

# *DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL*

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Present: Parish Councillors; Mrs G Diggett (Chairman), Mrs H Jones, Mr J Bagnall, Mr G Pliva,  
Mr J Richardson, Mr I Collard, Mr P Thompson.**

**District Councillor; Mr L Bates**

**Clerk: Mr D Jones; One member of the public.**

**01; Councillor Diggett welcomed those present and the meeting started at 19 30 hrs.**

**02; Apologies had been received from County Councillor Mr M Sutton.**

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

May I welcome you all to this Annual Parish Assembly.

I will begin by thanking our County Councillor Mark Sutton and District Councillor Len Bates for their continued regular attendance to our Parish Council meetings and keeping us informed of events and policies which may not only affect our Parish but the wider community.

Mark consistently brings all our Highways concerns to the attention of the Highways department. Sometime he is successful in getting our problems remedied, and was instrumental in having the 30mph speed limit in Coppenhall relocated, which was a direct request from local residents. Also getting the gullies cleared at Oliver Bank. Whatever happens he always keeps us well informed as to the reasons Highways may not be in a position to satisfy our request.

We were very impressed with his involvement with the Casserole club which is a County Council initiative to help lonely and vulnerable people and have pledged our support by leafleting our residents.

Len has also continued to support us by bringing various planning developments to our attention and also passing on our concerns about them to the Planning Department. I am sure that the traffic report which was requested on the development at Drayton Manor Farmhouse was down in some part to his bringing the traffic issues to the attention of the planning committee. Although this report failed to address anything I am sure in the future his warnings will be heeded.

Len also brought to our attention the availability of grants from certain organisations to help with Community projects. We would like to advise Len that we have given this matter due consideration and in view of feedback which has been received from some residents, concerning a couple of suggestions put forward, we feel there are no appropriate projects which require support at the present time.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for attending our meetings and responding to emails between meetings which means that although we don't meet very often we can deal with Parish matters in a timely matter. Thank you all for your efforts in delivering the Newsletter.

I would like to belatedly thank Hazel Jones for picking, delivering and returning all the nomination paper work to SSDC offices at Codsall last year.

I would like to thank Jeff Bagnall for his continued upkeep of the Parish web site and also for preparing the Parish newsletter which went out last September and this time we were able to incorporate our "No trick or treaters" and "No cold calling" notices. Jeff has also designed a leaflet to promote the Casserole Club which we decided not to deliver last quarter as there was a very good article in the Village Voice. It was decided if we left it a few months it would refresh peoples' memories.

Thank you to Ian Collard whose prompt reaction to a rather officious and misleading email from the Enviro-crime Enforcement Office regarding the putting up of posters. He forwarded this to our local MP Jeremy Lefroy who immediately reacted to the ridiculousness of it; particularly in respect of posters advertising charity events, church fetes etc., by bringing this to the attention of the district council who replied with clarification and admitted there was some confusion in their approach to this issue.

Thank you to our Parish Clerk Derek Jones for his continued hard work this year, and also for organising the replacement of Dunston Parish notice board at a more reasonable cost than we were expecting.

I would also like to register our thanks to our beat officer PC Tim Rees who has given us and our residents help over various matters in the past year for which we are very grateful.

Finally, the Parish Council have again continued to keep the precept at the same level as we are fully aware that until there is a great need to provide something of significance for our residents we have no justification for doing so.

We hope that our residents, although they don't attend our meetings, are kept fully aware of our existence through the web site and newsletters, and will advise us if they have any problems

**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 May 2015 were discussed, no issues raised**

**06; District Councillor's report;**

Councillor Bates explained an initiative that South Staffs District Council have embarked on with Compare Energy Bills, called Goodlife Energy. Goodlife Energy is a partnership scheme designed to save residents money on their energy bills by providing individual advice, securing cheaper deals and helping to switch suppliers. It is not a new energy supplier but is intended to help reduce fuel poverty in the district to the benefit of the residents,

**07; County Councillor's report;**

Councillor Sutton had sent an email to be read in his absence.

The exact details of the proposed rail/freight terminal at Gailey are not yet available but the proposed location is on land between the A449, A5, M6 and Vicarage Road. Permission for this will be a national decision but both District & County Councils will be required to complete an impact statement and he hopes that the Parish Council will be involved to reflect local views.

His Local Members Fund is now open for applications from community groups and individuals. Anyone interested to apply via Councillor Sutton.

**08; Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall matters reported by Councillor Jones.**

The bookings have been steady this year although we have lost the U3A woodcarvers who have moved the larger premises. Two new groups are now using the hall, U3A Creative Writing and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The 2015 Festival gave us a profit of £1918 and as the years profit was only £644 we would have been in the red without this income as well as an enjoyable festival.

The gable wall was insulated and resurfaced at a cost of £7461 and thanks for the grants received from Mark Winnington [£750], Mark Sutton [£750], South Staffs District Council [£525] and Staffordshire County Council [£3730].

**09; Dunston Village Hall matters;**

Bookings are steady and it has been a successful year. A bequest for £75000 was received, but no decision has been made yet on how to spend it. Projects for the coming year include modernising lighting, fitting automatic taps in the toilets and eventually to upgrade the kitchen. A Heart Start Course is being organised with the local First Responders.

Meeting ended at 20.00hrs