

DUNSTON WITH COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th May 2017 at Dunston Village hall. This meeting followed the Annual Parish Assembly and started at 20.00 hrs.

Present;

Parish councillors – Mrs G Diggett [chair]-Mrs H Jones-Mr J Bagnall-Mr J Richardson- Mr G Pliva-
Clerk to the council- Mr D Jones. 3 members of the public present.

01; Councillor Diggett was elected unanimously as chairman, and duly signed the Declaration of Office.

02; Apologies had been accepted from; County Councillor-Mr M Sutton & District Councillor- Mr L Bates
Parish Councillors Mr Collard & Mr P Thompson.

03; Interest was declared by Councillor Bagnall in relation to any agenda item [7F].

04; Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 19th January 2013.

The minutes having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record. No further comments were made regarding the minutes.

05; Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th February 2017;

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

06; Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the minutes; None raised.

09; Highways issues; at the request of a local resident the subject of dog fouling in Coppenhall was discussed at this point.

Councillor Jones explained that this has become a problem especially around the church. They have discussed the campaign that the residents of Derrington are engaged in with support from Stafford Borough Council with a view to adopting some of the ideas especially the notices. It appears that the problem is being caused by a small minority of dog owners who have not been identified. The council promised support but this is a problem county wide.

Following this discussion Councillor Jones handed her resignation to the chairman and left the meeting.

07; Finance;

A; Approval was given for payment of the following invoices-

Came & Co[insurance premium]	£280.00-	cheque No 40006
Clerks salary & expenses-	£236.67-	cheque No 40007
PAYE-	£50.60-	cheque No 40008
C Heelis [audit fees]	£25.00-	cheque No 40009
SPCA [annual membership]	£179.00-	cheque No 40010
Dunston Village Hall[annual fee]	£50.00-	cheque No 40011
G Diggett [AED pads]	£46.49	cheque No 40012
J Bagnall[website maintenance]	£127.96	cheque No 40013

B; Annual accounts; the accounts for the year ended 31/03/2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted unanimously.

C; Annual governance statement [Section 1]; copies were distributed to the councillors and the clerk explained the purpose of the document. It was accepted by the council and signed by the chairman.

D; Accounting statements for 2016/7[Section 2]; were also accepted and signed.

E; In view of Councillors Jones resignation it was agreed by the council to outsource payroll services

F; The clerk explained that under the new audit regulations all Parish Councils with a turnover of less than £25000 per annum were obliged by statute to have a web site on which relevant information about council activities must be displayed. Most councils, for example Hyde Lea, have paid to have a web site constructed and pay an annual premium for its maintenance. Although Councillor Bagnall has done this work on a voluntary basis up to now, the amount of material to be displayed will increase especially in 2018/9 when the audit arrangements for small councils will again change. After a brief discussion Councillor Richards proposed an honorarium of £100 to be paid to Councillor Bagnall, this was seconded by Councillor Pliva.

NB; Councillor Bagnall took no part in this discussion.

08; Planning;

West Midland interchange; a further consultation is planned in mid-2017. Also an email was received from the Stop the Gailey Freight Hub action group requesting a contribution of £500 towards the cost of a fighting fund to oppose the development.

Standing orders; the draft standing orders that had been circulated were discussed. It was agreed provisionally to accept the Hyde Lea version suitably modified. The revised orders will be circulated before the next meeting.

09; Highways;

Dog fouling in Coppenhall-discussed after item 6.

Lay-By on the A 449; is still not cleared, Councillor Bates to be contacted.

Fly tipping in bus stop; apparently some builder's rubble has been dumped in the bus stop on the A449.

The general state of the verges and grass cutting in the parish was discussed. It was suggested a Freedom of Information Act request be made to find out costs and frequency of the work done.

School parking has again caused problems in Dunston.

Broadband speed in Dunston; Councillor Pliva complained about the lack of speed in the village broadband.

10; Correspondence;

Received by email;

Frequency of grass cutting and shrub pruning in District Council area.

South Staffs Police have purchased some "Stop That Thief" available for isolated businesses.

Community Paths Initiative -bids for 2017/8 invited.

11; Matters raised by members for information;

At the next meeting, councillors will elect a deputy chairman.

Next meeting is on Monday 7th August 2017 at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall;

Meeting ended at 21.10hrs.