

DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 4th August 2016 at Dunston Village Hall.

**Present; Parish Councillors; - Mrs G Diggett [chair]-Mr I Collard [deputy-chair]-Mrs H Jones
Mr J Bagnall-Mr J Richardson-Mr P Thompson.**

Clerk to the council; Mr D Jones-A member of the public and a reporter from the Staffordshire Newsletter.

01; Chairman's welcomed those present and the meeting started at 19.30

02; Apologies had been received from; Parish Councillors; Mr G Pliva-District Councillor Mr L Bates-
County Councillor Mr M Sutton

03; No interests were declared or dispensations requested by the councillors in any agenda items.

04; Guest speaker- Mr John Littleton the Districts Council's Enviro-crime Enforcement Officer; gave a presentation on fly tipping;

Fly tipping is disposal of controlled waste on public ground that is not certificated and is becoming an increasing problem. One of the main causes is the landfill tax that is applied to all commercial waste, the avoidance of which leads to illegal dumping. However the Council will not deal with any waste dumped on private land, this is the responsibility of the land owner.

The Council are required to investigate reports within 2 days and have 4 days to remove the illegal waste. He has a staff of 6 plus 2 drivers so resources are stretched. The main goods illegally tipped include tyres, white goods, builders waste and black bags which could contain anything. The removal of this waste is at a cost to the Council which was £46160 in the last financial year.

If an owner is established they can be prosecuted and the Council have had 15 successful prosecutions over the last year. The evidence has to be firm to be suitable for court so any detection has to comply with certain legal procedures.

If illegally dumped rubbish is discovered resident are advised not touch it as it could contaminate evidence and also bagged waste could contain needles or other dangerous items. If possible take a photograph of the site and any vehicle registration numbers. Any evidence has to be bagged and tagged by Council employees. If you move it you could be held responsible. If the road is blocked Highways are obliged to shut the road until the rubbish can be removed.

Prevention measures include gating off lanes that are prone to dumping, covert cameras but overt cameras require court approval. Opening the Household Recycling Centres 7 days a week and allowing everyone to use them without restriction might also help.

05; Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 9th May 2016;

The minutes, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed as a true record.

06; Report on matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

M6; the Smart Motorway from Junctions 13 to 15 is planned to start in March 2018 with completion in March 2022.

Broadband; the connections to Coppenhall and Dunstan areas are part of the final 5% and will require additional funding to become available.

Footpath in Coppenhall; the diversion has been agreed but there are ongoing discussions about who pays for the new styles, the landowners or the County Council.

07; Chairman's report;

Councillor Diggett reported that a meeting had been held with Councillor Sutton to discuss the proposed West Midland interchange. He gave a well informed and clear presentation which clarified the various issues involved.

08; Finance- Payment of the following invoices was agreed;

PAYE	£49.60-	cheque no-500131
Clerks salary & expenses	£230.43-	cheque no-500132
South Staffs District Council [election expenses]	£97.12-	cheque no-400001

The invoice for election expenses had been sent to the previous clerk's address which is why it had not been presented for payment previously. The meeting expressed concern about the cost of electing 4 councillors. The clerk explained that this charge was normal and that all District Councils charged for the administration costs of elections, even uncontested ones. The costs involved of a contested election would have been considerably more. The council agreed to pay the invoice but required the District Council to send an amended invoice with the correct address prior to payment.

09; Planning Issues;

A; West Midland Interchange Freight Hub at Four Ashes; www.westmidlandsinterchange.co.uk.

The proposal is to utilise a site near to Junction 12 of the M6 with a direct link to the West Coast main line which will provide about 800,000 sq. metres of rail served warehousing and create an estimated 8500 new jobs in the region.

However local communities have expressed concerns about the proposals including the loss of 600 acres of Greenfield land, that the watershed area for the delivery of goods is mainly Shropshire and Mid-Wales, that the warehousing could eventually be used for other purposes, and that the infrastructure of the current road system i.e. A449 will not support the additional traffic this scheme will generate.

Councillor Diggett submitted our concerns about this proposal as have other affected parties. However Councillor Collard, although he supported Councillor Diggett's submission on behalf of the parish council, did not feel that the council should ratify the submission from Hatherton Parish Council which he considered rather parochial and not fully covering all the points at issue. After a lengthy discussion the meeting voted by 4 to 2 to ratify Hatherton Parish Councils submission

B; Notice of appeal against enforcement action in respect of 1 Swan Lane, Dunston-was included as an information item.

10; Highways and other matters;

NHT team; due on 16th August. It was suggested that they completed the tasks they did not do on their last visit.

Copenhall; Chase View Lane; after heavy rains the lane floods and leaves a muddy sediment on the road, caused by HGVs and farm traffic gradually destroying the verges. This means a disabled resident is unable to utilise his wheelchair at this time. Councillor Sutton to be asked for his assistance in this problem.

Dunston; School Lane- it was reported that Eyton House has had a new drive laid, but the kerb stones have continued onto the highway in front of the property and are a potential hazard. A neighbouring property, Longbitch, has placed a number of boulders on the verge in front of their property which again could present a hazard. It will be reported to Highways.

Copenhall; Councillor Jones complained that a grid outside her house is blocked resulting in her garage being flooded after heavy rains. Matter will be referred to Highways.

Defibrillator; a recent training session in Dunston village hall was attended by over 20 people including 2 youngsters.

11; Correspondence; the following has been received since the last meeting, via email.-

Link to Rights of Way guide;-Dates of Police Accountability Forums;-
Locality member's forum in October;-What's on in South Staffs libraries.

If any councillor wishes more information please contact the clerk.

12; Clerks salary review;

The council agreed to implement the 2016-2018 National salary award agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. The new rates will apply from the 1st April 2016 and the 1st April 2017

The next meeting; is on Monday 7th November 2016 at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall village hall

**Meeting ended at 20.55 Derek Jones clerk to the council
telephone 01785 780229**