

MINUTES OF THE DENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL MEETING ROOM

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

1. **MINUTES:** of the meeting held on 10 January were approved and signed.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT:**
 - a. Training for new cllr. Ongoing.
 - b. Tree overhanging St Chad's Close to College Road footpath. **Clerk to send second letter.**
 - c. Free trees. Ongoing.
 - d. Opening of Village Hall toilet on Sundays. To start from Sunday 12 February.
 - e. SPCA East Staffs Area Committee – Meeting Uttoxeter 12 January. Update on the SCC Superfast Broadband Project.
 - f. Meeting dates May – December 2012. Agreed list circulated at meeting.
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. Any applications received since publication of the agenda. None.
6. **WEBSITE:** Requests for a picture gallery but there would need to be limits on file size. Site usage increased significantly in January over December.
7. **FOOTPATH FROM MARLPIT LANE TO THE WEAVERS:** Second quote received – see 20b for decision.
8. **ISSUES RAISED FOR DISCUSSION WITH CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES:**
 - a. Car park outside church room. Nothing to report..
 - b. Church Room. Further information had been received on the December PCC decision to sell. One of the church wardens had requested the item to be considered again at the PCC meeting on 13 February. **AGREED Parish Council to send a letter to the PCC setting out the Parish Council's viewpoint with particular emphasis on how community use would be managed.**
9. **DENSTONE SHOW 2012:** It was agreed Cllr Edmonds would be a committee member. Initial meeting 17 January. Some of last year's attendees had agreed to return. Various responsibilities were assigned. Next meeting 27 February.
10. **REPLACEMENT HAWTHORN TREES COLLEGE ROAD:** Awaiting availability of suitable trees.
11. **FUTURE OF THE POST OFFICE:** Details of the usage survey were discussed. **AGREED To await further information from the Post Office in April.**
12. **CYCLE PATH TO RYECROFT SCHOOL:** Awaiting response from JCB about possible routes at the Ryecroft end.

13. **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2012:** Circulated. **AGREED To enter.**

14. **RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM:** Circulated. Suggested that the area of College Road in the centre of the village might like to enter.

15. **HIGHWAY ISSUES:**

a. Traffic problems College Road/Marlpit Lane/Narrow Lane. Traffic survey carried out on two mornings indicated that traffic using Narrow Lane to reach the College was not significant and therefore it was **AGREED not to pursue road restrictions further. Some instances of speeding by College students along College Road would be pursued.** It was felt that a number of other issues such as speed repeaters on College Road, 'No cut through to Alton Tower' sign, possible kerbing on Marlpit Lane and coloured tarmac on the crossings should be pursued instead.

b. Parking problems College Road – The Westlands. Letter circulated. **Clerk to write and ask not to park on verge.**

c. Access gate to Old railway Line. Ongoing. PCSO responded to request to visit and look at parking in the area.

d. Community Ice Busters. **Cllr Bednall pursuing.**

e. Lane between B5032 & 5030 at top of Quixhill. Bollards one end but still rubbish. **Clerk to pursue.**

f. Traffic cones. Six cones ordered.

16. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING:**

a. Neighbourhood Forum. Nothing to report.

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

a. SMDC Churnet Valley Masterplan - options consultation. **Respond to be kept informed and although residents may appreciate quietness there is some support for employment.**

b. SPCA – Planning Seminar 7 March. **Cllr Ratcliffe may wish to attend.**

c. SCC – Public tours of the new Staffordshire Place offices. **Noted**

d. SCC – Putting families first. For information

e. CPRE – How to shape where you live – a guide to Neighbourhood Planning. Cllr Ratcliffe took booklet.

f. Big Lottery Fund – VSOS National conference Birmingham 27 February. Could be useful – DYF attendee?

g. Urgent request to empower Town & Parish Councils. **AGREED To write to MP supporting.**

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

a. Exemplar Property – Half term activities

19. **FINANCE/PAYMENTS:**

a.

To approve the following payments:

b. Street lighting (October) = £86.98 + 17.39VAT = **£104.37** [Parish Councils Act 1957 s3]

c. Post Office Elec Stdg Charge (Oct-Dec) = **£34.73** [LGA 1972 s137]

d. Webmaster January = **£25.00** [LGA 1972 s142 & 144]

Total = **£164.10**. All payments proposed Cllr Vernon seconded Cllr Ratcliffe.

20. STANDING ORDER 1c: That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

a. To further consider arrangements for appointing new clerk. Decision on newspaper advert deferred. To advertise on school notice boards. Interview panel to be Chairman, Vice Chairman & Cllr Hinton. Interviews to be 8 March (since deferred to 15 March because of Village Hall availability). Closing date for applications set at 1 March.

b. To consider quotations for The Weavers footpaths. Two quotations received. **AGREED To accept quotation from MJD Paving.**

21. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

a. Floats for Jubilee celebrations.

22. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS: 6 March & 3 April 2012

The meeting closed at 21.30.

ITEMS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

Church Room – see 8b.