

07.70 Finance.

- a) The external Auditor had approved the Accounts for 2006/7 without comment. The Clerk was asked to arrange a token of appreciation for the Council's internal auditor who works without charge.
- b) The Accounts for the year to date were presented and approved. The bank balance was £ 3123.83 and there were no un-presented cheques. The second instalment of the precept of £1750 had been received.
- c) Accounts for payment were presented.

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Donation to PCC –Contact magazine | £ 100.00 | 400088 |
| Dunston Village Hall | £ 10.00 | 400089 |
| Clerk's salary (Oct-Nov) | £ 283.33 | {400090 |
| Clerk's mileage | £ 163.90 | {400090 |
| Total | £ 557.23 | |

The Council approved the above accounts for payment and cheques were signed for the above. Cashbook balance £ 2566.60.

- d) Risk Analysis
The bus shelter and notice board in Dunston and the notice board in Coppenhall were reported to be satisfactory. A public nuisance/ health and safety issue was noted in respect of the use of the lay-by in Dunston as a toilet by overnight lorry parking. The Council will ask to have lay-bys closed next to the residential areas on grounds of Health and Safety.

07.71 Planning:

Applications determined.

07/00866/CCD St Leonards Primary School, School lane, Dunston Heath. Provision of a wooden pavilion and a footpath. Approved

07/00958/FUL The Oaks, Wolverhampton Road, Dunston Single storey side extension to form kitchen and utility. Approved.

AL/61/2007/TPO Carrisbrooke, Chase View Lane Coppenhall. Application to fell a yew and a beech at the rear of the property. The trees are subject to TPO 40/1980. Parish Council had no objection. Approved.

Applications pending.

07/00973/FUL Coppenhall Barn, Church Lane. Amendment to roof of stable, loosebox and tractor store.

07/01078/AGR Hope Farm Whittamoor Lane, Levedale. Erection of farm building

07/01039/LUE Bryher, Bigwood Lane, Coppenhall. Usage of part of walled garden as domestic garden.

The Council had no comments to make on the above applications.

Increased activity had been noted on the Paddock in Beech Lane with measurements being taken by surveyors. No application has however yet been received for any development.

07.72 Communication.

A Newsletter will not be produced until there is something of interest to communicate.

07.73 Code of Conduct.

- a) The Council agreed an amendment to the Standing Orders as follows:
“The Council will permit members of the public to speak individually for up to 5 minutes on planning applications or other matters immediately before the Council considers such matters to provide information or to speak in support or against any item. The Council may require groups of the public to elect a spokesperson to represent their views if the number of speakers is otherwise likely to disrupt the proper running of the Parish Council meeting “
- b) A number of Councillors had attended the training on the new Code of Conduct arranged by South Staffordshire Council. The Councillors are still concerned about the restrictions on representing their parishioners and possible allegations of misconduct although some improvement has been made to the previous code. As the code is a legal Instrument, it has superceded the existing Model Code of Conduct by default and the new Model Code came into force from October 1st. As the Code of Conduct is now imposed, the Council resolved to adopt the Code of Conduct incorporating Paragraph 12 (2) from 5th November 2007.
- c) Any outstanding Statement of Financial Interests required by the new Code of Conduct should now be completed.

07.74 Projects & Future Expenditure- Proposals for budget 2008/9

The precept will need to be confirmed at the next meeting in January 2008. The precept was increased slightly last year and the Council does need to consider how some of the money could be spent. A request for ideas for improvements and suggestions will be put into Contact. Flower troughs, benches or some sort of gateway sign at the entrance to the villages were suggested in the meeting. The Clerk will prepare some suggested budgets for circulation and consideration before the next meeting.

07.75 Correspondence.

- a) There had been a circulation of Correspondence in August.
- b) Correspondence was presented from:
 - Staffordshire County Council*
Seasonal Decorations
 - Community Council*
Parish Plan Funding
 - Staffordshire Police*
'Safer Staffs'
Introductory letter form new Chief Constable
 - Staffordshire Parish Councils Association*
AGM Notice, Training, Newsletter
 - South Staff NHS*
Patient & public Involvement Strategy 2007-10
 - South Staffs District Council*
Yearbook Diary, Spring Concerts, Bus Passes
Historic Churches Trail, 'Artifacts'
 - South Staffs Citizen Advice Bureaux*
Annual report & Notice of AGM
 - DEFRA*
'Climate Change'
 - Standards Board*
Comments on Code of Conduct

The Council noted the correspondence. The Clerk was asked to write to Staffordshire Police welcoming the new Chief Constable but also asking if the community police officer could be based at Stafford rather than Hilton.

07.76 Matters raised by Members

Although Gas Board work has been completed on the A449, the surface has not been restored correctly and bollards are missing from the lay-by.
Fireworks now seem to be used throughout the year. There is a problem of disturbance of neighbours and animals if their use is extended over a long period.

The Council thanked Councillor V Downes for her efforts on highways matters and the Chairman for collecting the spring bulbs from the South Staffordshire Council Offices in Coven.

07.77 Items for the Next Agenda

- a) Risk Analysis
- b) Traffic speeds and signage in Coppenhall
- c) Projects for 2008/9

07.78 Next Meeting: **Monday 7th January 2008** at Dunston Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm