

DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Monday 27th April 2009
at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillor G Diggett Chairman, H S Jones, J K Bagnall, I Collard, J Richardson

09.27 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr I O'Reilly (absent for business reasons)

09.28 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

09.29 Minutes

The minutes of 5th March 2009 had been circulated previously. Minutes amended to state:

09.26 Next meeting is a Parish Council meeting.

09.24a Grit bins are actually at Church Lane, Coppenhall

The minutes as amended were then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

09.30 Matters arising

- a) 09.23 Community Paths Initiative. No response yet to our offer to provide £50 towards a sum of £120 required for brush cutter and safety kit.
- b) 09.04c Vacancy for Councillor. Still no response to requests for applications for co-option to fill the councillor vacancy.
- c) 09.23 Locality Working. Cllr Collard and the clerk had attended the last meeting held at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall. The meeting had been interesting and worthwhile but some of the surveys presented had not really asked ideal questions and the results could be misleading. Discussions on the Local Development strategy indicated that SSC has no plans to do any major development except around Penkridge. The district council was resisting draft proposals from Stafford Borough to develop outside the Borough boundary in South Staffordshire to meet its housing commitments. This would most likely affect Acton Trussell but both Coppenhall and Dunston also adjoin the district boundary.
- d) Action List.

Dogbins. Clerk has re-contacted SSC environmental officer to progress warning notices for affixing to street furniture.

Hall Farm. Noted that residents are again mowing the grass. Planning department have been asked to verify what is 'rough mowing' and to take appropriate enforcement action. The area looks better but need to establish the actual planning situation.

School Lane. Need to write to Highways again about state of road and drains.

Clarence: Coppenhall sign has been replaced but crossroads sign is on ground level.

09.31 Parish Council Policy

Further to last months meeting, the Clerk explained some of the ways to decide what the Council might do and how to find out what electors might want. Although the Council has a small precept it could have a plan and strategy to achieve larger things over a numbers of years. A questionnaire for circulation to invite comments was suggested to be posted to all residents rather than notices or inserts in the Church magazine. Cllr Collard will draft a document and the clerk will address the envelopes. A full page insert in the Church magazine was suggested. The Chairman had has some useful discussions with Barry Holland, Training Coordinator of SPCA and it was suggested that he be invited to the 9th July meeting and a reduced agenda used.

I Collard's notes on the use of a parish meeting instead of a parish council will be recirculated to allow considered discussion however this option could increase the responsibility of the chairman. It was noted that the parish had a relatively high number of elderly people and perhaps some form of Voluntary Car scheme might be organised.

09.32 Chairmans report

The Chairman had recently attended a SPCA training session on Chairmanship skills.

09.33 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009. These show that although increased grants had been made to the Village Halls, the council's funds had risen by £645. It was noted that no mileage costs had been submitted for the year and the Clerk was asked to submit these promptly so that a more accurate summary of the Council's financial

state could be obtained. The Clerk explained that the Council's accounting was on a Receipts and Payment basis and therefore accrued mileage costs could not be shown. (Approximate cost £200). The Council approved the Statement and the accounts will now be sent to the Internal Auditor before being submitted for Audit.

b) The Accounts for the year to date were presented and approved. The bank balance was £2378.66. The first instalment of the precept was expected by the end of the month.

c) Annual subscriptions were reviewed. The Council agreed to continue to subscribe to Staffordshire parish Councils association but declined to subscribe to Community Council of Staffordshire. It was noted that Hyde Lea village hall and Dunstonians are members.

d) Insurance & Risk. The council discussed the scope of the insurance and agreed that it would continue not to cover property damage. The Council will self insure for any damage to the Bus Shelter. The Council agreed to renew the Insurance as quoted.

e) Accounts for payment were presented.

Hyde Lea Village Hall rent	£ 14.00	500018
Allianz Insurance –Parish Council	£ 307.80	500019
SPCA Annual subscription	£ 169.00	500020
Clerk's salary (April)	<u>£ 141.67</u>	500021
Total	<u>£ 632.47</u>	

The Council approved the above accounts for payment and cheques were signed for the above. Cashbook balance £ 1746.19.

f) The Clerk explained that Internet banking could be carried out by one person and did not meet the requirements of secure financial control and the use of two signatures.

09.34 Planning

Applications being considered: None

The Planning Department have been asked to verify the situation about agricultural ties on the cottages on Butterhill Cottages. A tie has been removed from one cottage but no evidence that it has been removed from the other one.

09.35 Correspondence

Staffordshire County Council
Notification of elections & Persons Nominated
West Midlands Area European Parliament –notice of Elections
Strategic Plan 2009-2012
Waste Strategy
British Trust Conservation Volunteers – Offer of workforce.
Equality & Human Rights Commission
Public sector Duties
South Staffordshire Council
Consultations& Website
Playbuilder Scheme

The Council noted the correspondence.

09.36 Matters raised by Members

a) Parking by Railway at School Lane Dunston. This was again a problem and it was making it impossible for large vehicles to reach the farms at Dunston Heath. To be placed on next meeting agenda.

09.37 The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th May at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall at 7.30pm. This is the Annual Parish Council meeting and it will follow the Annual Parish Assembly held at 7.00pm

The meeting was closed at 10.00pm