

## **Minutes of the Dunston with Coppenhall Annual Parish Meeting**

Held at Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall

At 7.00 pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Present:

Cllrs H Jones (Chairman), P G Lawrence, I Collard, J Bagnall, I O'Reilly, J Richardson  
County Cllr V Downes. District Councillor G Spandler

Clerk: D Wright

2 members of the public were present

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Diggett (abroad)
2. Chairman reported on the previous years activities of the Parish Council. She noted the changes in the Council with the co-option of Ian O'Reilly and Gill Diggett. A great deal of time and effort had been spent on the planning application for Drayton Manor Farm but permission had finally been granted on appeal to a planning Inspector. Thanks were expressed to C Cllr V Downes for the provision of money to repair the bus shelter at Dunston. The free bulbs from South Staffordshire Council had been well received and the Council expressed its thanks to the Chairman for collecting them from Codsall. The Newsletter issues had been successful and more are planned. A detailed survey had been carried out in Coppenhall to determine residents opinion of proposals for highway work and had identified the preferred solutions.
3. The Clerk circulated the audited accounts for 2005/ and summarised the expenditure, explaining the use of the funds. The reserves have now increased as there was no by-election in the year. The Council's fixed assets at £400 are two notice-boards, and the bus shelter at Dunston, which has no original purchase value.
4. hDistrict Councillor G Spandler explained the recent Housing Review Document. This looked at the need for SSDC to find 5000 homes for the forward plan. However 2784 have been built between 1979 and 2006. Future plans are to only develop where village facilities exist. The inspection of the Council by District Audit had been good but critical of the leaflet section, the letting of Industrial properties and the performance of the Planning Departments. Financial control is of a high standard. The problems of the public being able to speak at Council meetings are being examined and changes may be made to allow some representation at meetings. There have been overspends, particularly a 42% overspend on refuse collection and there is now no income from recycling
5. CCllr Veronica Downes gave a brief summary of " Changing Lives", the County Council proposed policy on provision of future care for the elderly which had created a great deal of controversy. She reported that job evaluation is still going on at the Council. The surface of the motorway has been replaced and this is n a vast improvement with a much lower noise. It was noted that trees were now being cut along the motorway from Junction 13
6. Cllr Jones delivered a report from Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall.. Central Networks have now moved the electricity pole in front of the Hall and the dropping the kerbs has now completed the planned work for the hall. The hall has a capacity of 100 or 60 if seated. Classes/Groups now available include a Paint Group, and Yoga. It is hoped to have an annual event like the Grand Opening in August 2006 but a date has not yet been set.

7. Cllr Richardson reported on Dunston Village Hall. Bookings are reasonable and the hall is ticking over. The committee has spent £6000 on a new oak floor which was completed at Easter. £700 has been spent on paint and redecoration and the railings are still to be finished. Dunstonians provided a set of new gates. There is still a lot of little jobs to be done.
8. Cllr Richardson reported on St Leonard's School. The school has sufficient children at the moment and the September intake will be satisfactory. The Headmaster is retiring in September at the end of the School year.
9. Discussion:  
The Road improvements in Coppenhall are currently on hold. The Parish Council are awaiting new proposals from the highways department. However the work is no longer on this years programme.  
Suggested that we invite all groups that are active in the parish to report on their activities and promote themselves at this meeting.  
Possible projects: Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Hall has looked at hiring a marquee for events but this is expensive ~ £4000.  
Dunston has a village green~ could Coppenhall have a village green or amenity area?  
How do we identify or adopt a village green?  
Dunston school is now looking for volunteers to be a governor

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

***Note: The Parish Meeting is not a meeting of the Parish Council. The minutes are not reviewed by the Parish Council but are presented at the next annual meeting***