



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
DENBY DALE PARISH
COUNCIL**

2024 - 2025



DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25****CHAIR'S OVERVIEW**

An enjoyable year as Chair with thanks to all who have contributed into making it so. Thank you to the councillors who give freely of their own time and effort to have a real impact on creating a positive and quality life for residents and visitors and I congratulate every one of them who is active within their ward area. It is not just about sitting in meetings, it is about knowing and standing up for your community and helping everyone to enjoy and feel proud of where we live, work and play. I am pleased to have played a role in helping our council achieve greater visibility in our community - be that the introduction and use of social media, attending public events, and representing the council at seminars, presentations and meetings on matters which affect the greater and local area. A couple of unfortunate "firsts" during my year were the plans scrutiny committee not being quorate on one occasion, and the cancellation of a full council meeting due to adverse weather. However, those are just minor glitches on what continues to be a well-supported and attended council which only goes to prove the adage that you only get out what you put in!

I hope I have led our meetings with fairness and propriety, and it has been an honour to have held the Chair role for the last 12 months. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank our Parish Clerk both for her work in general and her help in my role as Chair.

Cllr Mike Wood

May 2025

Plans Scrutiny Committee

There has been a meeting every month and the Council discusses on average 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.

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 Purposes 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.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS MAY 2024 TO APRIL 2025

MAY 2024

Councillor Mike Wood was appointed as Chair, with Councillor Drew Atkins being appointed Vice Chair and newly elected Council members were welcomed to the meeting.

Members appointments were made on 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 several other outside organisations. A schools grant of £1000 was awarded to Scissett CE Academy towards a theatre visit.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

JUNE 2024

A grant request from the Denby Dale Community Dragons was discussed. A Grant was awarded to the Denby Dale Men's Shed Association for the purchase of the Church at Denby Dale. Grants were also awarded to the Rural Veterans Hubs and to Cumberworth CE First School. Feedback was received on the 'Chat to Shat' initiative and from the Climate Emergency Working Group.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee met and discussed the budget outturn and the heritage working party accounts, and reviewed Council policies. A grant was awarded to the Cumberworth Community Association towards noticeboards

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

JULY 2024

Schools grants were awarded to Emley First, Denby Dale First & Nursery and Skelmanthorpe Academy. It was agreed to reduce costs on a newsletter by investigating alternative circulation. The next Eco Event was discussed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications

AUGUST 2024



Riverfly sampling/riverbank maintenance at Clayton West with the River Stewardship Company

No Full Council meeting held in August

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications

SEPTEMBER 2024

The Countryside Officer noted the successful completion of the Level 2 Countryside Worker Apprenticeship

by Adam Johnson, and noted that he would now begin the Level 4 Countryside Ranger apprenticeship. The report of the External Auditor was received. The Council resolved to pay the increased Christmas tree costs. The adoption of Denby Dale station and a possible grant was discussed and resolved.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

OCTOBER 2024

Wreath laying by councillors was agreed for Remembrance Day. A grant was awarded to the Friends of Shelley Musica towards a Xylophone. A grant was also given to the Skelmanthorpe Darby & Joan Club towards a defibrillator. The state of the Denby Dale Parish Council bins was also considered.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications

NOVEMBER 2024

A report from the Citizens Advice Service based in the Council Building was noted. A vacancy in the Emley Ward was noted. The Footpath Mapping Boards costs were agreed so that the project could begin in Emley. Feedback was given on the last YLCA meeting which had been held at the Council Building.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee met and discussed a draft budget to recommend to Full Council. The Levels of Reserves were resolved, and the Internal Auditor for March 2025 was also appointed.



Birdbox cleaning out and re-installation at Churchfield

DECEMBER 2024

A budget as recommended by the Finance Committee was agreed at £255,228. An update on the Men's Shed Grant was received. The Station Adoption Working Party fed back on a meeting with PLP and other stakeholders.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

JANUARY 2025

Due to adverse weather conditions, the January meeting was not held.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended to Full Council that the figure of £281,000 was to be raised via the precept. A Grant was awarded to the 1st Upper Dearne Valley Navigators towards the Light up the Woods event.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

FEBRUARY 2025

The precept demand to Kirklees Council was set at £281,000. The Countryside Officer updated on his new position on Kirklees' Climate Commission. An update on the Men's Shed Project was received. Support was agreed for the Denby Dale Community Library regarding an expression of interest on land to the rear of the

building.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

MARCH 2025

Schools Grants were awarded to St Aidans, Joseph Norton Academy and Scissett Middle school. Grants were also awarded to The Denby Dale Pie Hall towards a new heating system and the Friends of Skelmanthorpe Library towards the Woven event and to the Denby Dale Rotary Club. It was resolved to add the £1000 grant award from CRN to the Council's Earmarked Reserves.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee reviewed the council's policies and awarded schools grants to Kayes First, Denby First and Birdsedge First. The Asset Register was confirmed and the Shared Visitor Website was discussed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

APRIL 2025

Full Council awarded grants to the Skelmanthorpe Bowling Club and Scissett Club. The Footpath map boards were discussed.

The Plans Scrutiny Committee discussed planning applications.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2024-25

- The Parish Council precepted the sum of £212,000
- The Parish Council continued to employ two staff.
- £6,000 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.
- The new Eco Schools Fund continued to support schools in the area.
- A donation was also made to the Royal British Legion.
- An apprentice was employed on the next Level.

Unaudited Balance Sheet
(see next page)

31st March 2024

31st March 2025

Current Assets			
2,701	VAT Control A/c	3,126	
3,623	Prepayments	4,393	
22,311	Current Bank A/c	24,276	
337	Deposit Bank A/c	1,367	
227,054	Kirklees Investment A/c	189,054	
<u>256,026</u>		<u>222,216</u>	
256,026	Total Assets	222,216	
Current Liabilities			
81	Creditors	0	
2,113	Accruals	2,128	
1,200	Allotment Deposit	1,000	
<u>3,394</u>		<u>3,128</u>	
252,632	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	219,088	
Represented By			
143,657	General Reserves	97,510	
60,000	EM Res - Unspecified Community	60,000	
5,000	EM Res - Elections	5,000	
40,000	EM Res - Unfor Uninsured BE	40,000	
474	EM Res - Small Grants	1,813	
3,500	EM Res - Community Grants	13,765	
0	EM Res - Denby Dale Station	1,000	
<u>252,632</u>		<u>219,088</u>	

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2025 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

Signed :
Chairman _____ Date : _____

Signed :
Responsible
Financial
Officer _____ Date : _____