

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
Held by the Parish Council of Denmead  
on **TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2007** commencing at 7.30 pm  
in the WAR MEMORIAL HALL, DENMEAD

Present:

Cllr M Webber	(Chairman)
Cllr K Andreoli	
Cllr G Bendall	
Cllr D Dawe	
Cllr B Gibbs	
Cllr D Griffen	
Cllr R Hallett	
Cllr J Harrison	
Cllr F Hull	
Cllr N Lander-Brinkley	
Cllr S McEwan	
Cllr S Wood	
Cllr F Allgood (County and District Councillor)	
District Councillor P Stallard	
District Councillor M Read	
Mr C Buckle – Denmead Future	
Sgt C Stanton – Hampshire Police	
Mr B Turner – Denmead Neighbourhood Watch	
Mrs V Treagust	Clerk to the Council
Mrs C Brown	Responsible Financial Officer

Public: 24 attendees (22 signed the attendance list) including representatives of Denmead Evening Women's Institute who served the refreshments during the interval.

1. **OPENING WELCOME**

Cllr Andreoli opened the meeting by welcoming the public explaining that the theme of the meeting this year is "Denmead Yesterday and Tomorrow".

He talked about his co-option as a Parish Councillor in December 2006 and his decision to stand for election in May 2007. Cllr Andreoli touched on misunderstandings about the role and thought that perhaps the popularity of a comedy programme which got it wrong has dissuaded people from considering taking on what has proved to be a very interesting experience.

In conclusion Cllr Andreoli said that as the election is uncontested he is set to serve Denmead for the next four years and hopes to do it well and to encourage others to join in too.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr J Knight [holiday]

3. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Assembly held on the 25 April 2006 were issued and it was RESOLVED to accept the minutes as a correct record and these were signed by the Chairman.

4. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

5. Before moving to the next agenda item 'A review of the last four years', Cllr Webber invited Mr Garry Munday, Chairman of Denmead Infant School to speak. A written report was not available.

Mr Munday gave an update on what the school is doing and said that the Ofsted Inspection on 25-26 April 2006 reported that it is a good school with some outstanding features and that it provides good value for money and pupils' personal development is outstanding. Also, exemplary behaviour and excellent attitudes to learning and school life contribute considerably to their success and the school works extremely well in partnership with others to ensure that pupils are very well-cared for, feel safe and enjoy coming to school. An outstanding curriculum provides exciting and challenging learning experiences. [Full details of the report are on the school's website]

Mr Munday reported that there were 270 pupils but the numbers have reduced and there are now 210. Parents have greater choice now and children get moved if parents are not happy. The result of this is that 4 new children started this term because of the Denmead Infant School Ofsted Report. 25% of children are from out of the catchment area.

Mr Munday displayed a concept plan which shows how they want the school grounds to look. A new gate onto Hambledon Road was installed last year [part of the concept plan] and they now want a car park to separate the children from the traffic. Work on the car park should start in the Autumn term 2007.

6. **'DENMEAD YESTERDAY'**

- (a) **'A review of the last four years by Cllr Webber, Chairman of the Parish Council'**

Cllr Webber's report including a financial summary for 2006/07 was included in the report pack available at the meeting together with the audited accounts for 2005/06.

The accounts for 2006/07 have not yet been finalised and approved by Council but the public were invited to contact the Parish Council's Financial Officer if they required a copy of the accounts.

Cllr Webber reported that Mr Robert Heathcock of Winchester City Council was unable to attend the meeting

Cllr Webber reported that he had decided not to stand for election in May 2007. He recognised that other councillors had given much longer service than he had but nonetheless he has been a parish councillor for nine years and Chairman of the Council for the last six years and he felt it was time to stop and do other things. He said that it has not always been easy but it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the community and generally it has been an enjoyable experience.

Talking about the stewardship of the present Parish Council over the last four years Cllr Webber said that a great deal of time and effort had been put into the work of the council by its members and in his role as Chairman he had also attended a number of meetings with the County and District Councils.

Two of the tangible outcomes had been the provision of the skateboard park and a new modern sports pavilion which includes a youth facility. Another project was the provision of funding to Denmead Tennis Club for the refurbishment of the tennis courts and provision of floodlighting.

The council has also helped other community groups with the provision of grants, such as Denmead Brass, Denmead Community Centre, Denmead War Memorial Hall, Denmead Festival, Denmead Communicare [community bus], Citizens Advice Bureau, HomeStart, Denmead Environment Group and Denmead in Bloom.

Cllr Webber commended the work done by Mr Clive Buckle and his colleagues on Denmead Future in the production of the Village Design Statement which was adopted earlier this year.

Cllr Webber concluded by thanking the Clerk and her staff for their hard work and thanked his fellow councillors for their contribution and support during the last four years.

(b) **Highways & General Purposes – Cllr Griffen, Vice-Chairman of committee**

[A copy of the Highways & General Purposes Report was included in the report pack].

Cllr Griffen explained that Cllr Knight was away on holiday and had prepared a script for him which he would read.

He explained that the work of the committee covers a wide range of activities from highways, flood prevention, the maintenance of parish owned street lights and bus shelters, the supervision of all activities relating to the burial grounds, liaison with the police and the oversight of the various dog bins scattered around the village.

The upkeep of the roads and pavements is carried out by HCC and partially funded by the County component of the council tax. Only minor maintenance work has been carried out on roads in the village this year but the committee will be lobbying hard for more work to be carried out in the coming year.

There has been flash flooding in the well known trouble spots of Southwick Road, Kidmore Lane, the junction of Bere Road and Ashling Road although there has not been any serious flooding. The flash flooding is mainly caused by inadequately maintained or partially blocked drains and the committee has been pressing Hampshire Highways to rectify these problems and some work has been done. Highways say that they are short of funding which is not good enough. The public was urged to help by complaining to the Highways Department and County Councillor Allgood.

The parish council owns 105 street lights and work has started on upgrading some of them to bring them up to modern minimum light polluting standards. This is a long term programme.

The festive lighting on the Beech Tree on the Village Green was vandalised and it will cost several hundred pounds to repair.

After a slow start the village is now beginning to see the benefits of the new policing arrangements. To assist the police in their duties the Parish Council has provided them with facilities in the new Ashling Pavilion on a 24/7 basis.

The last topic covered was the important one of the village's burial grounds. In managing these, the Parish Council aims to create and maintain a haven of rest where grieving relatives and friends can relax in peaceful, country surroundings. The new burial ground in the North Field should meet the village's needs for about another thirty years but now is the time to be making plans for the acquisition of further land.

There is also a very active Footpaths Sub-Committee.

(c) **Amenities**

(i) **General Report including Youth Working Group – Cllr Hull, Chairman of Amenities Committee**

A copy of the Amenities Report was included in the report pack. The following summarises some of the topics covered.

The Amenities Committee has a wide remit with responsibility for the upkeep of all the parish council's landholdings from the Burial Ground to the sports fields to the shrubberies along the greenways – amounting to about 10 miles of hedging but in most cases stops short of the grass verges which are the responsibility of HCC. It is also responsible for maintaining the buildings owned by the Parish Council and administer what could be termed the leisure facilities from sports grounds to play facilities. Over the last few years the committee has also taken a much wider interest in youth facilities.

Cllr Hull addressed the question of sport and the good relations that exist with the Bowls Club and Denmead Tennis Club. Other major sports in the village are cricket and football and the parish council strives to maximise the playing availability of grass pitches for these sports. These areas are also the main 'open space' areas for informal use and play and this can lead to conflict at times. Ville Bowmen make good use of the Kidmore Field.

The Parish Council has had an active play policy for years – being ahead of the larger authorities who are currently producing play policies at the behest of the Government! This was originally produced in conjunction with Denmead Swings and Things and others who were also responsible for the design and installation of Denmead's early playgrounds.

Denmead Swings and Things have re-written their constitution so as to permit them to change their role in the Youth Partnership and take over as the umbrella group behind Denmead Activity Nights [DAN] in partnership with the Parish Council.

DAN is run for 9-13 year olds and runs from Ashling Pavilion. There is still a lack of furniture which will allow the computer suite to come on stream but there is an emphasis on sport which helps keep them fit. The kitchen at the pavilion also allows more time to be spent on cookery sessions which encourages interest in 'healthy eating'. There is also a varied arts and crafts programme including drama together with a programme of 'trips out'.

The Parish Council's extensive landscaping programme is handled by the Landscape Working Party reporting to Amenities as the parent committee and at this point Cllr Hull handed over to Cllr Harrison the lead member of this working party.

(ii) **Landscape Working Party [LWP]– Cllr Harrison**

Cllr Harrison explained the work of the LWP and gave a report on the areas of land which belong to the parish and need to be maintained. An example of the jobs carried out is preparation of football pitches, the mowing of the greenways, clearing of undergrowth, pruning trees, cutting hedges and planting and replanting areas. All this maintenance is the responsibility of the parish council's Groundstaff. Cllr Harrison said that if residents living near any of these areas are interested in taking care of small areas then the LWP do consider applications for Licences to Cultivate.

It was explained that considerable time is spent raising plants from cuttings so that money can be saved and there is always a supply of suitable plants; others are purchased from recognised suppliers.

Cllr Harrison concluded by explaining the work of Denmead in Bloom which is very active in ensuring that the flower beds in the village are interestingly and attractively planted.

(d) **Planning**

(i) **The work of the Planning Committee – Cllr Gibbs [Vice Chairman of Planning]**

Cllr Gibbs provided an overview of the work of the Parish Council's Planning Committee, explaining that although the parish is not the planning authority it exercises its right to express an opinion on all applications that come before it. The committee also makes recommendations to Winchester City Council [the planning authority] and comments on the MDA West of Waterlooville and the Regional Plan for the South East. On average the parish council deals with over 100 applications each year.

(ii) **The Village Design Statement – Mr Clive Buckle**

Mr Clive Buckle said that it had taken from November 2004 to February 2007 to complete the Village Design Statement and get it adopted and it will have to be reviewed every three years. Mr Buckle referred to the next stage which is likely to be the Market Town Health Check but the difficulty will be getting enough volunteers involved.

7. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Reports included in the report pack.

County Cllr Allgood reviewed his report and added that the County Council had achieved an Award for Excellence outlining the areas of success. HCC has set up a Commission of Enquiry for Climate Change; they are conducting a study of speed limits in Hampshire; schools are performing better. The Council Tax will increase by 4.9%. He said a lot had been achieved but there was still a lot to do.

District Cllr Stallard said that one of the things that is improving at Winchester City Council is efficiency. The council's structure is being reviewed. WCC Planning has been reviewed and a report issued in January 2007.

Reference was made to Phase II of Denmead Village Centre Improvements. Shop owners own the frontage and WCC set aside funding for the improvements but it has taken a long time to get the agreement of all of the shop owners. It is not yet resolved.

The original costs have escalated from £62,000 up to £95,000 because of delays. A breakdown of the costs has been requested by Cabinet.

District Cllr Read said that revised village centre improvement plans have been drawn up and will be reviewed. The Planning Department is moving to the west wing of the Guildhall. The MDA Reserve Sites are still in the background.

8. **QUESTION TIME**

Mr Stokes of Hatchmore Road talked about the second fatality at the weekend on Hambledon Road. Highway Maintenance vehicles park on the pavement in the village centre; a lot of people doing it and he hasn't seen anyone patrol the area.

C/Cllr Allgood said he has taken up the highways issues surrounding the fatality and the Police, HCC and WCC have met to review the problem and discuss what caused the accidents.

Cllr Hallett supported the proposal to reduce speed limits.

Mr Hull, Forest Road asked if HCC can review the marking in Furzley Road as he considers it is more dangerous now.

Mr Kennett, Park Road reported that the path in Hambledon Road is very overgrown.

**8.35 pm : The meeting adjourned for an informal forum and refreshments.**  
**The meeting reconvened at 8.55 pm**

9. **'DENMEAD TOMORROW'**

- (a) **Sgt C Stanton - Hampshire Police:-** Reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Policing model is now in place. Denmead falls within Area 6. There are two police officers, a third is due later this year. Three PCSOs now joined the team. Providing cover 24/7; fast response. They will look at problems like parking, traffic and anti-social behaviour. Denmead will see more police presence. Other agencies and partners also involved. Excellent partnership with Denmead Neighbourhood Watch. Compared with other areas Denmead is not a high crime area; it gets low level crime and anti-social behaviour. Police need to effectively target their resources and have a hi-visibility presence. Sgt Stanton said that any problems should be notified to him and one of the quickest ways is to notify the Clerk who will email him or PC Barham. In response to a question about the fatality [previously mentioned] Sgt Stanton said that the various departments concerned review incidents to see what is needed.
- (b) **Mr B Turner – Chairman, Denmead Neighbourhood Watch Committee:-** Supported Sgt Stanton's comments, adding the police cannot do it all – community involvement required. There are fifty neighbourhood watch schemes in Denmead. Community is complacent until they are affected.
- (c) **Cllr B Gibbs - Creech Wood Project:-** Cllr Gibbs gave a report on the project which would improve existing trails to a standard where they become multi-purpose. He said that the demands on the forest are high and wear and tear on trail surfaces is constant. The trails as they stand are inadequate and incomplete. During the winter months and periods of wet weather, trails quickly turn to mud and often become impassable in many places. People need access to the forest at all times of the year and should not be excluded because of bad weather. Cllr Gibbs said that money is needed to pay for the required materials, labour and hire of machinery for path construction and he is seeking funding for the project.  
The project will be carried out with the permission and assistance of the Forestry Commission.  
This was followed by a brief question and answer session.
- (d) **Cllr N Lander-Brinkley - Projects for the future:-** Cllr Lander-Brinkley explained that planning is the key and there will be a piece in the next edition of the Parish Scene as part of the consultation exercise. He outlined the suggestions that had been agreed by the parish council which will be put to the electorate for comment, namely:-  
Additional burial ground  
Buy/lease more land  
Community facility/theatre/hall  
Improvements to roundabouts  
Kidmore Field  
Offices for parish, police, CAB, WCC and HCC in one place  
Renovate Car Parks to Ashling KGV Field  
Street lighting – better policy  
The Barn
- (e) **Cllr F Hull - Denmead – the next four years:-** Cllr Hull reflected on the changes in Denmead and reviewed past achievements, although the focus was the future and planning for it; expressing a personal view Cllr Hull said that the essence of a good Plan is not the paper it is written on but the people behind it.

She also emphasised that communities are different and cannot be categorised by population size.

One of the achievements that need support if it is to continue in the future is Denmead Activity Nights because funding from the Children's Fund is coming to an end.

Cllr Hull concluded that the Parish Council could achieve more for Denmead if we [the community] all work together.

- (f) **Cllr N Lander-Brinkley - 'Aiming for the best, including the need to achieve Quality Status':-** Cllr Lander-Brinkley drew together the various topics covered during the meeting. He also talked about his aim for the parish council to achieve Quality Parish Status [QPS]. There are seven tests that the council needs to pass, some are mandatory others discretionary. Currently the council fails one of the mandatory tests which require that at least 80% of the council is elected; a situation which he hoped would be rectified in the forthcoming election. Another mandatory requirement is that the council must have a qualified Parish Clerk and he was pleased to be able to say that the council meets this requirement.

Other topics covered by Cllr Lander-Brinkley included the new approach to the Parish Council's finance with better financial planning; a stand-still budget for 2007/08 with no increase in the parish precept and providing the residents with an opportunity to have their say on the draft list of potential projects [previously mentioned].

Cllr Lander-Brinkley concluded by saying that the key to success in the future is working together and aiming for the best.

#### 10. **VOTE OF THANKS**

Cllr Bendall commented that if Cllr Andreoli is "Denmead Tomorrow" she must be "Denmead Yesterday"; this was followed by Cllr Bendall moving a vote of thanks to:

- all of the residents who turned out for the meeting and their interest and questions
- the speakers who have given their valuable time
- all the staff for their hard work throughout the year
- Denmead Evening Women's Institute who have given their time to provide refreshments during the interval
- all fellow Members for their hard work and the time they give freely to the work of the parish council throughout the year

Cllr Bendall concluded by thanking Cllr Webber for his contribution to the parish council and the community during his time as a Member and Chairman and called on everyone to give him a standing ovation and wish him well for the future.

**Meeting closed at 9.55 pm**