rest left as open access land. We are working closely with the local community and Andy Wickham, the Countryside Officer, to develop this area as sensitively as possible.

In addition to attending Parish Council meetings councillors undertake a variety of other activities which have included attending the Penistone Line Partnership AGM, attending the Heritage Working Party, Kirklees Public Rights of Way Forum and the Public Transport Working Party. The Heritage Working Party has continued to support the Textile Museum in Skelmanthorpe and the 'Friends of Skelmanthorpe Textile Heritage Centre'. This museum continues to open its doors to the public and to the local schools, and forms an important part of our local culture and education.

As well as the Small Grants given out over the last year, we have awarded £8,500 in Community Grants to three separate local groups, thereby facilitating voluntary and community groups to achieve their work for the community.

The council has also had a significant input into the 'Denby Dale Community Partnership', and fully support their efforts to maintain a library service in Denby Dale, along with developing a new community building which has already secured tenants for the future, and is in the process of securing further funding under its newly achieved charitable status.

As Chairman of the Council I personally have had the privilege of attending a number of schools throughout the area in order to meet the staff and pupils and to present grant cheques on behalf of the council. More recently various councillors have attended Remembrance Sunday services throughout the area laying wreaths on behalf of the local community.

There have been disappointments this year, notably the unsuccessful 'Rural Community Broadband Fund' which the council fully supported. However, we will continue to strive to help individuals and businesses achieve super fast broadband, and we will work closely with Kirklees Council to apply for any future schemes. I would like to thank those councillors who did so much work towards the RCBF, in getting the message out to the community.

My continuing involvement with the Public Rights of Way Forum has seen changes coming into place, with the further need for volunteers to come forward to help maintain public rights of way in the future. The 'Walkers are Welcome' group is already gaining more support to bridge the gap in surveying and maintaining popular walks across the parish.

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 which will then bring us to the council elections in 2015.

Cllr John Cook
Chairman, Denby Dale Parish Council 2013 –2014

May 2014

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. This included residents speaking about their objections against Redrow Homes building a new housing estate in Scissett and Skelmanthorpe and various applications regarding wind farms in this area.

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.

Last year the Committee requested that the Council set aside an additional £20,000 for a Community Grant Aid fund to help groups and organisations who may be affected by government cuts within the parish. This carried on to this year's budget, with assistance for the Denby Dale Community Project which will include the library in Denby Dale.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS MAY 2013 TO APRIL 2014**MAY 2013**

The Annual Council Meeting was held on 14 May 2013 and Cllr John Cook was elected as Chairman of the Council with Cllr Allan Hinde King 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.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

JUNE 2013

At this meeting, members received a presentation from Mr Steve Robinson on the Churchfield Site, Denby Dale.

Ward Councillors reported on the Rural Community Broadband Initiative, the possible withdrawal of the Local Development Framework, and the proposed wind turbine at Birdsedge.

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

JULY 2013

Options for the Churchfield Site in Denby Dale were discussed.

Bromley Park Residents Association Grant application was discussed.

An update on Denby Dale Library Project was received.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

AUGUST 2013

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

SEPTEMBER 2013

It was resolved to develop 1/3 of the Churchfields Site for allotments, with the remaining 2/3 being used as public open space, subject to a minimum 25 year lease from Kirklees Council.

The council agreed to grant Bromley Park Resident's Association £2,000 and St Nicholas Church £1,500.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

OCTOBER 2013

The council resolved to re-address the issue of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The council was updated on progress from the Denby Dale Community Project, which had applied for charitable status.

Churchfield Options for allotments were discussed and a working group agreed.

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

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications and the Finance & General Purposes Committee met to recommend the small grants for the year.

NOVEMBER 2013

The council discussed the plans developments on Strike Lane and Pilling Lane.

Small grants totally £4500.00 were agreed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

DECEMBER 2013

Peter Belsey of the Denby Dale Community Project addressed the council.

An update was received on managing rights of way.

A report was received from the YLCA.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

JANUARY 2014

A vacancy on the parish council was formally reported.

A request for litterbins to be replaced was made.

It was reported that The Denby Dale Community Project had achieved charitable status.

Concerns were raised over the Rural Community Broadband Initiative.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications. The Finance & General Purposes Committee discussed the draft budget and precept.

FEBRUARY 2014

Peter Butters from Kirklees Council gave an update on the Rural Community Broadband Initiative

Dr Polly Ann Flinders was co-opted onto the council.

It was decided to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan when the Local Development Framework was in place.

The Draft Budget was agreed totaling £178,165.00.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

MARCH 2014

The council received a presentation from the Youth Engagement Team.

The Denby Dale Rotary Club provided a presentation regarding funding of a defibrillator.

A vacancy was formally reported in the Emley ward.

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

APRIL 2014

A vacancy was formally reported in the Skelmanthorpe Ward.

An update was provided on the Denby Dale Community Project.

Procedures were discussed for the future allotments at Churchfields.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2013-2014

- The Parish Council precepted the sum of £158,378.00.
- 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 2013/2014**

	£
Receipts	139,809.57
Payments	<u>99,272.90</u>
	40,536.67
Opening Balance 1.4.13	<u>117,951.40</u>
Balance as at 31.3.14	<u>158,488.07</u>
Represented by	
Earmarked grants	4,210.00
Election Fund	5,000.00
General Reserves	20,000.00
Reserves for Future Projects	<u>129,278.07</u>
	 <u>158,488.07</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2013/2014

2012/2013	PAYMENTS	2013/2014
£		£
1,302.00	Subscriptions	1,313.00
130.00	Councillor Training	379.60
181.33	Councillor Travel	192.50
2,100.00	Newsletter	2,820.00
205.00	Emley Show	100.00
319.50	Websites	507.00
4,800.00	School Project S137	4,800.00
9,562.33	Small Grants	4,181.52
25,000.00	Countryside Project	25,000.00
3,000.00	Environment Trust S137	3,000.00
22,098.15	Community Grants	5,000.00
0.00	Community Grant Aid	18,000.00
675.00	Christmas Tree S137	1,185.00
112.00	Wreaths S137	112.00
5,280.00	Floral Displays	5,280.00
1,318.81	Dog Bags/dispensers	1,194.05
992.19	Insurance	806.21
2,784.15	Administration Costs	2,112.04
155.78	Petty Cash	45.99
21,093.65	Employment, Training and Associated Costs	18,798.42
33.30	Clerks travel	0.00
0.00	Chair's Allowance and Memento	99.00
1,055.00	Audit Fees	905.00
24.22	Bank charges	0.00
0.00	Telephone kiosk restoration	63.88
998.00	Heritage Working Party	660.00
0.00	Civic Do Payments	150.00
0.00	Litter Bins	284.00
2,333.82	VAT	2,283.69
<u>105,554.23</u>		<u>99,272.90</u>
3,876.44	Current Account	8,755.34
3,024.96	Deposit Account	3,027.73
111,000.00	Kirklees Investment	146,655.00
50.00	Petty Cash Float	50.00
117,951.40		158,488.07
<u>223,505.63</u>		<u>257,760.97</u>

DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL 2013-14

2012/2013		2013/2014
	RECEIPTS	
£		£
112,835.94	Precept	118,045.00
0.00	Council Tax Reduction Grant	17,610.00
305.84	Bank Interest Received	645.40
633.15	Heritage Working Party income from sale of books	949.21
4,535.36	Repayment of VAT	2,432.20
0.00	Other receipts	103.56
82.50	Contribution towards Emley Show from Kirkburton PC	0.00
585.00	Donations towards Christmas Trees from local businesses	0.00
0.00	YLCA branch conference refund of refreshments	24.20
0.00	Petty Cash Float	0.00
<u>118,977.79</u>		<u>139,809.57</u>
8,455.75	Current Account	3,876.44
22.09	Deposit Account	3,024.96
96,000.00	Kirklees Investment	111,000.00
50.00	Petty Cash Balance	50.00
<u>104,527.84</u>		<u>117,951.40</u>
<u>223,505.63</u>		<u>257,760.97</u>