

Dersingham Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Chairman's Report

We have been fortunate to run with full complement for most of the past year and I thank councillors for their contribution. I am also very grateful to Sarah and Geraldine, our staff, for their support.

This time last year we were working hard to get everything in place in order to start work on the new Village Centre, not least trying to ensure the cost would be within our then available budget. Construction work is on schedule and the Centre should be open for events by mid-October. I am grateful to colleagues who have been overseeing construction and monitoring the finances. There was a substantial addition to the precept this year to ensure sufficient funds would be available to complete the building work to a high standard.

We will soon have a wonderful new building which the whole community can be proud of.

The Council decided, in November, to disband most committees for a trial period and have two Full Council meetings a month. This will be reviewed at the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Tony Bubb retired then returned to the post of Village Voice Editor. He has said he will continue in post until another volunteer comes forward. Geraldine and Sarah manage the Administration between them, so all the Editor needs to do is edit/approve articles for inclusion. If you are interested, please contact the office for more information.

We are working on a new mapping system which will help us deal more easily with issues relating to trees, benches grass cutting etc within the village. Cllr Mike Shepherd is leading on this.

New Data Protection legislation comes in to force very soon and this has taken a lot of Sarah's time, and also that of Councillors in understanding and then implementing the requirements. I don't think the law makers in the EU and our own government understand the level of extra work this places on Parish Councils and other small organisations. No doubt many of you will have had communications from those bodies whose mail list you appear on.

Again, I want to say a huge THANK YOU to the Task Force and Village Voice volunteers for their contribution to the village, and also to Keith and Rex for organising events - Village Community Day and Fun Dog Show on June 10th, and Christmas Lights Switch-On in November.

Sue Payne