

# **DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at Dunston Village Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**As this was the first meeting of the council since the election on 7<sup>th</sup> May the following formalities were completed first.**

**The 5 elected councillors completed and signed the Acceptance of Office Declaration.**

**Councillor Diggett was elected unanimously as chairman.**

**Present: Parish Councillors; Mrs G Diggett (Chairman), Mrs H Jones, Mr J Bagnall, Mr G Pliva,**

**County Councillor; Mr M Sutton [until 20.00hrs]**

**Clerk: Mr D Jones; 3 members of the public.**

**01/The chairman welcomed those present and the meeting started at 19 35 hrs.**

**02/ Apologies had been received from District Councillor L Bates.**

**03/ Chairman's Report on the Parish Council previous activities;**

I will begin by thanking our County Councillor Mark Sutton and District Councillor Len Bates for their support during the year by attending our meetings and helping to bring our concerns to higher authorities. Also keeping us informed of events which may affect our Parish and also the wider community of South Staffordshire and Stafford Borough

I would also like to thank the other Parish Councillors for their continued support, by attending our meetings and responding to emails between meetings from myself or the clerk. Special thanks to Jeff Bagnall for maintaining the web site and creating the newsletter which we produced and delivered last October. Thanks to all the councillors who helped deliver it throughout our widespread Parish. Also special thanks to Gary Pliva for arranging the installation of the defibrillator and agreeing to be the nominated contact who is responsible for a weekly check of the machine.

I also thank Derek for his work as our Clerk I am sure you will all agree he has done a sterling job in his first full year as it must have been difficult having to wade through mountains of paperwork initially to get to grips with the job and finally discovering that we actually own the bus shelter.

The Council has continued to keep the precept at the same level this year, a small gesture I know, towards not putting any further financial demand on our residents.

This year we have given a grant of £100 towards some bunting for Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Festival which is well supported by local residents.

I have attended a meeting at Stafford Borough Council regarding the construction company Amey having its contract renewed to maintain the Borough's highways. Part of why they won the tender was a new and improved computer monitoring system of the progress of repairs which should be available to clerks. I hope that they keep their promise to have a meeting this year to discuss its effectiveness.

As mentioned previously mentioned in October a newsletter was compiled by Jeff Bagnall to notify our residents of the following:-

1. Our intention to install a defibrillator on the wall of Dunston Village Hall, and to advise them of a West Midlands Ambulance Service talk which was to take place at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall village Hall as a result of a defibrillator being provided there by Hyde Lea Parish Council to give people information regarding the use of the apparatus.
2. To advise them that an agreement had been reached with Highways to move the 30mph speed limit sign in Coppenhall to slow down traffic before they crossed the crossroads, which had been requested by local residents.

3. That as a result of complaints that wheelie bins were being left, after emptying in hazardous position, i.e. blocking peoples drives Len Bates had contacted Environmental Services to advise their operatives to return them to a safe position.
4. A new Parish clerk Derek Jones had been appointed.
5. A new beat officer PC Tim Rees had joined the area.
6. We welcomed Bovis to the Parish who this year opened their North West Headquarters in Dunston Hall

Councillor Collard attended a meeting with the Police and Crime commissioner from which he advised us, that particularly relevant to our Parish was that not only should Fly tipping be reported to Environmental Services but also to the police. Also “Trick or Treating” at Halloween was becoming more of a problem especially to elderly residents. Because of this we did intend to include a poster in our newsletter for people to place in their windows, unfortunately we didn’t have time to get it out before Halloween, however we must try to do it for this year.

This year saw an impressive refurbishment of historic Dunston Hall and its grounds. As a result of sending a letter of welcome to Bovis, we discovered that Maxine Corbett a director of the existing business Zerographics Ltd was the owner of the Hall and was responsible for the refurbishment. We gave her a belated welcome to the Parish and were also able to put her in touch with Penkridge First Responder to arrange training for the staff of the Hall to use the AED.

Our new Beat Office PC Tim Rees was able to attend our last meeting, and we found him very helpful and informative. He gave us his direct mobile no. which I am sure we will find very useful.

The Defibrillator was duly installed at the end of November and we must again thank Mark Sutton for arranging a grant from the County Council, and Dunston Village Hall, and the Dunstonians for their generous donations. This acquisition has now been well advertised by a delightful photograph, which appeared not only once but twice in the Village voice magazine along with a short article.

Finally, at our last meeting our District Councillor Len Bates advised us that Grants would be available from the 1<sup>st</sup> April and asked us to come up with some initiatives to benefit the community from these Grants. I think that in the coming year it is important that we give this matter careful consideration and set out a plan and timetable for any action we feel worthwhile taking. We will continue to welcome any further advice or information Len can give us.

**04/A vote of thanks to the Chairman for her work was proposed and agreed unanimously.**

**05/The minutes of the last Parish assembly held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were discussed, no issues raised**

**06/District Councillor’s report; no report as Councillor Bates was not present..**

**07/County Councillor’s report;**

Councillor Sutton advised the meeting effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, that he has a local members fund from which grants are available to local communities.

There is a new app for reporting road problems direct to the contractor Amey which should speed up repairs. Can be downloaded from [www.mystaffshire.co.uk](http://www.mystaffshire.co.uk).

**08/Hyde Lea & Copenhall Village Hall matters.**

Councillor Jones thanked the council for the letter of support towards funding towards the repair of the wall. A grant of £1500 was received. The fete created a £600 profit but bookings are down as the Pilates instructor having left the area. This year’s fete is for 10 days from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June, with the fete on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**09/Dunston Village Hall matters;**

Councillor Pliva reported that the gas heating has been replaced with electric which has proved slightly more expensive. Bookings are static but another regular user would help.

**10/Dunston School matters.** As no councillor sits as governor it was decided to not include this item in future.

Meeting ended at 20.05hrs