

DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8^h January 2007 at HYDE LEA & COPPENHALL VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillor P G Lawrence
H S Jones
J K Bagnall
I Collard
G I Diggett
I O'Reilly
J W Richardson

District Councillor G Spandler
2 members of the public
in attendance Clerk: D W Wright

07.01. Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor I Ford and County Councillor V Downes

07.02. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

07.03. Minutes

The minutes of 6th November 2006 had been circulated. The minutes were amended to record:

That J Richardson had been present at the last meeting but that Cllrs Spandler and Downes had sent apologies and were not there.

The last meeting had been held at Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Hall and not Dunston. It was noted that Station Road should have referred to School Lane.

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

07.04. Matters Arising

- a) The bus shelter at Dunston is being repaired by a local contractor. A grant of £200 has been arranged by C Councillor V Downes and this money has been received from Staffordshire County Council. The Clerk was authorised to organise payment on receipt of an invoice.
- b) A meeting with the Highways to discuss road improvements in Coppenhall was held at Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Hall with Cllrs Jones, Collard and O'Reilly. The Highways explained in detail what they were trying to achieve. They wanted a solution good for at least 10 years rather than just patching. They want to solve the fundamental problem of drainage in the village. The lane is one of the 3 worst roads in the area. The widening had been driven by the need to sort out the drainage. However because of the strength of feeling of residents, the widening proposal has been dropped. The main problem is that the road edges are not sealed and so water gets under the surface. Unless kerbs are installed, drainage will not work. It was suggested that there be no widening, but conservation kerbs, less obtrusive, be installed set fairly well down on only part of the road. This seemed the best solution and the Highways Department will come back again with more detailed plans and revised plans. Such work will require partial road closure but would move along the road progressively.

07.05. Chairman's report

Hyde Lea and Coppenhall Village Hall have reported that there are normally two representatives of the Parish Council on its committee. The Council decided to consider its representation at its May meeting.

The Chairman was thanked for her efforts on obtaining and supplying the bulbs for planting from South Staffordshire District Council.

07.06. Finance.

- a) The Accounts for the year to date were presented and approved. The grant from SCC of £200 had been received. The latest bank statement was presented. The balance at bank was £1756.91. There were no unrepresented cheques.
- b) Accounts for payment were presented ..
- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| H L & C Village Hall | £ 14.00 | Room Hire |
| Audit Commission fee | £ 58.75 | |
| Clerk's salary 2 months | £141.66 | |
| Clerks Admin (Sept-Dec) | <u>£ 34.70</u> | |
| Total | <u>£249.11</u> | |

The Council approved the above accounts for payment and cheques were signed for the above. Cashbook balance £ 1507.80

It was also agreed to pay a 1 hour hire charge for the use of Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall for the meeting with Highways and an additional cheques was signed for £7.00

Public question time

At this point the meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to comment on the Parish Council's plans for expenditure and the level of precept. The members of public present expressed a strong view that they did not want to see an increase in precept or money being spent on support for local organisations.

A concern about development of a paddock in the village was expressed. The meeting then resumed.

- c) Budgetary expenditure and Precept
Draft proposals for a budget expenditure of £ 6039 or an expenditure of around £4145 were presented by the Clerk. The running costs of the Council have increased significantly and it is also hoped to do much more for the benefit of the Parish. After detailed discussion on the basis of the expenditure requirements and the appropriate level of reserves for the forthcoming Parish elections, precepts of £4000, equivalent to a 50 % increase in the Parish council precept or £3500 (30%) were proposed. On a vote it was decided to set a precept at the lower level.

RESOLVED: That Dunston with Coppenhall Parish Council approves the revised budget for 2007-2008 and sets a Precept requirement of £3500 for 2007-2008.

The Clerk will issue copies of the revised budget and an analysis of the levy that will be paid for each rating band. The increase in population in the parish has increased the rateable base by about 5%.

- d) 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.

07.07. Planning:

Applications decided

1. 06/01053/FUL Coppenhall Barn Church Lane. Replacement roof-light window. The Council had no objection but the application was refused by SBC .The reasons advanced for the change did not constitute the very special circumstances to justify inappropriate alterations to this building of rural character. The size, design and general appearance of the proposed alteration would have

a detrimental effect on the character and appearance of the building contrary to policy BE20 of the adopted Local Plan.

Applications pending

06/00246/COU Drayton Manor Farm. Change of use of agricultural buildings. This application had been refused and went to written appeal in November. No further information is yet available

06/01222/FUL 3 Beech Lane, Coppenhall. Two storey front and side extensions. The Council has no objection but comments that the plans should be amended to ensure that the development does not encroach over the building line.

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

07/00015/REN Hope Farm, Whittamoor Lane, Levedale. Change of use and alterations to form 5 dwellings. On SSDC planning list but papers not yet received.

07/00017/COU The Toft Barn, Whittamoor Lane, Levedale. Alterations and change of use to form dwelling. On SSDC planning list but papers not yet received.

The Council approved the actions taken.

The chairman had received a letter from Castle Homes stating that they intended to apply for planning permission for 5 ~ 7 homes to be built on the paddock in Beech Lane. The Clerk will write to the developers thanking them for the notification and asking for more detailed information and advising them of the date of the next Parish Council meeting.

07.08. Correspondence.

- a) Correspondence was circulated at end December 2006. No actions arise from that correspondence.
- b) Correspondence was noted from Environmental Action Group, and the Community Council Best Kept Village competition. A new electoral roll for the parish has been received. There are now 217 electors listed for Dunston and 237 (an increase of 25) listed for Coppenhall.
- c) The Clerk reported on a letter of complaint in respect of the Council's Newsletter and related statements regarding a planning appeal. The Council considered the content of the letter and decided that it did not consider the complaint justified. No further action will be taken.
- d) A letter has been received from the Monitoring Officer in respect of the investigation of a complaint to the Standards Board about two councillors by the previous clerk. The letter records that the complaint is not upheld and the Councillors have no case to answer. The result of the investigation was reported in a public notice in the Express & Star.

07.09. Matters raised by Members

The development at Tanglemere has left mud on the road and damaged verges. The local councillor will contact SCC Highways about concerns for the drains. Councillor Bagnall reported on his recent attendance at a Parish Council/SSDC liaison meeting. He had been doubtful before going of the usefulness but came away very impressed and wished to encourage further attendance at these meetings. Road works are commencing on the M6 between Junction 12 and 13. The work so far carried out on the M6 motorway from Junction 13 to 14 has reduced noise levels. The work will close the Motorway for 2 nights and residents may enjoy unusual quietness.

A new issue of the newsletter is proposed, including information on the precept increases and providing more information on what the Parish Council is doing. A list

of addresses and a map is needed to split the delivery into suitable batches and to avoid duplication or omissions.

The use of fields by Drayton Manor Farm for a private quad bike track will be monitored but it is in Penkridge Parish area. Paint ball activities are also being carried out across the parish boundary but noise nuisance is being experienced.

Items for the Next Agenda

- a) Newsletter, Websites and Communication.
- b) Discussion on The Moat and problems of drug taking
- c) Dog Fouling in the Parish

- 07.10. Next Meeting: **Tuesday 6th March 2007** at Dunston Village Hall at 7.30pm.
This is a change to the original published date due to the unavailability of the Clerk.

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm