

DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th February 2017 at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village hall.

Present; parish councillors- Mrs G Diggett [Chair [-Mr I Collard [Deputy-Chair] - Mr J Bagnall- Mrs H Jones- Mr P Thompson- Mr J Richardson –Mr G Pliva.

District Councillor; Mr L Bates [left at 8.00 pm]

Clerk to the council-Mr D Jones & 8 members of the public.

01; Councillor Diggett welcomed those present and the meeting started at 7.30 pm.

Prior to the meeting proper a number of points were raised by the members of the public present.

These included; the adoption of the red phone box in Church Close Dunston; the problems with the footpaths between the Dunston and Penkridge ; the standard of grass cutting in the village of Dunston; points of order on past parish meetings.

02; Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Mr M Sutton.

03; No interests or dispensations were required by the Councillors in respect of any agenda items.

Councillor Jones felt that more guidance was needed regarding councillors interests that need to be declared.

04; Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 7th November 2016.

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

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

Clerk reported that he had placed an article in Contact but some of the submission had been missed out of the final print.

06; District Councillor's report;

Councillor Bates advised the meeting of three training sessions being run by the District council, however it was pointed out that as they were during normal working hours it prevented some councillors from attending.

In January 2017, 83 instances of fly tipping have been removed from the District area.

A project is planned to build more business units at Four Ashes.

There is a 99% occupancy of business units throughout the district.

He promised to take up the issue of grass cutting in Dunston.

07; Issues raised concerning the meeting held on 5th January 2017.

Councillor Diggett opened the discussion by apologising for the confusion around this meeting. She explained that she had erroneously commented that the meeting was inquorate but in fact with 4 of the 7 councillors present it was quorate. An apology will be placed on the parish notice boards and in the Contact magazine. She had also discussed the point about the non-issue of the correct summons for the meeting with the SPCA and the Legal Department at South Staffs District Council who confirmed that the email of the 19th December 2016 could be accepted as a summons to the meeting. This was disputed by Councillor Collard who considered that as the meeting was not called properly it was not a legal meeting. The fact that there was doubts about this at the time was the reason that the meeting was

rebranded as a public meeting as cancelling at the last minute was not an option as a number of members of the public had promised to attend. There then followed an acrimonious discussion about the whole issue. It was also pointed out that the clerk worked for the council as a group and not individual councillors and working only 2 hours per week did not have time to respond to the large volumes of emails this whole issue had generated. Future emails to be brief and any major issue to be put to the next meeting. One point following on from this was that 3 comments in support of the planning application had been wrongly recorded as objections by the District Council, and have since been amended. It was agreed eventually to draw a line under this and carry on.

The way future planning applications are dealt with by the Parish Council was the next point of discussion. It was proposed that as an interim measure all applications are circulated to the whole council and the ward councillors for the property concerned send comments to the clerk for onward transmission to the planning officer. The May meeting will decide future procedure which will need a formal decision and an amendment to the standing orders.

The adoption of the red heritage phone box in Church Close, Dunston;

The council had agreed to adopt the phone box in 2009 but the previous clerk did not follow up. Following further discussion the Dunstonians have agreed to assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the box and have had funds promised by some village residents. The heritage officer for the District Council has formally objected to the removal of the box, however BT may appeal. It was agreed that if necessary the council adopt the box, depending on a letter of confirmation from the Dunstonians accepting future responsibility.

Concerns about parking in School lane Dunston;

Has been a problem for some time especially vehicles parked near to the junction with the A449. Various solutions were discussed including double yellow lines, but enforcement would be a problem

Residents' concerns about the dangerous state of the footpaths along the A449;

A resident who walks to Penkridge regularly presented a letter and photographs outlining the problems with the footpath along the main road.

08; Finance; payment of the following invoices was agreed;

Clerk's salary/expenses; November-December-January-	£233.40-	cheque No 40004
PAYE	£50.00-	cheque No 40005

Councils bank account stood at £6006.65 at 31st January 2017.

09; Planning Matters;

The meeting considered Planning Application 17/00061/FUL-The Granary, Church lane, Copenhall. It was agreed that No Comments would be made

The meeting considered Planning application 17/00137/FUL-2 Toft Fields, Levedale Road, Levedale. It was agreed that No Comments would be made.

South Staffordshire Local Plan –Site Allocations Document [SAD] Publication Plan Consultation.

Hard copy was brought to the meeting but information is available on the website

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/siteallocations

10; Highways;

Chase View lane, the footpaths along the A449 and a number of other roads in the parish are in a serious or dangerous condition. It was suggested that Mark Keeling, from Highways, be contacted to arrange a visit to the area to discuss the problems with councillors.

11; Correspondence;

Clerk has received 2 requests to address future meetings; Ros Burton Social Action Officer from South Staffs Community & Voluntary Action; Amanda Monro from Good Life South Staffordshire Energy.

Other email correspondence will be circulated.

12; Matters raised by members for information;

Councillor Jones explained that in future the Hyde Lea & Coppenhall village hall will be charging per meeting rather than a flat annual fee as at present.

She also asked the clerk to obtain quotes for outsourcing payroll services.

Next meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday 11th May 2017 at Dunston Village hall starting at 7.30pm.

Items for discussion will include, acceptance of annual accounts for 2016/7, signing the Annual Governance statement, election of chairman and deputy chairman, acceptance of the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 19th January.

Derek Jones, clerk to the council

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