

DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 10 March 2016

Apologies: Vice Chairman Cllr Mark Flavell
Borough Cllr Stephen Smith, Crown Ward

Present: Chairman Cllr Ken Rudman
Cllrs Sue Fulford, Caroline Hulse, Barbara Marshall, Nigel Powlson and Arthur Renshaw
Parish Clerk Mrs Rita Hill
Mr Graham Hunt, Community Partnerships Officer (Cannock Chase and East Staffordshire), SCC (part)
3 Members of the Public

Minutes of the last Parish Council were agreed as read. Proposed by Cllr Sue Fulford. Seconded by Cllr Barbara Marshall. 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.

New Village Hall Committee

Mr Julian Goodwin attended the meeting to advise the Parish Council that a new Committee had been formed to take over from the old Committee from 1 April 2016. A handover meeting was planned to take place on 14 March 2016. Chairperson – Mrs Jackie Carnell, Treasurer – Mr Eric Wagstaff and Secretary – Mr Mike Hauxwell temporary until October then Prof John Roberts to take on the role. Chairman responded saying that this was excellent news and wished to thank those for volunteering. Cllrs echoed this statement. Chairman acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the first meeting of the new Village Hall Committee held on 29 February 2016.

Chairman enquired if the Charity Commission had been advised of the changes. Mr Goodwin did not think that the new Committee had registered as yet with the Charity Commission, but he knew that the issue was in hand.

Chairman advised Mr Goodwin that Mr Tony Williams had been in contact with him to advise that he had negotiated a better electricity contract. Chairman asked Mr Goodwin to advise the new Committee that unfortunately due to cuts at SCC there would be no new budget from April 2016 to tap into via the Village Hall Advisor, Ms Cathy Russell.

Mr Goodwin said that the new Committee was looking forward to working with the Parish Council. Chairman replied saying that the Parish Council was here to support the Committee.

Cllr Nigel Powlson reported that the first meeting of the new Committee he attended was very positive and that the Committee Members were really enthusiastic. He went on to say that he had raised about the opportunities through Burton Albion and also the National Citizen Service project where students help with community based projects.

Chairman suggested that a Cllr attends the Village Hall Committee meetings. Cllr Nigel Powlson volunteered to do this, if the new Committee wanted him to. Mr Goodwin said he would put this to the Committee and report back. **Action – Mr Goodwin.**

Mr Goodwin was advised that the Village Hall Committee contacts the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk and Cllr Nigel Powlson.

Cllr Arthur Renshaw asked that the new Committee kept in mind to use the flag pole and the Union Jack and Staffordshire flags that were donated by County Cllr Philip Atkins. Mr Goodwin acknowledged this request.

Mr Graham Hunt

Hortons' Estate Limited re Stubby Lane Footpath. Cllrs were advised that Mr Richard Norgrove had been invited to the meeting, but unfortunately no response had been received. Mr Hunt also advised that he had left a message with Mr Norgrove, but again no response.

Mr Hunt explained to Cllrs the solution he had in mind, which was to get the work done locally and via a grant application in to County Cllr Philip Atkins fund. There would need to be an agreement of the permissive route between the Parish Council and the landowner, again applying to County Cllr Philip Atkins for funding. The solution was for the Parish Council to buy the materials and SCC to bring in their NHTeam to do the work. Mr Hunt added that with regard to the permissive route the legalities needed to be carried out first.

Mr Hunt went on to say, that as the Chairman had advised earlier, the Village Hall grant had been cut, this unfortunately was one part of the numerous budget constraints within SCC from April 2016. Others cuts include library services; along with the NHTeam having reduced time and less frequency within the Parish.

Kissing gate, footpath 8(a). Mr Graham Hunt confirmed that he had allocated funding from his pot of money to give to Highways to do the work by the end of March 2016. To keep costs down it was on the NHTeam list of works to do. Mr Hunt to chase up these works. **Action – Mr Hunt.**

Joint meeting between Staffordshire County Council and Parish and Town Councils in East Staffordshire. Mr Hunt advised that the meeting would take place on 19 May to discuss the A50 Projects A and B and the arrangements as to when the road would be closed. Discussion took place round the reasoning for the current three night time closure of the A50 and the diversion route being the B5017 and A515. Mr Hunt to look into this and advise the Parish Council. **Action – Mr Hunt.**

Mr Hunt enquired if the Village Hall would be available on 19 May as the venue for the meeting (but he had no funding available to rent the Hall). Mr Hunt's details to be sent to the new Village Hall Committee for them to decide / confirm direct with Mr Hunt if the Hall was available or not. **Action – Parish Clerk / new Committee.** Other matters to be discussed at the meeting on 19 May - land drainage and responsibilities, and superfast broadband.

Local government funding. Mr Hunt also spoke about the big changes on how local government would be funded in the future. Currently, three main sources – community tax, general grant from Government, ring fence monies from Government. By 2020 general Government will go and be replaced by the local business tax (which currently goes to the Government), monies from which would stay locally. If you live / work in a rural area where the business rate was low, potentially there could be problems, so need to prepare for this, as likely to have less money not more, so will condition discussions in the future. Parishes will have to change and be more supportive in all aspects of work. Two immediate impacts will be County Cllr Philip Atkins' Local Community Fund currently £10,000 to be reduced to £7,500 and his Divisional Highways programme currently £10,000 to be reduced to £7,500, both from April 2016. Mr Hunt advised that any projects need to be submitted sooner rather than later. SCC to continually review how things are carried out. He recommended that the Parish Council contacts him as first point of call.

Cllr Barbara Marshall asked about funding for potholes. Mr Hunt explained the system which was introduced by Amey in that repairs are categorised. There was an element of risk management / responsibility on SCC's part. Chairman asked if it was possible for the Parish Council to have some tubs of Instamatic. Mr Hunt replied saying a range of measures could be introduced where SCC would work with the Parish Council taking into account risk and liability. Mr Hunt said he would be more than happy to meet and discuss this idea, adding equally the Parish Council could coordinate with the NHTeam. **Action – Mr Hunt to set up a meeting in due course.**

Other matters raised with Mr Hunt:

Problems with the drain opposite Lyndhurst and HGVs spraying water on to the adjoining property of The Cedars. Mr Hunt confirmed that he has asked Mr Jeff Green to investigate.

Potholes. Cllr Barbara Marshall spoke about some potholes that she had already registered via SCC's website. Mr Hunt encouraged individuals to report potholes by email / web link highways@staffordshire.gov.uk / <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#top> (if possible to include photographs) and added that it was a good idea to send in update reports.

Increase in HGVs using Stubby Lane (B5017). Cllr Arthur Renshaw raised that more and more HGVs were using Stubby Lane and that the vehicles using the road were getting much longer as well (i.e. double trailer vehicles). These vehicles are 'cutting' the junction at Stubby Lane with A515. He also reported that the Police have already had to come out at least twice this year already because the road has been blocked and they have had issues turning such large vehicles round.

Member of the Public commented that the road has deteriorated rapidly. They asked was the Parish Council challenging the travel plans and were the applicants adhering to them. The Parish Council responded saying that Marchington Industrial Estate was outside of the parish boundary so was not on ESBC's list to receive the planning applications, however, the Parish Council had made representations and was now receiving the weekly planning list to view.

Cllr Arthur Renshaw raised that Mr Hunt should be leaving this meeting knowing that there are serious traffic / highway concerns along Stubby Lane.

Chairman thanked Mr Hunt for his time. Mr Hunt left the meeting room.

With regard to the last point Cllr Arthur Renshaw challenged the Chairman by saying he felt that the Chairman had rushed Mr Hunt away and that he had not allowed full discussion of the problems being experienced along Stubby Lane. The Chairman refuted this saying he felt the conversation with Mr Hunt had gone as far as it was going to go today and any further discussion would just be a repetition of what had gone before. Further discussion took place within the Parish Council. Travel plans to be looked into. Letter to be sent to Mr Graham Hunt, County Cllr Philip Atkins and Mr Andrew Griffiths MP. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Matters Arising

Fly tipping in Yew Tree Lane. Has been removed.

Ironman event - map. Ironman has confirmed that the wording will be updated.

RBS Bank Mandate. Carried over from January meeting:

Action – Cllr Caroline Hulse to submit her form to RBS.

Mr Andrew Griffiths MP - The Green, Pipehay Lane. Chairman had telephoned the Burton office enquiring about the draft letter.

Tree, Pipehay Lane. Land belongs to SCC Highways. An Engineer has visited the site and has advised that no action was required as the tree does not obstruct any view nor overhangs the carriageway.

Overgrown crab apple tree outside 44 to 46 Stubby Lane. Trent & Dove Housing has been advised – response awaited.

Accounts for Payment

Mrs R Hill, Parish Clerk salary March 2016 and expenses	£367.83
Staffordshire Pension Fund, re pension (March payment)	£121.36
H M Revenue & Customs, Quarterly PAYE payment	£270.00

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

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

General Correspondence

WASP Funding. Cllr Smith has advised that the application for the gate and fencing has been approved, but not for the hill slide. Cllrs were delighted with the news. Order to be placed with Treemendous Estate Care. Total cost £417.20. Grant awarded £317.20. Parish Council contribution £100.00. Proposed by Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Barbara Marshall. All in favour. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Dovegate Prison re liaison meeting. Cllrs Sue Fulford and Caroline Hulse attended the meeting – Chairman thanked them. The Governor confirmed that only the footpaths marked as right of ways were permitted. Areas around the pools not open to public. That the grass was cut to enable regular searches for drugs. The Governor was leaving soon and the Deputy Governor would be taking over.

Litter bin, Yew Tree Lane. Has been installed.

SCC re Community Paths Initiative – Bids for 2016/2017. Noted.

Police & Crime Commissioner re Safer Neighbourhood Panel. Details sent to Cllrs prior to meeting. Noted.

Royal Bank of Scotland re Changing the conditions for free banking on Business Current Account. Noted.

Planning Applications and Related Matters

The Swan PH. Outcome of investigations waited from ESBC Enforcement.

Solar Farm. Land North of Moreton Lane, Draycott in the Clay. Chairman read out the response received from TGC. Noted.

Pipehay Farm. Outcome of investigations waited from ESBC Enforcement.

Decision Notice: P/2015/01675 – The Orchard, Moreton Farm Barns, Moreton Lane. Permitted.

ESBC re Local Validation Requirements. Details sent to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Noted.

Circulars Received

ESBC re Register of Electors – Notice of Alteration. Noted.

Highway / Traffic Matters

Proposed A515 Weight Restriction south of Draycott in the Clay / Better signage at Six Roads End. Report likely to be out March 2016.

Hortons' Estate Limited re Permissive Route, Stubby Lane. Raised earlier with Mr Graham Hunt.

Hortons' Estate Limited re overgrown hedge, Stubby Lane. No response from Mr Richard Norgrove. Chairman suggested as it was currently the bird nesting season that a diary note was made for a letter to be sent at the end of July asking for the hedge to be cut back. **Action – Parish Clerk.** Cllr Arthur Renshaw asked that a stronger article was put in the Parish Council Newsletter about the cutting back of overgrown hedges within the Parish.

NHTeam visit. List of works has been sent.

Village Facilities, Maintenance and Landscaping

Weekly inspection reports. Inspection reports received – Chairman had checked out an issue raised regarding a piece of matting and reported that in his opinion it was not a trip hazard, so no action required.

Additional play bark. Quantity and quotes in hand. Parish Clerk to ask if the weeds could be sprayed. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Concrete bases for the two waste bins and installation of two noticeboards at playing fields. Bin stands have been received. **Action – Parish Clerk to query the keys left with the stands.** A fourth quote has been received. Cllrs went through the details of the four quotes received. Cllr Arthur Renshaw put to the meeting that he favoured using local businesses. Cllrs agreed. Cllr Arthur Renshaw to contact a company to see if he would match the cheapest quote. Proposed by Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Barbara Marshall. All in favour. Cllr Arthur Renshaw to mention to the favoured company that they include within the works the removal of the old bins once the new bins were in place. **Action – Cllr Arthur Renshaw / Parish Clerk.** Cllr Arthur Renshaw raised that at the last meeting Borough Cllr Stephen Smith offered to fit the bin stands. Cllrs recorded their appreciation of this gesture.

Kissing gate, footpath 8(a). Raised earlier with Mr Graham Hunt.

Village Hall Update

PAT testing and Fire Alarm. Carried over from January 2016:

The meeting went on to discuss that following the last meeting Cllrs had been sent details of the PAT testing requirements. Regarding the fire alarm project, it was noted that the installation does not fully reflect the specification drawings which the Parish Council had assumed would be supplied to the contractor by the Chairman or other representative of the Village Hall Committee. It was further noted that the blue flashing light should be inside the Hall, but that it was actually on the outside wall at the front of the Hall. It was agreed to revisit the PAT and fire alarm issues should a new Committee be formed and the Hall continue to operate.

Fire Alarm. REM Electrical Services has examined and fixed the fire alarm system. Quote a waited for putting the sounder and other matters right in line with previous system drawing.

Outside light. REM Electrical Services has fixed the light.

Electricity used for the Christmas tree lights. The Village Hall Committee was asked to raise an invoice to the Parish Council for £50.00 as a donation towards the electricity used for the Christmas tree lights.

Senior Citizens Christmas party. Mr Brian Whitford raised that the Village Hall had not received the Parish Council's donation towards the Senior Citizens Christmas party. Parish Clerk advised that the Parish Council was waiting details of the expenditure and receipts for the event, after taking into account the donation from the Klondyke Mill Preservation Centre, before a cheque could be raised. Mr Brian Whitford queried that the donation from Klondyke was not for the party – Parish Clerk disagreed and had correspondence confirming the donation was for the party.

Any Other Business

Chairman raised on behalf of a Parishioner about the overhanging bushes along Moreton Lane. Details of the landowner to be sort and sent onto Highways at the end of the bird nesting season. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

As no other business arose the open meeting closed 8.55 p.m.

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

Signed



Date 14 April 2016

Chairman

2016 – Dates of Parish Council meetings:

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.