

**MINUTES OF THE DENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL MEETING ROOM**

Councillor J Richardson was in the chair. Councillors present: J Bednall, E Edmonds, J Payne, A Ratcliffe, S Ratcliffe, and R Wright. Apologies: C Salt (work). Four members of the public were present.

1. **MINUTES:** of the meeting held on 1 December. After the amendment of 'could' to 'would' in 5c these were approved and signed.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
3. **LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS IN DENSTONE:** Representative unable to attend because of weather. **Deferred to next meeting**
4. **MATTERS ARISING/CLERK'S REPORT:**
  - a. Missing fingerpost to Stubwood from centre of village. Delivery awaited.
  - b. Stubwood tankers. Enquiry postponement until January/February circulated
  - c. Best Kept Village 2009 – Stubwood. Combined entry for Denstone & Stubwood can be made. **Suggestions for 'Best in County' trophy – plaque to place on bench or shelter or tree with plaque.**
  - d. Neighbourhood Working Actions Plan. Circulated. **Noted**
  - e. Denstone Christmas Tree Festival 5&6 December. Letter of thanks circulated. **Cllrs A Ratcliffe & Salt thanked for the display.**
  - f. Post Office. Contribution to refurbishment and equipment replacement. WASP funding has been agreed – payment is awaited. See also 21f.
  - g. 2012 Challenge Routes. Contact with organisers made. Further information when available.
5. **ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** *A summary of the items raised is shown at the end of the minutes.*
6. **PLANNING:** [Permitted & Refused are decisions by ESBC]
  - a. HO/19309/014/EW. Erection of a detached triple garage with storage space above, Willow Bank, Alton Road. **Permitted**
  - b. HO/07642/007/EW. Erection of a 1.8m high wall and fence to side garden, 23 Marlpit Lane. **Permitted**
  - c. HO/08977/011/AG. Erection of a detached building to form workshop with games room above and covered swimming pool, Myrtle Cottage, Jardines Lane, Stubwood. **No objections raised**
  - d. HO/28299/008/EW. Erection of a replacement front porch, South View, Taylors Lane, Stubwood. **No objections to be raised**
  - e. PA/06994/006/AG. Continued use of land and buildings for the parking of lorries and trailers and the repair of vehicles, retention of offices and existing ménage and alterations to the vehicular access, Little Park Farm, Alton Road. **No objections to be raised**
  - f. Any applications received since publication of the agenda. None
7. **VITAL VILLAGES/PLAY AREAS/OLD RAILWAY LINE:**
  - a. Review of Parish Plan. Chairman & Cllr S Ratcliffe to attend Village Hall Committee meeting on 11 January.

- b. Youth questionnaire. Draft analysis circulated. **Copy passed to Youth Fund**
8. **TRAFFIC CALMING:**  
 a. Community Speedwatch. Volunteer data passed to Andy Mason in December.
9. **POST OFFICE DISABLED ACCESS:** Barbara Harrison ESBC visited 11 December. **Clerk to chase report**
10. **COLLEGE ROAD HEDGES:** Clerk to chase Clarence again for feedback.
11. **POST OFFICE HEAD LEASE:** Cllr S Ratcliffe pass on copy of existing lease for perusal.
12. **CAR PARKING COLLEGE ROAD:** Photos supplied by resident. **Clerk to write that Car Parking to be dealt with as part of the Parish Plan and invite resident to be a member of the group considering.**
13. **FIRE RISK REDUCTION:** **To invite Fire Officer to attend a meeting.**
14. **ESBC ENERGY SAVING COURSES:** **To be passed to the Village Hall Committee.**
15. **SLCC PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE – STOKE FEBRUARY 2010:** **Clerk authorised to attend.**
16. **WEBSITE:** Present webmaster unable to continue. **Cllrs to approach potential replacements by next meeting.**
17. **SCC – NEIGHBOURHOOD HIGHWAY TEAMS:** Add drain problem by Manor Farm, Prestwood. **Clerk to enquire about provision of grit bins for fountain/shop, Birch Close and Hollis Lane and guidance on liability issues.**
18. **ESBC – HOTSPOT REQUEST FORM:** Nothing to report.
19. **CORRESPONDENCE:** All items except h. circulated with agenda.  
 a. Empowering Local Councils and the SCA. **No action to be taken**  
 b. ESBC – Tree Preservation Order – Denstone Bowling Green. **Noted**  
 c. Alton Towers – News Update December 2009. **Noted**  
 d. SPCA Newsletter – December 2009. **Noted**  
 e. ESBC Climate Change. **Noted**  
 f. South Staffs Network for Mental health. **Cllrs to pass to any individual with experience of this**  
 g. SCC – Local Bus Services consultation. **Cllrs Edmunds & Wright to provide the clerk with any comments for a response**  
 h. SCC – Staffordshire Highways – Improving the way we work. **Copies of brochure not yet received**
20. **CORRESPONDENCE ON THE TABLE TO NOTE:** **All noted.**  
 a. ESBC Forward Plan – January to April  
 b. SMDC Local Development Framework – Core Strategy addendum

- c. CPRE – Fieldwork December 2009

**21. FINANCE/PAYMENTS:**

- a. Precept 2010/1. Circulated. **Agreed to set at £11,147**

To approve the following payments:

- b. Cllr's travelling expenses = **£22.84** [Local Authorities Members Allowances Regulations 2003 s26]  
 c. Gardener's pay (5mths) = **£225.00** [Open Spaces Act 1906 s10]  
 d. Gardener's pay (1mth) = **£45.00** [Open Spaces Act 1906 s10]  
 e. Lengthsman (non SCC work) = £38(OLR17.50) = **£38.00** [Open Spaces Act 1906 s10, LG (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 s4]  
 f. Post office equipment replacement & internal refurbishment = **£447.23** [LGA 1972 s137] (see 4f)  
 g. Webmaster January = **Payment not to be made – see 16**  
 Total = **£778.07**. All payments proposed Cllr Edmunds seconded Cllr S Ratcliffe.

**22. STANDING ORDER 68:** 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. Review of clerk's remuneration. *Clerk left the meeting for this item.* **Agreed to be increased by 1% in line with National Pay Settlement.**  
 b. Review of gardener's remuneration. **Agreed No change**

**23. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:**

- a.

**24. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS: 2 February & 2 March 2010.**

The meeting closed at 20.45.

**ITEMS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD**

Seat in triangle of grass at end of Marlpit Lane next to Damson Cottage – to be noted as future location for when a bench is available. Missing 'Cattle Crossing' sign at same location – **to be reported to Clarence.**