

## DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at DUNSTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillor P G Lawrence

H S Jones

J K Bagnall

I Collard

G I Diggett

I O'Reilly

J W Richardson

5 members of the public

in attendance Clerk: D W Wright

07.11. Apologies

There were no apologies received. It is probable that the changed date of the meeting was not sent to the District and County Councillors due to e-mail failures.

07.12. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

07.13. Minutes

The minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007 had been circulated.

Item 7.04b it was noted that the Highways Department has no interest in pursuing a Compulsory Purchase Order which would probably be required to allow the road widening to proceed. The period of life of the improvement sought was 25 years and not 10 years.

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

07.14. Matters Arising

- a) The bus shelter at Dunston has now been repaired and the invoice submitted. Funding had been provided through C. Cllr V. Downes
- b) Approval has been granted on appeal for the development at Drayton Manor Farm .

07.15. Chairman's report

Flooding in front of Tanglemere in Coppenhall, which was thought to be due to damage by parked vehicles to the drains has been cleared. The Owner did check with the Council and established that there were no drains in the area where damage had thought to have occurred.

The Newsletter had been well received but consideration needs to be given to organising the distribution to spread out the work. Chairman was thanked for her efforts on obtaining and supplying the bulbs for planting from South Staffordshire District Council.

**Public question time**

*At this point the meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to comment. The state of Whitmore lane was raised. There are mud deposits and slurry on the lane and they are not being cleared. Noted that the area actually outside the parish and falls into Penkridge but will approach Penkridge Parish Council as the nuisance affects Dunston residents. The problem of parking on the railway bridge was raised. Advised that Railtrack is willing to do something about it but need the vehicle numbers and the names of the companies involved. The council were asked to investigate the provision of double yellow lines for safety.*

*Reported that a manhole is loose opposite Swan Lane and there is noise due to lorries. It has already been reported but needs to be followed up with Highways Department.*

*The meeting then resumed*

07.16. Finance.

a) The Accounts for the year to date were presented and approved. The bank balance is £ 1500.80 and there were no unrepresented cheques.

b) Accounts for payment were presented.

Dunston Village Hall	£ 10.00	Room Hire
Jo & Co –Bus Shelter repair	£ 200.00	
Clerk's salary 3 months	£ 212.50	
Clerks Admin (Jan -Mar)	£ 3.96	
Clerks mileage	<u>£ 53.75</u>	
Total	<u>£ 480.21</u>	

The Council approved the above accounts for payment and cheques were signed for the above. Cashbook balance £ 1020.59

c) Grant application – Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall  
The Council discussed the grant application. It was decided to defer any decision until May and then reconsider the Parish Council's policy on donations to local organizations.

07.17. Planning:

Applications pending and determined.

06/00246/COU Drayton Manor Farm. Change of use of agricultural buildings. This application has been passed on appeal. The Parish Council has not been informed although it sent representations to the Inspector.

06/01222/FUL 3 Beech Lane, Coppenhall. Two storey front and side extensions Approved.

06/01365/FUL Coppenhall Barn, Church Lane. Removal of rooflight window and installation of two roof lights in south elevation. Approved.

07/00015/REN Hope Farm, Whittamoor Lane, Levedale. Application withdrawn..

07/00017/COU The Toft Barn, Whittamoor Lane, Levedale. Application withdrawn

07/00170/FUL Coppenhall Farm, Church Lane. Detached garage. Council had no objection

The Council approved the actions taken.

Castle Homes had been advised of the date of this meeting but had not chosen to make any presentations on their proposals for the paddock in Beech Lane, Coppenhall.

07.18. Environment

a) Dog Fouling. This was becoming a problem on the footpaths. Suggested that it be publicised in the Newsletter. The Parish Council has power to make byelaws but encouragement to owners to clear up after their dog is a first step.

b) The Moat. There is not much activity at present, perhaps because of the weather but need to monitor activity. To ask Police to visit and report.

07.19. Communication :

The Newsletter was discussed. Proposed that there be 2 or 3 a year. Suggested that an e-mail directory be set up to allow copies to be circulated by e-mail. Copies of electoral roll provided to allow a sorting of delivery areas.

The possibility of a web-site was discussed. It was agreed to include a question in the next Newsletter to ask for comment on whether a website is wanted.

07.20. Correspondence.

- a) Correspondence was circulated at end February 2007. No actions arise from that correspondence.
- b) The Standards Board had written to Councillors Diggett and Bagnall and the Clerk stating that although a complaint had been made in respect of the Drayton Manor Farm development, the Standards Board had rejected it. A short discussion resulted on the problems of complaints being raised against Councillors who were carrying out their duties as Councillors and commenting on planning applications. The Clerk emphasised the need to always ensure that actions were only taken in the name of the Council and were properly authorised. There is a draft proposal under discussion to amend the Code of Conduct for Councillors to overcome some of the problems experienced by Councillors in small communities or rural areas.

07.21. Matters raised by Members

Possibility of training for new Councillors. After the elections SPCA will be running some useful introductory courses and this will be discussed in May.

Although School Lane had had some drain clearance it was now flooded due to a burst water main.

Cllr Bagnall reported that he had received complaints about the state of the road surface around the School and at the dip and bend. Can we chase the setting up a meeting with Highways and consider both Dunston and Coppenhall. Concern about parking at the school and village hall. Investigate if South Staffordshire Council has any wardens or a PCSO and could send somebody to look at situation. The Clerk will follow up possibilities of parking on the field or other adjacent space but funds will be needed to provide a suitable surface. The school parking can be hired at £5 a night for Village Hall functions.

No further information on the state of road works in Coppenhall. Clerk to e-mail County Council on the state of the plans.

The Headmaster of Dunston School is now due to retire after many years of service. It was suggested that some act of recognition should be considered on behalf of the Parish Council.

Items for the Next Agenda

- a) Risk Analysis and Insurance Cover – Noticeboards, Bus Shelter, Councillors

07.22. Next Meeting: **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007** at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall at 7.30pm. This will follow the Annual Parish Assembly held at 7.00pm.

This will be the first meeting of the Council following the May 2007 elections and Councillors are reminded that they will need to complete fresh declarations of financial interests and to sign up to the Code of Conduct.

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm