



DENMEAD SCENE

A Memorial to Ken Hazlehurst

The Parish Council staff and councillors were deeply shocked and saddened by the loss of our much-loved Groundsman, Ken Hazlehurst. Ken was well known throughout the Denmead community for his positive attitude and his unmistakable love of gnomes. His car, proudly parked in Ashling Car Park, displayed his favourite gnomes and brought joy to the children at the local nursery — and more than a few adults as well. Ken always had a smile on his face, whatever the weather, and he took great pride in serving the Parish Council, something he did faithfully for over 21 years.

The residents of Denmead share our sentiments:

“This is such sad news. He used to talk to staff and children over the fence at Denmead Pre School and wave to the children, who thought he was the most amazing person ever and would stand in awe of him”

“So sad. Will be sadly missed. A True gent who was always smiling”

“Condolences to his family and thank you Ken for your services to our Parish”



“Sad to hear of Kens passing. A truly lovely man, we will miss seeing him at Busy Bee Pre-school. He made the children and staffs day when he came to say hello”

Ken’s cheerful presence and dedication will be greatly missed. ■

Thank you, Ken, for everything you gave to our community.



SPRING
2026

ISSUE 165

Chairman's Report



As Chairman, I am delighted to welcome you to the Spring edition of **Denmead Scene**.

The past six months have certainly been a whirlwind. We have faced several significant challenges – from local government changes to the Neighbourhood Plan and the future of the Kidmore Lane public toilets. I will not pretend it has all been easy. Personally, stepping into the role almost a year ago has come with a steep learning curve, but I want to reassure you that your Council is making steady progress across all our projects. One thing that has remained constant is the positive feedback we receive from you, our residents, about our openness and transparency. Talking with you, listening to your concerns, and acting on them where we can or signposting you to the right partners when we cannot, is genuinely one of the most rewarding parts of this role.

I would also like to encourage more of you to attend our Council meetings (schedule enclosed in this edition of Denmead Scene). It is the best way to stay informed about issues that may affect you. Committee agendas and minutes are always available on our website. Alternatively, you are welcome to email me, my fellow councillors or our clerks if there is a matter you feel should be raised or addressed. One of my priorities as Chairman has been to ensure councillors remain approachable and engaged with residents. We do ask that issues are submitted formally by email or letter. This ensures a clear audit trail and helps us stay focused on matters that have been properly brought to our attention. Social media posts are not always seen and councillors are not required to use those platforms for formal casework, which can unfortunately lead to concerns being missed.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated office staff and grounds team for their continued hard work and commitment to serving our community. I would like to make a special mention of Ken Hazlehurst, who sadly passed

away over the Christmas period. Ken served as one of our senior groundsmen for 21 years, and his contribution to Denmead has been truly invaluable. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with Ken's family and friends. He will be greatly missed by us all.

There is still much to do and we are all keen to keep moving forward. What remains clear is that your councillors, as volunteers, care deeply about serving the Parish and will continue working on your behalf to ensure Denmead remains a thriving and welcoming community for everyone. Thank you for your continued support. If you take one thing from this message, I hope it is this: Please never hesitate to get in touch with suggestions on how your Council can better support you or our wonderful village. ■

Clr Chris Ranger
Chairman

Resident Communication

It's a fact that your Denmead Parish Council is often at the receiving end of resident complaints or criticism – as are all Parish Councils! It's also true that communications on these matters might alert us to issues we otherwise wouldn't know about and so we welcome the opportunity to look at issues and try to resolve them wherever we can. It's also a fact that we receive comments and

emails thanking the Council for things we do around the Parish that make a difference to you. We truly appreciate it when people take the time to do this and it matters so much to our incredibly hard working staff.

Receiving appreciation matters to everyone, but for our employees and Councillors this simple gesture can turn a tough week into a really good one –

that we made a positive difference. There is so much that the Council has to, and needs to, deliver. All within the constraints of budget. But we will listen and act wherever possible.



The flower bed at Harvest Road Roundabout

A very recent example of this is with the raised planting area as you enter the Village from Waterlooville. It would be true to say this wouldn't have won an award at the Chelsea Flower Show! You told us and we have acted. Our Head Groundsman Sam and the team have cleared it up and created a simple, yet attractive Autumn and Winter display that will be far more welcoming and cheery over the cold months. ■

It's been immediately noticed by you and we share one residents comments:

'We noticed that flowers have been planted in the planters near Hambledon Road roundabout. They look lovely and thank you'

Cllr Carson

Neighbourhood Plan update

Following recent changes within Denmead Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Steering Group is now led by Cllr Ranger and Cllr Clay, ensuring that the Plan continues to move forward with strong leadership, urgency and transparency. Since September 2025, members of the Steering Group have met with our retained, external Planning consultant who is actively involved and guiding us through to the production of the updated plan, which we aim to submit to Winchester City Council in April 2026 for initial screening—a key step towards Regulation 14 consultation.

To maintain focus and transparency, we hold fortnightly discussions with Portfolio Holder at Winchester City Council, keeping her informed of our progress and asking many questions as we move forward. We have also engaged with neighbouring Parish Councils, namely Botley and Swanmore, learning from their successful

delivery of neighbourhood plans as well as Bishops Waltham who have a Design Statement (vs a Neighbourhood plan) but we still wanted to check in to observe the differences.

We are working closely with Winchester City Council on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which are key, technical components required to complete before the Plan is submitted for review. Specialist consultants will guide the Steering Group through these processes to ensure environmental considerations are fully addressed and that the plan meets all statutory requirements.

Finally we have attended several site visits of the proposed site and logged our concerns with all interested parties, especially the key concern regarding drainage solutions and what type of solutions are practical and suitable for all

Further information will be published at regular intervals on the DC website at www.denmeadneighbourhoodplan.org.uk ■

Cllr Ranger

Remembrance Sunday

Denmead turns out in huge numbers every year to show how much the sacrifices made by the ‘few for the many’ resonate just as strongly today as they have always. The Parish Council, All Saints Church and Scouts worked together in delivering this most important of days, and we thank everyone involved for their hard work – too many to name!

This year, we wanted Denmead serving personnel and Veterans to take a major role and were delighted that Commander Richard Hurman (Royal Navy) and our very own Parish Councillor Sam Bolam (Ex Royal Marines) read so wonderfully. Brothers Andy and Jim Mcerlean (proud Veterans) were joined by Scout, James, at the flagpole for the all-important flag duty and did it so perfectly.

It’s particularly wonderful to see our youngsters, the Scout organisation and schools who so proudly place their hand-made poppies and crosses on the Memorial. This occasion brings all ages together in this act of Remembrance and is a day we show our respect and eternal gratitude. For me, as your Parish Council Chairman, I was happy and proud to lay the Wreath on behalf of all Denmead Councillors and allow more worthy members of our Community to take up their role. ■

Clr Ranger

KOHIMA EPITAPH

*When you go home,
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today.*



Heath Field fencing

Denmead Parish Council is delighted to announce that children attending Denmead Day Care pre-school at the Memorial Hall are now protected from the car park and busy road by an attractive fenced and gated area. Several years ago the Parish Council, at that time, removed fencing at Heath Field which resulted in considerable disharmony between the Council and residents, resulting in a 'Parish Poll'.

That disharmony from those actions remains today for many. The Parish Council decided not to re-instate the fencing it removed and since then the pre-school has made multiple requests to erect a new fence to safeguard the children in their care. Every day the staff had to erect, dismantle and store an unattractive metal barrier to provide an outdoor play area. The fencing itself was not entirely secure for determined, adventurous little minds. The level of vigilance required by

staff has been at a high and stressful level, capturing these young explorers before escape!

*The fencing itself
was not entirely
secure for
determined,
adventurous
little minds.*

This Parish Council reviewed the situation, consulted, and debated. We reached the

conclusion that the level of risk to our Village pre-schoolers was too great and that the Council shared a safeguarding responsibility. The unique situation of the location giving direct, unrestricted access to a very busy road, needed to be resolved once and for all.

There may be a very few people who consider the fence as restricting use of the field but this isn't the case as a gate will allow access outside of pre-school hours. The area now also enhances hiring of the Memorial Hall for events by providing direct access to a safe, secure outdoor area.

We are sure the vast majority of residents will be very happy with Denmead Parish Council's action to protect our children and that, finally, this long running issue is resolved. ■

Cllr Carson



Introducing our New Councillors



Cllr Harrison

I've lived in the Denmead village for nearly 26 years now with my family. Our 2 girls attended both the infants and junior schools here in the village but they've since flown the nest to other parts of the UK. My interests are largely DIY related as I love to build things but also walking the lovely countryside in this part of the world which usually means a coffee and cake stop is planned to be somewhere on the route. I love to ride my motor bike but only on warm sunny days and I can often be spotted cycling the lanes out the back of Hambledon and Soberton. Over the past 18 months, I've volunteered at the Denmead and Hambledon Repair cafe when I can. My 50 odd years of work experience has largely been engineering and technical manager roles for a couple of large US IT corporates until I retired about 10 years ago. Whilst I'm sure my time in the Parish Council will be a huge learning curve as I've had limited experience in this area, I intend to try and bring openness, integrity and above all, honesty to residents of Denmead for the committee's I will sit on.



Cllr Lewingdon

I have been a resident of Denmead since 1997. Both of my now adult children attended the village schools, and I have worked locally since the early 1990s. I am currently partially retired and looking to use the additional time at my disposal to contribute to the community I have enjoyed living in for so many years. I am an avid walker and cyclist and possess extensive knowledge of the local paths and roads. As well as the full council I have been coopted onto the Amenities and Planning committees and look forward to gaining a better understanding of their activities."

Cllr Bolam

Sam and his wife have lived in the village for nearly nine years, where they are raising their three children. After serving in the Royal Marines, Sam now works in operational management, where teamwork, safety and clear decision-making are key. When not working, he enjoys spending time outdoors, keeping active, and making the most of village life with his family. In his role as a Parish Councillor, Sam hopes to support residents in protecting the character of the village, maintaining its strong community spirit, and helping ensure that any future changes are thoughtful, balanced and in the best interests of Denmead.



Cllr Snellgrove

I was born and bred in Portsmouth where I lived until moving to Denmead in 2017 to be closer to my horses, who I have kept in the area for over 30 years. I taught mathematics in local schools and colleges before diversifying into teacher training. In my role as Parish Councillor, I hope to support Council in delivering local projects and to encourage community involvement.

Cllr Betts

I have lived in Denmead since 2021, in the Carpenters Field estate, with my partner Adam and our dogs Rex and Lady. I was born in Portsmouth and moved around England for work; and now have come home- we love the village and discovering our local area with the dogs. I hold a PhD in Health and Economics and Health Policy and have 'always' been interested in finding solutions to create value with limited resources, I am a systematic researcher used to mobilising large scale projects. I have keen interest in preserving nature and ensuring responsible management of public funds.



‘Your Denmead, Your Denmead Scene’

The Denmead Scene is a Denmead Parish Council led publication primarily aimed at keeping residents updated about what is happening in the village beyond what is published in our agendas and minutes, which can always be found on the DPC website. One of the things that all members of Council have expressed a desire for is to see better engagement with you, the residents of Denmead. In that spirit DPC would like to encourage anyone with ideas or suggestions on what they would like to see in future publications of Denmead Scene to send them into us. ■ Cllr Snellgrove

Denmead Parish Council – Meetings Timetable 2026

All meetings are held on a Wednesday at 7.30pm (*unless otherwise stated*), at Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, Denmead. Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend all Council meetings.

Month	Full Council	Planning	Amenities	H&GP	FA&P	Other
January	14	7, 28	21			
February	25	11		*11	4	*H&GP at 6pm prior to Planning
March		11	4		18	
April	8	1, 22	15	*1	29	Annual Parish Assembly Monday 13 th April at 7pm (TBC) Safer Neighbourhoods Thurs 23 rd April *H&GP at 6pm prior to Planning
May	*20	13	27	**13		*Annual Council Meeting **H&GP at 6pm prior to Planning
June		3, 24			10	
July	1	15	8	*15	22	*H&GP at 6pm prior to Planning
August		5, 26			*26	*FA&P at 7pm prior to Planning
September	*2	16	9	**16	23	*Fields In Trust at 7pm prior to Full Council **H&GP at 6pm prior to Planning
October	14	7, 28	21	*28		Safer Neighbourhoods 22 nd October *H&GP at 6pm prior to Planning
November	25	18			11	
December		9	2	*9	16	*H&GP at 6pm prior to Planning

Bank Holidays:** (** subject to change due to VE & VJ day commemorations)

Fri 1 Jan – New Year’s Day
Fri 3 April – Good Friday

Mon 6 April – Easter Monday
Mon 4 May – Early Spring BH

Mon 25 May – Late Spring BH
Mon 31 August – Summer BH

Fri 25 Dec – Christmas Day
Mon 28 Dec – Boxing Day (substitute day)

Flag Flying Days 2026

Monday 9th March – Commonwealth Day
(Commonwealth Flag raised at 10am)

Thursday 9th April – His Majesty’s Wedding Day

Thursday 23rd April – St. George’s Day
(Cross of St. George)

Wednesday 6th May – Coronation Day





Who's Who at Denmead Parish Council

Denmead Parish Councillors

Cllr Chris Ranger: Chairman of the Parish Council
Cllr Martin Clay: Vice Chairman of the Parish Council
Cllr Debs Carson, Cllr Sam Bolam, Cllr Tim Lewingdon,
Cllr Phil Harrison, Cllr M Snellgrove, Cllr Danny Stallard,
Cllr Christine Vickers, Cllr April Betts, Cllr Tony Berry

*Contact councillors by emailing Councillor@denmeadpc.gov.uk
marked FAO Cllr ... in the subject field*

County & District Councillors

Patricia Stallard County Councillor email patricia.stallard@hants.gov.uk
Caroline Brook District Councillor email cbrook@winchester.gov.uk
Paula Langford Smith District Councillor email plangfordsmith@winchester.gov.uk
Michael Bennett District Councillor email mbennett@winchester.gov.uk

Denmead Parish Council address:

The Pavilion, Ashling Park, Southwick Road, Denmead, Hants PO7 6LA
Tel: 023 9224 7947

Open Mon to Fri:
9.00am - 1.00pm.

Afternoons by appointment only.

Closed on Bank Holidays.

All correspondence to be addressed to the Clerk to the Council.

Website: <http://denmead-pc.gov.uk>

Staff contacts: Joanne Harris (Parish Clerk) parishclerk@denmead-pc.gov.uk

Jennie Hanman (Responsible Financial Officer) financialofficer@denmead-pc.gov.uk

Frances Penfold-Cook (Committee Clerk: Amenities) amenities@denmead-pc.gov.uk

Elizabeth Leeming (Committee Clerk: H'ways & Gen. Purposes) highways@denmead-pc.gov.uk

Lucy Carthew (Committee Clerk: Planning) planning@denmead-pc.gov.uk