

DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2017 at Dunston Village Hall.

Present; Parish Councillors; - Mrs G Diggett [chair] - Mr G Pliva-Mr J Bagnall-Mr J Richardson-

District Councillor; Mr L Bates [left the meeting after item 9].

Clerk to the council; Mr D Jones-two members of the public.

01; Chairman's welcomed those present and the meeting started at 19.30

02; Apologies had been received from; County Councillor Mr M Sutton[belated]

03; The future of the Parish Council;

Mr David Pattinson was unable to attend for this item due to family illness. Councillor Diggett explained that there were 3 vacancies for councillors representing the Coppenhall ward, and despite advertising, no applications had been received. The Parish Council had been created in 1977 when the residents of Coppenhall, then a parish meeting, requested joining with Dunston to create a combined Parish Council. Up to 6 months ago this had worked reasonably well, but certain events, such as the adoption of the red phone box in Dunston and the meeting regarding the car park application for St Lawrence's Church had caused dissent and polarised opinions. There are 2 separate communities some distance apart and from the tone of the resignation letters from the ex Coppenhall councillors it was obvious that they felt that the council did not serve any meaningful purpose for their community.

The meeting agreed to therefore take advice on instigating a Local Governance Review to determine the future of the parish council.

Councillor Bagnall also commended the clerk for his patience and resolve during the difficult period he experienced at the beginning of the year.

RESOLUTION-council to take advice on instigating a Local Governance Review.

04; No interests were declared, or dispensations requested by the councillors in any agenda items.

05; Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 7th August 2017;

The minutes, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed as a true record, with the following amendment. item 9 paragraph 4, Church Lane, Dunston should have read Church Close, Dunston.

06; Report on matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

The red phone box at Church Close, Dunston; Councillor Diggett has spoken to Rebecca Potter in the District Council and asked for the current position. The removal of the telephone box had been objected to by the Heritage Officer, the Parish Council and a local resident. To date nothing has been heard from BT.

It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council proceed and adopt the telephone box as a heritage item.

It was also suggested that if it can be adopted, could the apparatus be left in situ to present a complete picture of the box for future generations.

RESOLUTION-the adoption of the red telephone box on Church Close, Dunston, be actioned.

07; Councillor Bates;

Reminded the meeting that the South Staffordshire Community Lottery will be launched shortly. He explained that it was a source of funding for local good causes and 60% of the money raised would be directed to them. It will cost £1 per ticket which can be bought from the lottery website- www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or by calling 01902 213777.

Clerk advised the meeting that he had received a supply of promotional posters

09; Planning Issues; [This item was taken out of sequence as Councillor Bates wished to be present for the discussion]

Application 17/00959/FUL-Toft Farm, Levedale Road which is for 4 buildings to be erected and used for turkey rearing. This application had been incorrectly sent to Acton Trussell parish which delayed our response, however some of the council had learned about this from other sources.

The application was discussed at length and the conclusion was that *“the council had no objection to the development in principle, but object strongly to the proposed access route via School Lane, Dunston. This would mean a large number of HGV vehicles servicing the turkey farm using a road which is narrow, has limited passing places and passes the village school and village hall. This road is often congested by parents at certain times of the day reducing carriageway width and the volume of HGV movements proposed would provide a significant danger to the children and other pedestrians. It was proposed that an alternative route from the A449 at Penkridge via Levedale Road to the farm would be safer route and more acceptable to the residents of Dunston.”*

The planning officer to be advised accordingly.

08; Finance- A; Payment of the following invoices was agreed;

PAYE	£- 50.60	cheque no-400016
Clerks salary & expenses	£- 225.61	cheque no-400017
D M Payroll Services	£ -30.00	cheque no-400019

B; Precept for 2018/9-the decision was postponed until the February 2018 meeting.

10; Highways and other matters;

There was an animated discussion about the problems with Highways covering lack of progress in work requested, the state of the roads in Staffordshire and the move to involve local communities and parishes in carrying out maintenance work.

Specific items covered the speeding along School Lane, recent near misses and a dog being hit by a vehicle. It was suggested some form of traffic calming, extension of 30mph limit or reduction to 20mph from the school to the woodyard.

Part of School Lane was surface dressed during the Summer but had been resurfaced 5 years ago and did not need any treatment. This was considered a waste of money when many other roads need attention.

Part of a tree was blown down in a recent gale which blocked School Lane, when Highways did not respond, it was cleared by local residents.

There was also concern about the number of road signs that are unreadable, need cleaning or are obscured by vegetation.

11; Correspondence; the following has been received since the last meeting;

Via email

- SSCVA has become Support Staffordshire from 1/10/2017.
- Highways update; weekly notification of road matters.
- Healthwatch Advisory Board, advice of public meeting on 15/11/2017
- Crime prevention poster for November.
- Codsall Community Arts Festival will be held in March 2018
- Came & Co, Autumn Newsletter.
- Codsall Christmas fair will be held on 1/12/2018
- South Staffs District Council; casual vacancy guide and electoral procedure guidelines.
- Weston Park requiring volunteers from local communities to work at various roles on the estate.

Via surface mail

- Publicity material about South Staffs Community Lottery.

The dates for next year's meeting were agreed as follows;

- Thursday 1st February- Dunston Village Hall.
- Monday 14th May- Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall.
- Thursday 2nd August – Dunston Village Hall.
- Monday 5th November – Hyde Lea & Coppenhall Village Hall

Meeting Ended 2145; Derek Jones clerk to the council

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