

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
held by the Parish Council of Denmead
on **TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2009** commencing at 7.30 pm
in the ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL, DENMEAD

Present: Cllr N Lander-Brinkley (Chairman)
Cllr K Andreoli
Cllr G Bendall
Cllr C Browton
Cllr B Gibbs
Cllr R Hallett
Cllr J Harrison
Cllr F Hull
Cllr J Knight
Cllr C Phillips
Cllr G Phillips
Cllr I Reed

Cllr F Allgood (County and District Councillor)
District Councillor P Stallard
District Councillor M Read

PC S Palmer Hampshire Police
PCSO L Day Hampshire Police
Mr T Daniells Clerk to the Council

Public: 45 attendees signed the attendance list, including representatives of Denmead Evening Women's Institute who served the refreshments during the interval.

1. **OPENING WELCOME**

Cllr Gibbs opened the evening meeting by welcoming the public explaining that the theme of the meeting this year is "Celebrating Successes". He invited those present to take refreshment whilst viewing the display of Council activity and engaging in discussions with Councillors. The meeting would convene for the formal sessions at 8.00pm

2. **DAN AWARDS**

Run in the style of the Oscars, there were categories for Sport, Life Skills, Drama, Arts & Crafts, Personal Development, Community Involvement and Young Leaders. Cllr G Phillips presided as Master of Ceremonies. The winner in each category received a medal from the Chairman of the Council, and the overall winner, Caprice Bastable, received a cup.

3. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Martin had apologised for absence.

4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Assembly held on the 15 April 2008 were issued and it was RESOLVED to accept the minutes as a correct record and these were signed by the Chairman.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Lander-Brinkley thanked everyone for attending the meeting whether this was to see their children receive an award, or as residents wanting to hear what the Council had achieved or the ladies of the Denmead Evening WI who were serving refreshments.

He summarised the purpose of an Annual Parish Meeting was to review the past year and what had been achieved.

This year's Assembly would be different to that of last year. The format had changed and fewer speakers had been invited. At the end of the evening there would be a Q & A session with a panel representing Parish and Ward Councillors and the Police.

The Annual Parish Report had been distributed at the meeting. His report was included and he did not propose to cover this in detail at the meeting. Instead, he wished to highlight two aspects.

The first was that of the completion of works to the Village Centre. The trees had been planted the previous week and the protective guards installed. He thanked the Ward Councillors for their assistance in getting this to completion, and to County Councillor Freddie Allgood for a contribution from his County allowance which was used to offset much of the cost of planting the trees and putting a one year maintenance contract in place.

The second aspect he highlighted was to refer to a training session the Council had received from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils. This had covered some topics relevant to a Parish Council such as the Code of Conduct and the Power of Wellbeing. In addition it had identified many of the successes achieved by the Parish Council. These needed to be recognised and celebrated. As a result of this, the brochure, "Aims and Aspirations" had been produced as a reminder of what had been achieved and to look to future plans. He encouraged those residents present to read the document, and to pass it on to others.

The Parish Council now had a full compliment of Councillors. These were individuals who were unpaid and doing their best to serve their community. He thanked them all for their contribution.

Cllr Lander-Brinkley invited questions, but none were forthcoming at this time.

7. **UPDATE ON THE AFFORDABLE HOMES PROJECT**

Cllr Andreoli gave an update on progress since the previous APA when a representative from Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH) had explained what the Alliance did.

He reported that Winchester had over 70 applicants on their housing list who had a connection with Denmead. The Parish Council supported a scheme whereby homes built can be allocated to these applicants, but also be kept forever for people with local connections.

To achieve this, these homes would need to be built on a site outside of the agreed development envelope of the village.

During the year, HARAH had investigated all possible sites. Once suitable sites were identified, the landowners were contacted to see if they would be willing to sell their land. None were prepared to sell land 9 months ago, but since then, a site may become available. Negotiations are underway but at an early stage.

Cllr Andreoli also commented that between 15 – 20 affordable homes may be built on Hambledon Road on the site formerly known as Buena Vista. This was within the development envelope of the village and therefore these homes would be available for wider allocation.

Denmead was looking to meet the needs of those with that local connection to the village.

At this time, there were no questions for Cllr Andreoli.

8. **DENMEAD IN BLOOM**

Liz Williams, the organiser of Denmead in Bloom, then gave an update on the Denmead Litter Pick, held on the previous Sunday, and the work of DiB in general.

The litter pick was well attended with over 60 volunteers giving up their Sunday morning to clean up the village. [Note: the Parish Council had promoted this years 'spring clean' as part of CPRE's 'Stop the Drop' Campaign] Included in this activity, were the local cubs and brownies, and the Young Farmers. Over 70 black bin liners of rubbish were collected as well as a bed frame and computer keyboard.

Liz then spoke of the work to plant the village with both formal and informal displays.

Formal planting can be seen in the tubs in the village centre, and informal planting is found on Harvest Field with the planning of the willow dome and hedges.

Liz thanked all those who made the litter pick such a success, and also those who helped throughout the year with DiB.

9. QUESTION AND ANSWERS

The evening then moved into a Q & A session, with a panel comprising of Parish, Ward and County Councillors alongside the Police. Residents were able to ask questions and receive an answer that evening.

The questions were forthcoming and covered such topics as;

- Road signage, and where there was too much or too little. This encouraged some discussion with some considering the need for additional signage whereas others were of the opinion that there was already too much street clutter.
- Other questions on roads and road safety concerned the chevrons in Southwick Road were very reflective and made it hard to see the road, and what had happened to the speed limit reminder (SLR) warning signs that advised motorists of their speed.
- Road repairs in and around the village and some of the thoroughfares out of the village, especially the condition of Forest Road between Hatchmore Road and Worlds End. Resurfacing had been done to parts of Anmore Road, and when was the remainder to be done.
- Police Surgeries which were now being organised for a Tuesday between 1.00pm to 2.30pm in the All Saints Church Hall Foyer. These had not been well supported by the Community Noticeboards could be used to advertise them.
- The new trees in the village centre and would they survive.
- Traffic speeds in the village which were at times regarded as excessive, not just by cars but by farm vehicles as well.
- The possible outcome of a planning application for Little Frenchies Field. This was a reserve site which would only come forward if new builds in the District fell below target.
- Vandalism and what was being done about it and the 'no cold calling zone' in some roads of the village and what was the legal status. This was answered by the Police. CPSO Day handed out a graph to attendees showing crime statistics.

The success of the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel was highlighted. This has been a real success of a working partnership between the Police and Denmead and its adjacent Parish Councils of Hambleton and Southwick.

10. VOTE OF THANKS

Cllr Knight closed the meeting with 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

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm