

**MINUTES OF THE DENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL MEETING ROOM**

Councillor J Richardson was in the chair, Councillors present: J Payne, E Edmonds, T Swinson, B Hinton, C Salt, R.Wright, C Smith (Borough Councillor), Mr Andy Mason (Neighbourhood Working Team Leader). Apologies: S Ratcliffe (work) J Bednall (work). Five members of the public were present.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLERK:** Introduction of new clerk, E Whitehead and thanks given to Bob Beaumont for his services and an invitation to the Parish Meeting
2. **MINUTES:** of the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were approved and signed
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT:**
  - a. Training for new councillor - ongoing
  - b. Tree overhanging St Chad's Close to College Rd footpath – **Discharged.**
  - c. Free trees – not to be used due to lack of suitable space. **Discharged**
  - d. Best Kept Village Competition 2012 – judging to start 1st May. Request for tidying to anyone who might see an area that needs attention. **Clerk to write letter to Alton Towers to thank them for their litter picking.**
  - e. Urgent request to empower Town & Parish Councils – **no issues raised.**
  - f. Accident adjacent to old railway line 10 March – **a key has now been provided for all the local paramedics for use in an emergency.**
5. **ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION:** *A summary of the items raised is shown at the end of the minutes.*
6. **PLANNING:** [permitted & Refused are decisions by ESBC]
  - a. P/2012/00196/JPM. Construction of a 272 space car park, JCB (Excavators) Ltd, Lakeside Works, Denstone Road, Rocester. Cllr C Smith thought JCB are going to replant at back of carpark at Stubwood. **Awaiting response to letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> March to ESBC. Clerk to write letter to JCB to request the introduction of pedestrian crossings at the roundabout at the end of Lady Meadow and across entrance to car parks.**
  - b. P/2012/00149/JI. Retention of office unit and storage unit for a 3 year period in connection with commercial haulage business, Lilac Cottage, Stubwood Lane. **Permitted.**
  - c. Any correspondence received since publication of agenda. P/2012/00382/EW. Erection of a two storey side extension (Non-

Material Amendment - retention of increased size of front window),  
Springfields, College Road. **Update given and no objections raised.**

7. **WEBSITE:** visitor numbers are up on last month.
8. **FOOTPATH from Marlpit Lane to The Weavers.** Contractor arrived on 19<sup>th</sup> March but material delivered by supplier found to be unsuitable for use and not type 1 as ordered. Cllr S Ratcliffe awaiting a response from suppliers about unused material. Cllr R Wright to apply to Community Footpaths Initiative for funds to complete the works. **Clerk to request Mr M Delf to complete works on the footpath as soon as possible.**
9. **ISSUES RAISED FOR DISCUSSION WITH CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES:**  
CHURCH ROOM. Letter received from FBC Manby Bowbler Solicitors to The Reverend Brian Leathers, dated 20<sup>th</sup> March, outlining the possible options for the Church Room. Cllr J Payne to talk to Rev. Brian Leathers about the letter for clarification on details of usage. After consultation with 3 out of 4 builders it appears that the Church Room isn't as badly damaged as first thought. It was noted that the building is listed and will require relevant planning permissions. Next Church Room Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April.
10. **DENSTONE SHOW 2012:** Meeting held on 27 March. Some changes made to classes. Next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> April & review of changes of last meeting.
11. **FUTURE OF POST OFFICE:** Information received from The Post Office dated 27<sup>th</sup> March. **No action required at this stage.**
12. **CYCLE PATH TO RYECROFT:** Some concerns expressed that the area is too isolated for safe passage of children of Ryecroft age. **AGREED To review footpath at next meeting.**
13. **WALK ROUND DENSTONE LEAFLET:** New route has now been agreed and subject to new breaches of hedge required, leaflet is ready to go ahead. Request for a line/watercolour drawing for the back of the leaflet. Cllr Wright has requested further funds from community initiative to cover expenditure in excess of current grant.
14. **REPLACEMENT OF VILLAGE LENGTHSMAN:** No response has been received at time of meeting. Noted that current Lengthsman finishes at the end of April.

15. **JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

- a. **Floats:** Health & Safety constraints and resulting insurance means the floats will no longer be possible.
- b. Street party to be held on Marlpit Lane
- c. **Celebratory mugs.** It was noted that legally Parish Council can only provide for children in community. **Cllr Hinton to acquire a quote from Dunoon that would be made in Staffordshire for around 250 and 500 mugs. Decision to be made by consensus before next meeting to ensure delivery before Jubilee Weekend.**
- d. Church service still planned for after the Jubilee Hog Roast on the railway line on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

16. **SMART WATER:** a scheme for all property to be marked with an invisible ink to protect from theft. SMART WATER posters would then be placed in the village to provide a deterrent. Households could opt in at around £20 per household. **To be added to agenda of Parish Meeting. Clerk to write letter to express interest to the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch.**

17. **HIGHWAY ISSUES:**

- a. Traffic problems College Road. **Cllr Richardson to respond to letter received from Denstone College.**
- b. Access gate to old railway line. New “Access Protection Line” to be added.
- c. Lane at top of Quixhill (B5032 & 5030). No response from ESBC about next step. **Request from Cllr Richardson to Andy Mason to pursue.**
- d. Bank on Alton Road by Hillcrest – no objections raised to work going ahead to stop slippage of bank. **Cllr Wright to assess options and report back to Clerk by email.**

18. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING:**

- a. Neighbourhood Forum. Next neighbourhood forum meeting planned – date to follow. **New Coordinator to start in post at the beginning of May.** Thanks offered to Andy Mason for his contribution and help.
- b. Request for a new waste bin beyond first bridge on railway line. Next funding panel meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May for these matters to be considered. **At next meeting.**

19. **CORRESPONDENCE:** all items circulated with agenda.

- a. ESBC Tackle the Tippers Fly tipping campaign. **Noted.**
- b. ESBC Presentation on Emergency Planning. **Clerk to request presentation at a future meeting.**

20. **CORRESPONDENCE ON THE TABLE TO NOTE:** All noted

- a. Staffordshire Police Authority. **Noted.**
- b. Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Economic Bulletin Issue 6 Feb 2012. **Noted**
- c. Saving Open Space. **Noted.**
- d. Proposed Rural Enterprise Academy. **Noted.**
- e. Planning for the Environment at neighbourhood level. **Noted.**

- f. Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy. **Noted.**

**21. FINANCE/PAYMENTS:**

- c. Financial statement 2011/12. **Noted that interest had now been added.**
- d. Schedule of assets. **Noted**
- e. Appointment of internal auditor. **Agreed as before**
- f. Approval of annual return sections 1&2. **Section 1 and 2 approved & signed by Chair and Mr Bob Beaumont.**  
**The following payments were approved.**
- g. Street lighting (February) = £7.64 + 0.38VAT = **£8.02** [Parish Councils Act 1957 s3]
- h. SPCA Subscription = £294.46 + 10 Area committee = **£304.96** [Local Govt Act 1972 s143]
- i. Lengthsman (non SCC work) = **£189.00** [Local Govt (miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 s4]
- j. Repointing of War Memorial = £250 + 50VAT = **£300.00** [War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 s] **Unspent, work not yet done.**
- k. Webmaster March = **£25.00** [LGA 1972 s142 7 144]
- TOTAL = **£526.98**. All payments proposed by Cllr Payne seconded Cllr Salt.

**22. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: None expressed.**

**23. DATES OF NEXT MEETING: Parish Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 to start in hall at 7.30pm and 3 May 2012.**

The meeting closed at 21.06

**ITEMS RAISED DURING THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD**

Issue raised about a new bench to be placed on the grassed area at the corner of Marlpit Lane and Alton Road as a viewing and resting place. **Clerk to write letter to establish need for planning permissions required.**