

Chair`s Report

Debenham Parish Annual meeting

11 / 05 / 2026

I am happy to report that for the second year in a row, we have not increased the precept our portion of the Council Tax (most other Council`s have had to increase by the maximum 5%)

We have reorganised the dog waste collection and have saved £1200 a year

We found we were being charged business rates on the cemetery. I queried this and was told it is quite normal. Fortunately our wonderful Clerk spoke with other Councils and found there was a small business rate relief which could be applied for. Ginny applied and relief was granted and a six year rebate was granted.

I would like to offer my thanks to Dawn, Richard and Ben who each do a brilliant job keeping the village streets, the green spaces around the village and public loo`s looking spectacular.

The village has been very fortunate to have received a sizable donation from Cllr Matthew Hicks towards new Oak fencing along the high street. (near Websters)

Our Clerk was able to get us funding from Mid Suffolk for two new Oak benches for the village.

Last summer the railings along Aspal Road were painted and there are plans for these works to continue.

We have a plan to paint the Millennium Gates at the cemetery too.

Nearly all the benches around the village have been sanded and either painted or teak oiled.

The upper Gardeners Road play area has had two new swing seats fitted, The recreation ground has an ongoing maintenance program for its continued upkeep.

I am very pleased to announce that thanks to Vicky Blick all of the allotments are let and are looking splendid. Rent collections have never been so high.

The Council using allotment funds recently arranged for a skip to remove rubbish in order to give new plotters a fresh start.

The Council has been doing its bit for Biodiversity planting of over 180 Blackthorn Whips in the Recreation ground and cemetery.

This year the Parish Council is delighted to announce that we have been able to help out many local organizations financially.

The Lower School has had funding towards a new decking ramp.

The Friends group at the Lower School has once again received funding towards the Summer Sizzle.

The Green Team has received continued funding for water sampling and the litter picks.

St Mary`s Church was given a sizable grant towards its new heating system

The Debenham branch of the Royal British Legion has been given a grant to replace the sand boxes by the village Memorial

The Debenham Leisure Centre received grants for.....

A contribution towards the fireworks insurance

Fixing the car park potholes

A sizable contribution towards the new 3G football pitch.

We have teamed up with the Woodland Group to refurbish the path between the cemetery gates and the rise up to

the lake, all the large stones will be removed and a new path laid.

A couple of parishioners asked if the Council could supply some sort of street lighting along an area of Gardeners Road which has never had lighting. We engaged with SCC sadly they have no funding so the Parish Council has agreed to fund a Solar Led light as there is no power along this particular path.

The Council was approached by the Debenham Project, they explained their new respite care program and they also asked for funding. We were delighted to have been able to fund them the full amount requested.

After 3 trees dropping large branches last summer, the Council has commissioned a tree survey of all the trees in the village so we can better understand their current condition and make a list of any suggested works in order to keep them healthy and safe.

The Council is reviewing our Neighbour Plan which could take 18 months to 2 years to complete.

We recently held a couple of open events at Dove Cottage which were well attended.

Please look out for a new village survey which will be coming through your letter boxes fairly soon.

Like all organisations, people come and people go.
I would like to thank the people who have given their time
in the past and have now left many to do other things
I would like to give special thanks for her 30 years of
service to this community to Frankie Winfrow Giffen who
resigned last month.
I am very pleased to say we have had 4 new Councillors
join us this year. Charlotte Alexander, Dan Haddon,
Morgan Potter and Tom Faggionato.
Mike Hammond has made a valued return to the Council
too.

We still have vacanciesit`s very worthwhile
.....come and do some good for your community.
Thank You