

DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at Dunston Village Hall on Thursday 9th May 2019

Present: Parish Councillors; Mr G Pliva, Mr J Richardson, Mrs S Furber, Ms C Holden.

Clerk: Mr D Jones; one member of the public.

Prior to the meeting, the newly elected councillors signed the Acceptance of Office declarations.

01; Councillor Diggett, the retiring chairman, welcomed those present and the meeting started at 19 45 hrs.

02; Apologies had been received from County Councillor Mr M Sutton & District Councillor Mr L Bates

03; Councillor Diggett, as outgoing Chairman, delivered the Annual Report on the Parish Council activities during the previous year;

I would like to thank Mark Sutton our County Councillor and our District Councillor Len Bates for attending our meetings whenever they are able, and keeping us informed of events and policies which may not only affect our Parish but the wider community.

Len has given his support to the residents' objections to the applications for the Turkey farm and for outline planning permission for a bungalow in Old Vicarage Lane. Both of which were passed. He has really stuck his neck out for the residents.

Mark also helped oppose the Turkey Farm and has supported us with both advice and a contribution from his fund to enable us to apply for a grant to get the 30mph speed limit extended in School Lane

I would like to thank all our Councillors and for their hard work, particularly this year with delivering leaflets to make our residents aware of the proposed West Midlands Interchange and attendance at the meetings. With a special thanks to Jeff Bagnall for his continued maintenance of the website and who sadly has decided not to stand for re-election this year and I am sure you will all join me in noting for the record our appreciation for all Jeff's support and hard work during his time on the council.

I am sure you would also like to join me in thanking our Parish Clerk Derek for all his hard work and good humour.

I hope our two new councillors Claire and Steph have enjoyed their first year on the council, they have proved very welcome additions and have helped us to move forward and to start looking at projects we can take on to improve the Parishes such as renewing some of the finger posts which is now in progress.

Hopefully we will get the grant of £5000 from the Road Safety fund for which I have put in an application for, along with a £2500 contribution from our County Councillor's fund and £2500 from our precept, which will cover the approximate cost of £10000 for extending the 30mph speed limit in School Lane as currently the de-restricted speed signs begin just before the settlement of 9 dwellings, and as we aware, this is of great concern to the residents living there following their attendance at our last meeting and follow up emails.

It is a shame that we have to use so much of our precept to pay for this project, as a few years ago we were able to get the 30mph speed limit in Coppenhall moved without cost to the Parish Council. But times have changed with our cash strapped County Council set to place more financial burdens on Parish Councils and although we are happy that we can spend some of our precept for the benefit of our residents, as it is their money, it may mean difficult decisions will have to be made in the coming years as to the setting our traditionally low precept.

Finally as you all aware I will be moving on to pastures new to enjoy retirement in the Peak District with Mike and be closer to our family and imminent grandchild and therefore this will be my final Parish Council meeting. I am sorry to be leaving you and hope you feel I have done my best for the residents. For the most part I have enjoyed my time on the council, the greater part of it being as Chair. I thank you all here for your support and for all the laughs that we have had and wish you all best for the future in keeping the Parish Council alive and hope that some residents will step up to the plate and help you.

04; A vote of thanks to the Chairman for her work was proposed and agreed unanimously. The meeting also noted for the record their appreciated of Jeff Bagnall's hard work over the years as a councillor and his ongoing maintenance of the website.

05; The minutes of the last Parish assembly held on 14th May 2018 were discussed, no issues raised

06; Dunston Village Hall matters reported by Councillor Pliva;

A new kitchen has been installed.

The hall is breaking even on bookings

A key box has been installed to allow access to no key holders.

It is planned to have new curtains fitted during the coming year.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 20.10 hrs.