

DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 10 December 2015

Apologies: Cllrs Sue Fulford and Caroline Hulse
Borough Cllr Stephen Smith, Crown Ward

Present: Chairman Cllr Ken Rudman
Vice Chairman Cllr Mark Flavell
Cllrs Barbara Marshall, Nigel Powlson and Arthur Renshaw
Parish Clerk Mrs Rita Hill
Mr Richard Norgrove, Hortons' Estate Limited (part)
4 Members of the Public

Minutes of the last Parish Council were agreed as read. Proposed by Cllr Barbara Marshall. Seconded by Cllr Nigel Powlson. All in favour.

Declaration of Interests

All Cllrs said that they were not aware of any at this point in the meeting, but would declare at the appropriate point during the meeting.

Matters Arising

Police re Youngsters playing football on the grassed area in Hollow Lane. Member of the Public advised that 'No Ball Games' signs had been erected.

ESBC re Emergency Planning. Carried over from November meeting:

Document has been received from Mr William J Read, Resilience Support Officer (ESBC). Parish Clerk had spoken to Mr Read to gain more information on completing the form. Chairman suggested to Cllr Caroline Hulse that as she had expressed an interest at the last meeting would she like to take the project forward. **Action – Cllr Caroline Hulse took the documentation to look through and give feedback at December's meeting.**

Ironman event. Newsletter received. Extract from it "Ironman will shortly be sending out information to residents and businesses on the route to inform them on changes to 2016 and how to get involved. Keep your eyes peeled and any enquiries you have please contact Ironman directly."

Co-option of Councillors. Mandate was signed by Vice Chairman. Forms to be submitted to RBS. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Issue with Mr Andrew Griffiths MP - The Green, Pipehay Lane. Ms Sarah Bridgman has been reminded about the Parish Council seeing a draft letter before it was sent to ESBC.

Christmas trees. Chairman thanked everyone involved in the delivery, erection and dressing. Letters of thanks to be sent. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Accounts for Payment

Mrs R Hill, Parish Clerk salary December 2015 and expenses	£384.21
Staffordshire Pension Fund, re pension (December payment)	£121.36
HMRC, Quarterly PAYE payment	£269.80
K Rudman, Reimbursement of expenses re paper for Newsletter	£ 19.16
ESBC, Reimbursement of cost of election	£ 83.56
(Note: Even though there was not an Election within our Parish ESBC still charge for the Returning Officer fees, production of Nomination Packs and associated paperwork and administration.)	
S Gregson Groundwork & Landscaping, To replace broken piles around perimeter of the playing field plus additional motorway posts.	£252.00
S Gregson Groundwork & Landscaping, To cut boundary hedge and clear all brash at the playing field	£354.00
S Gregson Groundwork & Landscaping, To dig in three 4" posts to create bollards on playing field (including labour, post FOC)	£ 36.00
The Society of Local Council Clerks, Renewal of annual membership 2016	£103.00
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd, Replacement picnic seat	£ 49.20

All of the above accounts were proposed for payment by Cllr Barbara Marshall and seconded by Vice Chairman. All in favour. **Action - Parish Clerk to action the payments.**

Chairman distributed the current receipts / payments accounts for 2015 / 2016.

Cheque received from Bloomin' Gardens & Landscapes Ltd for £64.80 in reimbursement because the football pitch was not mown on three occasions.

General Correspondence

WASP Funding. The two applications (slide embankment and the gate & fencing) have been submitted.

Email from Dovegate Prison re liaison meeting. Cllrs recorded their disappointment about the organisation of the meeting planned for 25 November. A future of date of Thursday 25 February at 6.00pm was put forward by the Prison. Cllrs Sue Fulford and Caroline Hulse to be asked if they wished to attend. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Correspondence from ESBC re Full Register of Electors. Noted.

Email from Klondyke Mill Preservation Centre re Bonfire Night and a Donation. Cllrs were most pleased to receive the correspondence. Klondyke has offered to donate a sum of money to the village. The Senior Citizens' Christmas party was put forward as a suggestion. Cllrs agreed to put this forward. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

News Release from ESBC re Christmas Waste and Recycling Collection Arrangements. Noted.

Planning Applications and Related Matters

Kuehne & Nagel site. To be discussed later on when a representative from Hortons' Estates Limited arrives during the meeting.

Email from Parishioner re Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs noted the email and reply sent.

Public Exhibition – Former Barracks Site, Marchington. Borough Cllr Stephen Smith has approached ESBC to request that the Parish Council be on the list of consultees when a planning application was received – response awaited from ESBC.

P/2015/01511: Prior approval for the conversion of two agricultural buildings to form two dwellings. Proposed Barn Conversions, Greaves Lane, Draycott in the Clay. Having received no representations from Parishioners, it was agreed that the Parish Council has no comment to make on this application. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

P/2015/01585: Outline application for up to 8 residential dwellings, associated garaging including details of access. Proposed residential development, The Lont, Stubby Lane, Draycott in the Clay, Staffordshire, DE6 5BU. Cllrs gave their views on the application. Cllrs agreed that they would like to see a mix of 2, 3, and 4 bed properties. They made reference that a stream was nearby (the application documents say not) and concern that surface water was disposed of by a soakaway. Concern was expressed that the site was a blight on the countryside which has been allowed to develop by the Planning Authority and the Parish Council would like some action on this. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

P/2015/01626: Construction of a Solar Farm with ancillary development, including solar panels and frames, inverter cabin, comms building, substation, switchgear enclosure, CCTV columns and perimeter fencing (Non-Material Amendment relating to P/2015/00405 dated 08/07/2015 – amended site layout, amend appearance of inverter station, fence, comms building, amend panel row spacing, panel height, panel orientation and location of CCTV). Land North of Moreton Lane, Draycott in the Clay. Having received no representations from Parishioners, it was agreed that the Parish Council has no comment to make on this application. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Pipehay Farm. Outcome of investigations waited from ESBC Enforcement.

Request to be a consultee on planning applications relating to Marchington Industrial Estate based on the grounds of traffic / highway. Response from ESBC Planning was 'no' and referred the Parish Council to the weekly planning list.

Circulars Received

NALC re LCR magazine. Noted.
CPRE re FieldWork magazine. Noted.
CPRE re Countryside Voice. Noted.

Highway / Traffic Matters

Issues with Mr Graham Hunt, SCC Community Partnerships Officer (Cannock Chase and East Staffordshire):

Average Speed Cameras - motorbikes. Carried over from October meeting:

Mr Graham Hunt has advised that he needs to take further advice on this.

A reminder to be sent to Mr Graham Hunt. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

A50 improvements, diversion route and construction traffic. Cllr Barbara Marshall and Parish Clerk attended the public information event on 9 December at Uttoxeter Town Hall. Project A starts in January 2016, ongoing for 2½ years. Traffic would not be diverted through Draycott in the Clay. Cllr Barbara Marshall spoke about contraflows to the representatives at the event. Project B would not be looked at until 2019 / 2020. Mr Andy Mason said that he would be happy to come and talk to the Parish Council about Project B nearer the time. Parish Clerk raised with Mr Andy Mason that as the A518 was to be used as the diversionary route for Project A that A515 would be likely to be used for Project B, he replied saying more than likely, but that the B5017 was definitely not a suitable route, but could not stop local traffic from using it.

Discussions with Cllr Philip Atkins regarding compulsory purchase of land in Stubby Lane. Mr Graham Hunt has replied saying “as yet not identified any funding to buy this land. With the County Council having to prepare to make cuts in the region of 30% to 40% I think that it is unlikely that we will be able to do anything for the foreseeable future. I have therefore not approached the landowner.”

Potholes - Aston Bridge on A515 (ref 4007982). Cllr Barbara Marshall reported that the repairs had been carried out. Thanks to be sent to SCC. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Mr Richard Norgrove, Hortons’ Estate Limited entered the meeting room.

Reinstatement of green footpath in Stubby Lane. Mr Jeff Green, SCC has reported that a works instruction has been issued to attend to the blocked drain. The instruction was currently with the Operations Team. Mr Green to ask for an update and report back.

Boulder. SCC has begun the legal process to secure the removal of the boulder.

Visibility Splay. It was reported that a hedge has been planted in front of the railings. Cllrs agreed to raise the matter with ESBC Enforcement (cc. Borough Cllr Stephen Smith). **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Proposed A515 Weight Restriction south of Draycott in the Clay. Vice Chairman forwarded a copy of his email sent to Mr Andrew Griffiths MP and the MP’s response to the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee - Working Group supporting a weight restriction. Vice Chairman’s opinion was that there would be no update in a recommendation by the Select Committee before Christmas.

Better signage at Six Roads End. SCC has decided to review the policy on weight restrictions on local roads.

Overhanging hedge over pavement, Stubby Lane. Mr Jeff Green, SCC has been advised of the locations.

Email from Parishioners re Stubby Lane Footpath. Site meeting planned for Monday 14 December at 2.00pm (representatives from SCC, Cllr Arthur Renshaw and Parishioners who made the request).

Kuehne & Nagel site

Chairman welcomed Mr Richard Norgrove to the meeting and invited him to speak.

Mr Norgrove confirmed that Hortons' Estate Limited bought the Kuehne & Nagel site about a month ago. He went on to explain the history and background of Hortons', about the shareholders, Marchington Industrial Estate (£2m spend on refurbishment), and the short term and long term plans for the Kuehne & Nagel site. He continued by saying that the site was let till 2020, that Hortons' has no intention of redeveloping the site and that the current sheds were nearing end of life and Hortons' were looking to refurbish them.

Hortons' were not aware of the planning application that had been submitted by the previous landowner. Mr Norgrove raised that Parkwood Consultants had been in touch with Hortons' about the proposal, but that for the time being Hortons' were not interested. He added that when the lease nears its end they may look at housing.

Mr Norgrove asked the Parish Council for their view on the planning proposal. Chairman explained the Council's view on it. He added that the Parish Council and Parishioners have for many years had concerns about Stubby Lane (B5017) not being suitable for HGVs, especially sizes of the HGVs, the numerous bends in the road, not enough room for lorries to pass, the fact there were hardly any footpaths so serious concerns for pedestrians. Discussion then took place as to whether Hortons' were aware, as owners of the site, that they owned a strip of land from the site entrance towards the village as part of a Sec. 106 agreement to carry out highway works in respect of a footpath. Mr Norgrove replied saying that they had become aware of this following the Parish Clerk's email to them. He added that Hortons' were willing to put a footpath in. Cllrs said in order to get something in place very soon that they would be prepared to consider a green footpath as an interim measure. Mr Norgrove said that Hortons' would need to talk to their solicitors. He added that he was aware that some land had been dedicated to SCC. Cllr Arthur Renshaw said that this was looked at but that the Parish Council did not know that this had already happened. Mr Norgrove to find out more and report back.

With regard to the housing proposal Cllrs advised that the Parish Council and Borough Cllr Stephen Smith were in favour of it. We have a fantastic village school, but an ageing population so we need young people coming into the village. Cllrs also raised that as part of the agreement was a new village hall. The proposal would also be an economic boost for the village's shop, pubs, garage etc. Cllrs would prefer houses, people and economy rather than HGVs on Stubby Lane. Another factor was that Cllrs did not want the site to become derelict.

Cllr Nigel Powlson asked about Kuehne & Nagel's opinion on the site. Mr Norgrove replied saying they liked the site as it was convenient for their needs, rent not too high, not high turnover of equipment – stack and move round (not like a distribution centre on a motorway junction).

Discussion took place that the feedback from ESBC on the planning application was not positive, but Cllrs added that if the application had not been withdrawn that the Parish Council's intention was to attend meetings and appeal because of the support for the proposal.

Member of the Public raised the problem of drainage and flooding, and that a stream was blocked. Cllrs added that part of the same problem was the amount of water that flows down Banktop Road and into the site via the entrance.

In conclusion, Mr Norgrove agreed to find out more about the footpath along Stubby Lane, as part of planning agreement and report back to the Parish Council. **Action – Mr Norgrove.** Cllr Arthur Renshaw added that once ownership was established that the hedges need cutting back as soon as possible.

Chairman thanked Mr Norgrove for attending the meeting and that the Parish Council looked forward to working with him and Hortons' Estate.

Mr Richard Norgrove left the meeting room.

Village Facilities, Maintenance and Landscaping

Weekly inspection reports. Inspection reports received – plastic cover missing off jungle climber. Replacement cover given to Cllr Barbara Marshall. **Action – Cllr Barbara Marshall.** Cllr Nigel Powlson raised about dog mess in the litter bins and in a crawler tunnel.

Bark under the jungle climber. Reminder to be sent to MacGroundwork. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Replacement picnic seat. Order received. Cllr Arthur Renshaw to enquire with Mr Lee to see if he can fit the seat. **Action – Cllr Arthur Renshaw.**

Litter bins. Cllr Arthur Renshaw advised that he had looked into his possible solution, but suggested that larger bin bags would be required. Cllrs agreed that this was worth a try in the short term. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Willshee's have confirmed that it would be £8.95 per lift for a 240ltr wheeled bin. Willshee's suggested about chaining the bin to a wall or place in a bin enclosure. Cllrs still required clarification from Willshee's on their terms and conditions and whether Willshee's could they provide their own chain and lock. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Goal posts. Goal posts have been removed and stored at the Village Hall – Chairman thanked those involved in carrying this out. A quote has been received to flatten the cycle mounds. Concerns were raised about the possible relocation of the football pitch as would be very close to the main road and also to young children playing on equipment nearby. On this basis Cllrs agreed to not to proceed with the idea. Bloomin' Gardens has been advised to stop mowing the football pitch.

Kissing gate. SCC has put forward a proposal, in that; SCC will provide and install a protective railing within the verge at no cost to the Parish Council. Cllrs prior to the meeting had been advised of this and accepted the proposal with some conditions. An email had been sent to a Member of the Public (cc. Borough Cllr Stephen Smith).

Car parked on playing field. Carried over from November meeting:

Member of the Public raised that a car had been parked on the playing field. Details to be passed to the Parish Council and the Police to be informed. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Stakes have been installed.

Repeat inspection services. Order has been placed.

Replacement of rotten posts. Work has been carried out.

Notice at playing fields. Carried over from October meeting:

Chairman suggested that a company be asked to quote to erect four noticeboards. **Action – Cllr Arthur Renshaw.**

Annual closure of the gaps in the playing field boundaries. Cllrs agreed to diarise for April 2016. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Trimming of playing field hedges. Landlord changed his mind with regard to the laurel. Work has been carried out.

Village Hall Update

Annual closure of the path at the rear of the Village Hall car park. Closure took place as advertised.

Parish Precept

Representatives from the Village Hall Committee brought with them the annual details of alarm testing and emergency / light testing. PAT testing requirements were discussed. **Action – Parish Clerk to send details to Cllrs and Committee.** The financial accounts had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Committee representatives provided details relating to the possible refurbishment of the kitchen. An estimate for the works was in the order of £7,500. Chairman raised that when he was the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee he had raised on numerous occasions that this project should be broached but was stopped each time by other Committee members. He added that this project would have been a classic case for consideration at the recent ESBC Neighbourhood Forum and confirmed that he had raised the application process with Committee members. A Committee member enquired who would be responsible if someone had an accident or was taken ill at the Village Hall. Cllrs responded saying the Village Hall Committee was responsible for the day to day running of the Hall and that the Committee has to make the decisions. Vice Chairman commented that it is the Committee who has to come up with the projects and apply for funding, not the Parish Council. The Committee was directed to obtain further advice from the Community Council of Staffordshire Village Halls Advisory Service. **Action – Parish Clerk to forward contact details.** It was also raised that the Committee had no Chairperson. Cllrs responded saying that this needed to be sorted out. Cllr Nigel Powlson offered to find out details relating to funding and the type of projects applied for. He also raised that supermarkets and banks have community funds. **Action – Cllr Nigel Powlson.** Chairman also offered to help to find money. **Action – Chairman.**

Cllr Arthur Renshaw queried that there was no fire alarm (break glass) in the kitchen, which he believed was part of the survey. Cllrs agreed to relook at the specification and action accordingly. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Prior to the meeting Cllrs had received financial spreadsheets detailing spend over the last few years, the current financial status and likely future requirements. Cllrs discussed the matter. Dependant on receiving a letter from ESBC regard the Parish's

precept requirements for 2016 / 2017, Chairman suggested to Cllrs that the a precept requirement equated to zero rate increase. Cllr Arthur Renshaw raised that reserves were getting low. Vice Chairman acknowledged this but commented cannot put precept up. Chairman proposed that the figure submitted equated to a zero rate increase. Seconded by Vice Chairman. All Cllrs in favour. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

POST MEETING NOTE: Letter since received from ESBC. A precept of £16,578.18 would result in a Parish Council Tax Rate Freeze. Plus, ESBC Grant (local council tax support scheme) allocation of £888.00. Thus totalling £17,466.18.

Any Other Business

A Member of the Public had raised that there was an overgrown hedge along a section of Moreton Lane. Parish Clerk had already raised the issue with Mr Jeff Green, SCC.

Cllr Nigel Powlson raised that Mr Andrew Griffiths MP was coming to the village's Community Post Office and Shop on Monday 21 December at 11.00am. Vice Chairman suggested this information be posted on the Parish Council's web site. Cllrs were in agreement. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

As no other business arose the open meeting closed 9.35 p.m.

Date of the next monthly meeting: Thursday 14 January 2016, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

Signed  Date 14 January 2016
pp Chairman

2016 – Dates of Parish Council meetings:

11 February	10 March	14 April	12 May
9 June	14 July	8 September	13 October
	10 November	8 December	

Minutes of the Parish Council meetings can be viewed in the noticeboard located outside the Village Hall and <http://draycottintheclayparishcouncil.btck.co.uk/>

Draycott in the Clay Parish Council has adopted the Model Publication scheme as approved by the Information Commissioner. Details are available via the Parish Council meeting or via the Parish Clerk.