

# DEENE & DEENETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL – SPRING NEWSLETTER

## *The Parish Council*

Parish and Town Councils are established under the Local Government Act 1974 and are the first level of local government. They provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action.

### OUR PARISH COUNCIL

**On 1 May 2025, there will be Local Authority Elections**, which includes Parish Council Elections. Where there are no new prospective candidates (and 7 or fewer candidates wish to stand), the current Parish Council may be reinstated otherwise we may need to take part in elections. If you are interested in becoming a parish council member please get in touch, however this needs to be before 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to give enough time to register your nomination for elections with the Electoral Commission.

This Council currently meets every two months with agenda (and subsequent minutes) posted online. Agendas are also posted on the main notice boards of each village and Priors Hall Park development within the boundary of Deene Parish.

We currently hold meetings in May, July, September, November, January and March in Deene Village Hall. The Parish General meeting is held each May where we appoint a Chair and ensure that we have all the necessary policies and procedures updated and in place for the coming year.

Please note that business conducted by the Councillors is on a voluntary basis.

Our parish is governed by 7 Councillors, supported by a paid Clerk. **Joe Roberts is our new Parish Clerk and may be contacted on [deeneanddeenethorpe@gmail.com](mailto:deeneanddeenethorpe@gmail.com)**

The Council is currently comprised of:

Cllr Keith Gautrey-Prue (Chair)  
Cllr Hannah Chambers (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Simon Hickling (Deene Estate Director),  
Cllr Stuart Barrett (Deene)  
Cllr Ian Briden (Deenethorpe)  
Cllr Lin Whatling (Deenethorpe)

We currently have one vacancy for a Parish Councillor due to the resignation of Cllr Brian Gretton. A notice of vacancy is currently published on the local noticeboards.

The parish receives its funding from a precept that is added to your council tax bill. Our current level of precept was set in January 2025 to provide the villages with just over £16,000 this year which it uses to upkeep and improve the villages.

Our current finances stand at around £25,000 and will be boosted by the £16,000 we are looking for ways to use that money to improve the environs of the villages. Requests for funding grants may be made to the council using our application form on our website. We do however, have responsibilities that use some of that money such as keeping the villages tidy as well as things like upkeeping village assets and insurances.

## VILLAGE MAINTENANCE



## GRASS CUTTING

We have recently set out a grass cutting plan for the villages which will be available on our new website shortly.

## HIGHWAYS

All roads and highways are the responsibility of North Northamptonshire Council and as such we are not allowed to fund road repairs. However, we do encourage everyone to use the web notification site and app 'Fix My Street' and try to make sure that any issues from fly tipping, flooding and potholes etc. are reported. If you see any issues, please report them by using the app or websites.

As a council we have been lobbying the North Northants Council, and we are regularly in touch with Kier who maintain our roads and NNC to get issues rectified. We will continue to lobby to improve our roads. Please let us know if you think we can help further.

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

### OUR COMMUNITY ORCHARD

To commemorate the Coronation of HM King Charles III there was an opportunity to apply to take part in an initiative to plant a community orchard. We were successful in our bid to create a new orchard and with the kind permission of Mr & Mrs Brudenell, we have been able to use a piece of ground (formally an orchard) in Deenethorpe. We were provided with a number of apple and pear trees by the Coronation Heritage Fund, along with all the necessary planting supplies, as well as boundary planting to create an orchard for residents to use and in a few years, we hope that this will provide residents of both villages with locally produced fruit, for eating, cooking and preserve making.

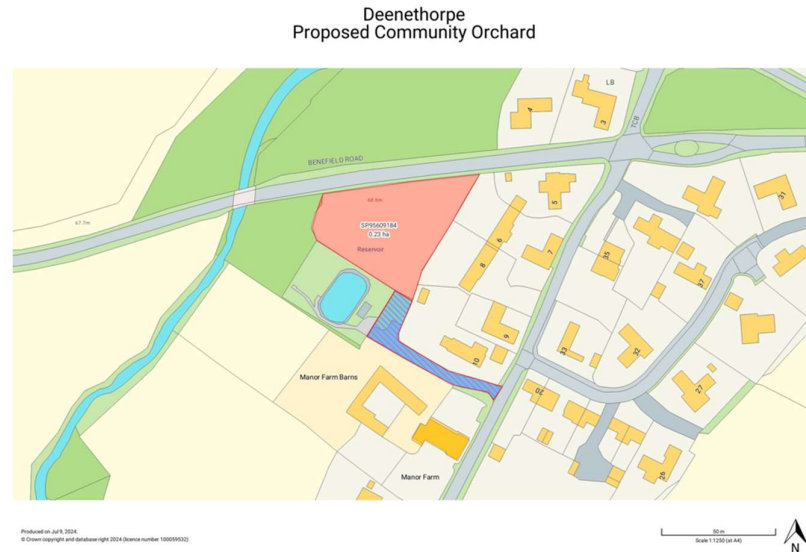
**Right now though, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! We are planning to plant out the Orchard on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March from 12 Noon (Weather permitting).**

Volunteers will be provided with Tea and Cakes as we plant out the trees and the boundary plants. Please get in touch with the Chairman (details below) if you would like to take part

Over the coming months we will also need volunteers to help with occasional watering, weeding and pruning.

Our grass cutting plan (above) includes the Community Orchard space and we will cut pathways through the site around the trees so that it can be used for exercise and as a place to relax.

The Community Orchard is located in Deenethorpe shown in red and can be accessed using the roadway (blue hatching):



## ONGOING MATTERS BEING DEALT WITH:

## OUR NEW WEBSITE:

As a public body we are bound by the GDPR, which requires us to regularly ensure that the information we hold on parish records remains up to date and remains secure.

We are currently working on a new GOV.UK website which will bring us into line with our GDPR regulatory standards.

Going forward to reduce printing costs and our carbon footprint we shall produce future Newsletters only on our new gov.uk website.

If you wish to receive a locally produced printed version, please let either Joe or Keith know on the email below:

[deeneanddeenethorpe@gmail.com](mailto:deeneanddeenethorpe@gmail.com)

Parishioners should also confirm in the email that they consent for that information to be held by the Parish Council for this purpose.

---

## Deene and Deenethorpe Parish Council

C/O Chairman  
Mr Keith Gautrey-Prue  
Ash House  
Deenethorpe (67)  
CORBY Northants NN17 3EP

Telephone: 07809 580660  
Email: [Chairman.deeneanddeenethorpe@gmail.com](mailto:Chairman.deeneanddeenethorpe@gmail.com)