

## Minutes of the Annual PARISH MEETING

**Held on Monday 19th April 2010 at 8.00pm**

**At St Mark's Hall, Green Tiles Lane, Denham Green, Denham**

Chairman          Parish Cllr Mr David Quinton

County Cllr        Mr W Lidgate

C/D/Parish Cllr   Mr R Reed

Dist/Parish Cllr   Mr B Harding

Parish Cllrs       Mrs I Catt, Mr W Davey, Mrs J East, Mr D Hartwell, Mr A Hook, Mrs R Lines, Mr A Sherriff

Residents         Mrs Sharon Williams, Miss Lois Spencer, Mr Len Smith, Mr Carl Shillito, Mr J Hall, Mrs Jean Nisbet, Mr Richard Downs

Clerk                Mr P Graham

1. Apologies for absence

District Cllr Mr S Chhokar, Parish Cllrs Miss S Cakebread, Mrs M Skelton and Mrs J Haynes, Mr George Povey.

2. Minutes of the last Parish Meeting of 20 April 2009

These were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

*Matters arising*

**Item 7.1.** Mr Quinton apologised that he had provided inaccurate information regarding the A40/A412 junction pedestrian crossings. They **would** be push-button controlled. He had explained this to Mrs Williams shortly afterwards.

3. Chairman's Report

The following annual report was presented by Cllr Mr David Quinton who explained that it would be reproduced in the next edition of *Denham Today* as the Chairman's Annual Report. There were no questions or matters arising. He also highlighted the recent news about the proposed HS2 High Speed Train Route through Buckinghamshire. The Parish Council would be fully involved in the consultation process which would begin later in 2010.

It is that time of year where one of my duties as Chairman of the Council is to give a report on the last twelve months of Council. The Parish Council is made up of 15 councillors who also represent the Parish Council on thirteen outside bodies along with the five parish committees. This year Councillor Peter Chapman resigned and we welcomed Councillor Sally Cakebread as his replacement. We employ a part time Clerk, who is helped by a part time clerical assistant. We also work with Buckinghamshire County and South Bucks District Councils whose local elected Councillors attend the parish meetings and give regular reports. In June 2009 we had the County Council elections. County Councillor Lidgate was re-elected and Councillor Roger Reed was also elected. We will continue to work with them on many local issues.

### 3. Chairman's Report (continued)

We continue to be involved in consultation documents with these two local authorities and their partners which influence policy decisions and can lead to extra funding for local community issues. Some of the recent reviews have been the District Council Local Development Framework, South Bucks Partnership Cohesion and Inequalities, and the Schools Admissions Review where once again distance to schools is a disadvantage to this parish. Along with eight other parish councils we have robustly decided not to join the Local Area Forum group which the County Council is trying to form as we do not believe that there is a need for another group to decide where funding needs to be spent when we already have the South Bucks Partnership which can make these decisions. We have also been consulted on other issues such as Heatherwood & Wexham Park NHS Trust, Sustainable Communities Act.

The majority of discussion and decisions are made at the five committees which meet six times a year except the Planning Committee which meets every three weeks. They all report back to the Parish Council.

The COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE publishes four newsletters per year. The Spring, Autumn and Winter newsletters are slim leaflets with upcoming events and small articles on local issues which are available from various local outlets. The Summer newsletter booklet is delivered to every household throughout the parish and has more detailed local information. The new Parish Logo is now being used. This committee is also charged with the upkeep of the Denham Parish Council website, available on [www.denhampc.co.uk](http://www.denhampc.co.uk). Past and current newsletters are available via the website. This committee has been working on a new Parish Plan where the views of residents were sought. This will enable us to obtain funding and work towards enhancing our parish.

PLANNING COMMITTEE. As consultees on planning matters, the Parish Council continues to comment on local planning applications. Whilst the majority of these are of a domestic nature, the past year has produced some major applications affecting Denham where District Council approval has been given for The Inn on the Green for four retail units, a neighbourhood police office and 36 residential units, Alexander Korda House for 6 houses and 12 flats. Also remembering that the Deluxe film site in Denham Green and the former Flour Mill on Willowbank also have outline planning permission to develop housing at both sites. We also opposed the vast development by Pinewood Studios that has been turned down by the District Council. This would have impacted on the Green Belt and caused severe highway issues for our parish.

The New Denham and The Lea North minerals sites are both in operation and the parish is represented on both Liaison Committees with reports back to Planning Committee. We are also consulted on Alcohol, Public Entertainment and other licensing as well as tree preservation orders.

The Parish Council has contributed towards several large consultation documents. This committee also attempts to monitor enforcement issues and reports them to the District Council. Members also attend and speak at planning appeal hearings.

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE looks after all the public open spaces, recreation grounds, play areas and youth matters. It also manages allotments and notice boards within the parish.

3. Chairman's Report (continued)

The allotment site in New Denham is very popular with all 112 plots let and there is a waiting list for new tenants. The annual presentation of the Powell Cup is given to the best plotholder each year judged by two members of this committee.

The Parish Council continues to support the Junior and Senior Youth Clubs. We would like to record our thanks to the volunteers for their continued excellent work and dedication. Without them these clubs would not be able to continue.

A year ago I reported on the new play facility at the Denham Green Open Space where small earth mounds were formed and grassed over to be used as a bicycle track. All projects have plus and minus points and this area was one where a lot of negative issue had been voiced. We were extremely pleased to obtain full planning permission for this site that has proved to be a great success.

We have also seen the return of play equipment at the Way & Tillard Recreation Ground in Denham Village after many years and is proving popular with local children. This was funded by a lottery grant via South Bucks District Council. We have just finalised legal negotiations for a play area in Tilehouse Way which has replaced that which was situated off Denham Green Lane. The council will be choosing a contractor in the next few weeks.

This committee reports on all open space areas within the parish and is responsible for the grass cutting and maintenance via outside contractors. All small maintenance work is carried out by Mr G Newell who is the Parish 'Handyman'. This enables this committee and the Lighting & Highways Committee to respond efficiently to minor damage and repairs such as graffiti and broken glass.

**LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE.** This committee looks after street lighting on side roads, bus shelters and public seats. It also has an increasing role in monitoring the County Council responsibilities of highways, footways and rights of way. In the past twelve months, we have opposed the switching off of main road street lights which has caused great concern to parishioners. It is a three year trial and although we are not opposed to all of the areas we do believe that the County Council should have re-evaluated the safety issues at road junctions that are now in darkness. We have also pointed this out to our MP on a site visit. We have continually asked for maintenance of highway drainage problems especially in Denham Green which has had a problem of flooding on the A412 for many years. We are all aware of the bad state on our roads and we would ask any one to contact the County Council direct to report pot holes.

The 581 and 582 local bus services continue to be a great success. We know that there is a need for these services especially for the older members and non drivers of our community.

The new traffic signal scheme at the A40/A412 junction is now finished. Although the signals work better with regard to traffic movement it has not relieved the congestion on the A412 in the rush hour and a yellow box may still be needed.

This year we did not install a new bus shelter, but from initial feedback from the appraisal forms this project has been very well received within the parish. Next year we will continue the building programme with an additional facility on the A40 at the top of Red Hill just past the junction of Mount Lane.

3. Chairman's Report (continued)

We also took on the responsibility of cutting the hedge in Old Mill Road along with the local footpaths and bridleways. We get a contractor to do the work and re-invoice the County Council. This has reduced the amount of complaints about these areas being obstructed.

The County Council has been asked to look at the damage that has occurred to the verge on Broadway West outside the garage in Denham Green by HGV lorries and also to get bollards installed.

We continually work on speeding issues within the parish with other partners. An additional VAS sign will be installed on the A40 and also the Safer Road Partnership van with mobile camera will again be sited on the A4020 in New Denham.

The FINANCE COMMITTEE continues to oversee the overall budget and monitoring of expenditure throughout the year. It has the responsibility of recommending the annual precept which is the amount of money required to carry out the services provided by the Parish Council and is collected from residents via the Council Tax levied by the South Bucks District Council. Although this year showed an increase I would like to point out that the annual increase over the last five years is 2% and Denham has the second lowest parish precept per head in the whole of South Bucks.

This committee also has responsibility for staff contracts, the upkeep of the Parish Council office and equipment, grant applications from local organisations and legal documentation.

It has also overseen the project to have a Nicholson commemorative plaque erected on White Cottage in the village in May 2010.

A reminder that the Beating of the Bounds Parish walk will take place this year on Sunday 9th May. It will cover Wyatts Covert, Shire Lane east and Denham Park Farm. We meet at Northmoor Hill Wood car park at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

Our appreciation as ever goes to the Parish Clerk, his clerical assistant and all other contractors who work on our behalf to keep parish matters running smoothly.

I would personally like to thank the chairman of committees and the other parish councillors for their support, dedication and commitment they have given to benefit the community of Denham over the past twelve months.

4. Accounts for 2008/09

The Clerk presented these accounts that had been submitted for audit and since signed off. A brief summary had been reproduced in the Summer 2009 "Denham Today" delivered to all households in Denham. There were no questions or matters arising.

5. Accounts for 2009/10

The Clerk presented a preliminary summary of these accounts, a full version of which would go to Parish Council on 10 May 2010, and then to audit. There were no questions or matters arising.

6. Questions, resolutions and announcements from electors

1. Miss Lois Spencer of Lower Road spoke regarding tipped spoil at the A412/Old Rectory Lane junction and the difficulty of getting the County Council Local Area Technician to deal with it.

The Chairman hoped that County Cllrs Lidgate and Reed would take the matter up.

2. Mrs Jean Nesbit of The Pyghtle expressed discontent about the County Council street light switch off trial and said that she was angry that the County Council hierarchy would not consider any changes regardless of the arguments put forward. She was supported by Mr Len Smith who questioned the cost of the trial, Mr Carl Shillito who referred to the poor state of the roads, and Cllr Harding who questioned what the criteria were for the trial's success.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council's view was similar, and explained they also had tried unsuccessfully to improve matters. He would be meeting residents on 22 April 2010 to discuss the possibility of getting together a petition for presentation to the County Council by County Cllrs Lidgate and Reed.

It was unanimously agreed by the meeting to support the campaign of the Parish Council and residents to get the County Council to reconsider its policy of all lights switched off, particularly at dangerous junctions.

3. Mr Richard Downs of Lower Road expressed the thanks of the Higher Denham Community Association to the Parish Council for their annual grant towards play area maintenance and for the second hand notice board.
4. Mr Len Smith of Lower Road highlighted the dreadful state of the road surfaces in the area. He was supported by Mr Downs who gave an example of a poor gully repair in Slade Oak Lane which had not been monitored by the responsible County Council officer.

County Cllr Lidgate explained the various programmes for repair, but said that it was currently impossible for the County Council to deal with all the outstanding highway problems on grounds of cost. He encouraged residents to continue to report problems and to copy the reports to him.

5. Mr Carl Shillito of Tilehouse Way drew attention to the long standing problem of all day commuter parking in the Tilehouse Way/Green Tiles Lane area. He was supported by Mr Len Smith who highlighted the access problems for the 581 and 582 buses in Cheapside Lane because of obstructive parking in Cheapside Lane.

The Chairman said that both issues had been taken up with the County Council by the Parish Council without success. The County Council had a policy of no new parking restrictions until Civil Parking Enforcement arrangements had been agreed with the District Council. Until then, it was the responsibility of the police to enforce the law with respect to highway obstruction.

6. Mrs Jean Nesbit felt that certain areas of Denham should be designated as alcohol free. It was noted that this was a District Council Licensing matter, and that they had not agreed to any such areas despite a request from the Parish Council.

6. Questions, resolutions and announcements from electors

7. Mrs Sharon Williams of Cheapside Lane reported an outbreak of graffiti in Denham Village.

The Chairman said that it would be taken up with the local police and the Denham Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG).

8. The Clerk reported that Neighbourhood Specialist Officer PC Marcus Audoin had recently been redeployed to Aylesbury and replaced by PC Steve Smith.
9. Mr Carl Shillito reported that a bin near the Denham Green Open Space had been taken from its mounting, and promised to supply the Clerk with details later.
10. Mrs Jean Nisbet drew attention to the unsavoury nature of the tunnel under Denham Station.

It was confirmed that it was generally a Chiltern Railway responsibility.

7. Conclusion

Mr Quinton thanked everybody for coming and issued an invitation to stay for refreshments and discuss parish affairs informally as well as viewing the exhibits on display.

Meeting closed at 8.53pm.