

## DUNSTON with COPPENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at Dunston Village hall. This was the combined Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council necessitated by the shutdown of council activities since March.

Due to the current health crisis the meeting was held under strict guidelines.

Present; Parish Councillors -Ms C Holden[chair]- Mr J Richardson-Mr G Pliva-Mr D Walker.

County Councillor-Mr M Sutton.

Clerk to the council Mr D Jones.

There were no members of the public present.

1; Councillor Holden welcomed those present and the meeting started at 7.35pm Apologies had been received from Parish Councillor Mrs S Furber & District Councillor Mr L Bates

2; Mr D Walker to be co-opted onto the parish council; Proposed by Councillor Pliva and seconded by Councillor Richardson.

3; No Interests were declared by councillors in respect of any agenda items.

4; Chairman's summary of the year.

- Councillor Holden reported that she took over from Mrs Diggett, who retired after the 2019 election, and this was her first year as chair to the council.
- This year has seen more input from residents concerning parish matters especially concerning planning and broadband issues.
- Thanks to Councillor Richardson for his work on the signpost by the Toft, which he repaired and reinstated.
- She welcomed Dan Walker onto the council
- Was pleased that the 30mph sign had finally been moved as the initial approach to the Highways Department was over one year ago.

5; The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 were accepted and signed as a true record.

6; The clerk reported the following events since the March meeting.

- Nursery-Old Vicarage Road; premises were visited by enforcement who reported that as the change of use to residential had not been actioned, to remain as a nursery meant no planning permission required.
- Website has completed -[dunstonwithcoppenhallpc.org](http://dunstonwithcoppenhallpc.org) and complies with the new regulations. However, photos required of landmarks in the parish to be included on the site.
- Insurance renewal; the previous 3-year deal expired so a new one was negotiated.
- SPCA-numerous bulletins including training
- School Lane -road works completed

- West Midlands Interchange; construction was agreed by the Secretary of State, so no further appeal is allowed.
- Defibrillator pads have been changed.
- Litter and fly tipping have been a problem during the past few months.

7; Councillor Sutton reported the following;

During the current crisis the main priority was to keep residents safe. A local management team has coordinated efforts and now each department of the Council has a recovery plan

The County Council have undertaken various initiatives during the health crisis. These included grant schemes to small businesses, and there is still a fund for local groups with cash problems They have assisted care homes, moved staff from non-essential roles into such areas as food distributions and call handling. They have also worked with schools to assist vulnerable children.

He commented on the works involved in moving the speed sign on School Lane. The grant received was for £5000, cost to the parish was £4000, so there is balance remaining. He suggested that to Road Safety Partnership be contacted and asked if the balance could be kept and used towards the provision of a speed indication device.

8; Financial matters

A] The following invoices were authorised and cheques issued.

Clerks salary February-April]	£515.48	Cheque No 0062
PAYE[February-April]	£128.80	Cheque No 0064
Came & Co [annual insurance premium]	£340.64	Cheque No 0065.

These were paid on Chairman's authority

C Heelis [internal audit fee]	£25.00	Cheque No 0066
Clerks salary & Expenses [May -July]	£415.81	Cheque No 0068
PAYE	£96.60	Cheque No 0069
G Pliva [defibrillator pads]	£44.28	Cheque No 0070
E A Roy[website]	£345.00	Cheque No 0071
Staffordshire C C {contribution to road works]	£4000.00	Cheque No 0072.

B] Annual Accounts; had been circulated prior to the meeting

RESOLUTION; accounts were accepted unanimously

C]Annual Governance Statement; clerk explained the document and the council's responsibility.

RESOLUTION; councillors agreed the statement and it was duly signed

D]Accounting Statements for 2019/2020 were explained.

RESOLUTION; councillors accepted the statement and it was duly signed.

E] Certificate of exemption; clerk explained the basis for a council to apply for exemption from external audit.

RESOLUTION; council agreed unanimously to apply for Certificate of Exemption.

9; Planning matters;

Dunston Garden Village; a recent article in the local papers caused concern amongst residents. Enquiries with Kelly Harris were made about this who confirmed that South Staffs Planning hoped to consult on the Preferred Options in the Autumn but this has now been put back until Summer 2021. The Dunston proposal was put into the press by the site promoters to publicise it but the Council's position has not changed. This was also confirmed in an email from District Councillor Len Bates after he had consulted the Strategic Planning Team manager of South Staffs District Council.

10; Highways;

Flooding on School Lane. Councillor Pliva circulated an email from a resident and photographs of flooding of gardens in certain properties. This has been an ongoing problem for some time and is currently being investigated by the Council's Environmental team. It was decided to see the outcome of this before the council decided what further action to take.

11; Broadband issues.

Councillor Holden had been approached by two residents of Coppenhall complaining about their slow broadband speed. Some properties in the village do benefit from fast broadband but it is not universal. Councillor Holden has spoken with the County Council's liaison officer, who sent a map showing the spread and speed of broadband in the area. To acquire faster speed it is possible the affected residents will have to pay a contribution to BT. However, although the council did not consider this a council matter, it was agreed that Councillor Holden pursue the issue and obtain more information and costings.

13; The date of the next meeting is to provisionally be booked for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Dunston Village Hall.

Meeting ended 9.20pm