

MINUTES OF THE DENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL MEETING ROOM

Councillor J Richardson was in the chair. Councillors present: J Bednall, E Edmonds, J Payne, S Ratcliffe, T Swinson and R Wright. Apologies: B Hinton, C Vernon (domestic) and Borough Cllr C Smith(meeting) Four members of the public were present.

1. **MINUTES:** of the meeting held on 1 November were approved and signed.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Ratcliffe – item 5b(employee)..
3. **MATTERS ARISING/CLERK’S REPORT:**
 - a. Training for new cllr. Ongoing.
 - b. Teen Play Area securing of train. Response still awaited from John Quigley SCC. Seat requires setting back in ground – to be done by the spring.
 - c. Meeting with JCB on 20 July concerning noise. Planning permission out for consultation - see 5b.
 - d. All Saints Church Christmas Tree festival 10/11 December. **Cllr Swinson volunteered to do session on Sunday afternoon.**
 - e. Brook behind post office and shop. Done by Malcolm Adams at no cost. **Clerk to write and thank.**
 - f. Autumn litter pick 20 November. Successful but ESBC did not collect sacks. Next one March/April 2012.
 - g. SCC – 2012 Volunteer Staffordshire Award. Needs to be current – some names suggested.
 - h. Electric fence on footpath through Little Park Farm. Has been put underground.
 - i. Tree overhanging St Chad’s Close to College Road footpath. Householder informed.
4. **ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** *A summary of the items raised is shown at the end of the minutes.*
5. **PLANNING:** [Permitted & Refused are decisions by ESBC]
 - a. P/2011/00811/JI. Erection of a wind turbine with a hub height of 15.4m, Manor House Farm, Quixhill Lane. **Permitted**
 - b. PA/00819/106/JPM. Retention and further extension of a hard standing for the machine storage and despatch yard, including overspill car parking area, landscaping bund, erection of a two metre high palisade fencing, floodlighting and reopening of an existing access to form exit only junction (Amended plans and information received on 15 November 2011), JCB Bamford Excavators Ltd., World Headquarters, Hollington Road, Rocester. **No objections to be raised but comment re floodlighting**
 - c. Any applications received since publication of the agenda. None.
6. **WEBSITE:** **AGREED** Alton Towers to be asked to pay out of parish fee of £25 per annum for posting items on site.
7. **FOOTPATH FROM MARLPIT LANE TO THE WEAVERS:** Budgetary quote given by contractor, membrane suggested – worth pursuing. **Clerk to firm up. Cllr Swinson to investigate transport of stone from Uttoxter Quarry.**
8. **ISSUES RAISED FOR DISCUSSION WITH CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES:**
 - a. Dropped kerb. Temporary marking of car park has been done. Sign produced – to be erected shortly. **AGREED** Cllr Edmunds pursue low fence against footway.

b. To report progress on Church Room. Further discussions held. PCC meeting next week with a joint meeting in January.

9. **DENSTONE SHOW 2011:** Final accounts circulated with a surplus of £296. **AGREED to form contingency budget for next year.** Review meeting held. Possible date for next year 8 September. No programmes just entry form with higher entry fee for adults.

10. **NPOWER ELECTRICITY TARIFF INCREASES AND CHANGE TO E.ON:** Switch apparently took place around 2 November. Complaint lodged with Consumer Direct. **AGREED December E.ON bill and final bill from nPower to be paid when received without waiting until January meeting.**

11. **WAR MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE:** Additional insurance quote of £400 circulated. **Clerk to investigate whether other Councils insure for full value.**

12. **REPLACEMENT HAWTHORN TREES COLLEGE ROAD:** Awaiting collection and planting.

13. **SCC – PROPOSED DIVERSION PART OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH NOS 13 & 22 (DENSTONE COLLEGE):** Circulated. **AGREED to support and enquire timescale.**

14. **SCC – EAST STAFFORDSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY:** Circulated. Not to comment.

15. **STUBWOOD BUS SHELTER:** Cllr Edmunds to look at roof.

16. **HIGHWAY ISSUES:**

a. Traffic problems College Road/Marlpit Lane/Narrow Lane. In hand. College informed of public meeting on 26 January.

b. Stubwood speed limits. Nothing to report.

c. Access gate to Old railway Line. Request accepted by SCC Highways.

d. Community Ice Busters. Circulated. **Cllr Bednall to speak to Sam Griffiths for clarification.**

e. Lane between B5032 & 5030 at top of Quixhill. Bollards one end but still rubbish. **ESBC and SCC Highways to be contacted.**

17. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING:**

a. Neighbourhood Forum - 22 November meeting. Chairman & Cllr Payne attended – no new information.

b. Heritage Lottery Fund in East Staffordshire/Event Uttoxeter 23 November. Cllr Vernon attended – good event worth pursuing subject to church agreement.

18. **CORRESPONDENCE:** All items circulated with agenda.

a. Staffordshire police 101 number. **Details to be put on website.**

b. Com Council of Staffordshire – Members' Newsletter Autumn 2011. **Noted.** Suggested individuals carry out speed test.

c. ESBC – Christmas arrangements. **Noted**

d. SPCA – Free trees for communities. **To request one for Jubilee.**

e. NALC – New powers and Olympic Games 2012*

f. ESBC Recharge for 2011 election. **Noted** (see 20g)

g. NALC – The Localism Act. **Noted**

19. CORRESPONDENCE ON THE TABLE TO NOTE: a-d noted.

- a. CPRE – Countryside Voice Winter 2011
- b. NALC – Technical reforms of Council Tax
- c. DCLG – Neighbourhood planning
- d. DCLG – A plain English guide to the Localism Act (email only)
- e. SPCA Planning change (email only). **To be circulated to cllrs**

20. FINANCE/PAYMENTS:

- a. Expenditure vs budget 3rd Qtr 2011-2. Circulated. Overspend on electricity, Vital Villages and Lengthsman noted.
- b. Precept 2012-3. Preliminary budget circulated at meeting. **Cllrs to consider for finalising at January meeting,**

To approve the following payments:

- c. Lengthsman 3rd Qtr = **£174.75** [Local Government Act 2000 s19]
 - d. Clerk's expenses 3mths = £61.77(18.49VV2)+4.04VAT = **£65.81** [LGA 1972 s112]
 - e. Clerk's pay(less 20% tax) (Oct-Dec) = **£686.80** [LGA 1972 s111]
 - f. Tax on clerk's pay = **£171.70** [LGA 1972 s111]
 - g. ESBC 2011 Parish Council election costs = **£91.13** (see 18f) [Representation of the Peoples Act 1983 s36]
 - h. Cllr's travelling expenses = **£25.24** [Local Authorities Members Allowances Regulations 2003 s26]
 - i. Village Hall donation = £25(2nd half 2011 heating & lighting) + 155(toilet 1/7-31/12) = **£180.00** [LGA 1972 s133, Public Health Act 1936 s87]
 - j. Webmaster October = **£25.00** [LGA 1972 s142 & 144]
- Total = **£1420.43**. All payments proposed Cllr Ratcliffe seconded Cllr Edmunds.

21. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

- a. Future of the Post Office
- b. Cycle path to Ryecroft School
- c. Opening of Village Hall toilet on Sundays.

22. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS: 10 January & 7 February 2012

The meeting closed at 21.05.

ITEMS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

State of footpath by Jubilee tree (B5031/2 jct) – **Lengthsman to be asked to deal**. Parking on College Road footway obstructing passage of service buses – **Police to be asked for advice**.