

Denstone Parish Council Minutes held 2nd September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

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| 1. | <p>Attendees: Cllr M Shermer (Chair), Cllr B Wright, Cllr S Ratcliffe, Cllr J Mountney, Cllr J Turner, Cllr K Stratton, Julie Sadler (Clerk) and Borough Councillor S Sankey. 5 members of public were also present</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr C Kelly, Cllr L Beckett-Fountain and Cllr Edmonds</p> <p>Cllr Shermer read out the following statement on behalf of the Parish Council. As elected members of the Parish Council, volunteers, acting on behalf of the residents of Denstone Village. We have the right to live and work in a safe environment with a zero-tolerance policy regarding intimidation, bullying or offensive language. Any such incidents experienced by our Councillors must be reported to the Clerk to the Parish Council.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th August 2021. The minutes were agreed by all as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair and the clerk.</p> | Clerk and Cllr Shermer |
| 3. | <p>Declaration of interest – None</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Adjournment for Public Participation – It was raised by a member of the village that the latest minutes on the website was February 2021. It was agreed that the clerk would look into this and get them updated. It was also raised that the minutes of the meeting on the 5th August were unclear regarding the hours agreed for Urban Vision. It was agreed that the clerk would change this and the minutes would be signed again at the next meeting.</p> | Clerk Clerk |
| 5. | <p>Matters Rising/Clerks Report</p> <p>a. Correspondence Received – The clerk raised the following issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown footpath – The clerk received an email regarding the overgrown footpath just after Lady Meadow Close. The clerk reported this to SCC but in the meantime the Lengthsman has been down and strimmed the weeds and it looks a lot better. The main problem is the ivy and nettles it definitely needs scraping with a shovel. Cllr Ratcliffe volunteered to contact the estate manager at JCB regarding getting it cleared and the hedge cut back. • Lease for Old Railway Line – The clerk raised the issue that lease held by the Parish Council with the SCC regarding the Old Railway Line has now expired. It was unanimously agreed that this would be renewed. Clerk to contact the SCC. • Alton Towers Traffic – an email was received via Cllr Ratcliffe regarding the increased traffic through Prestwood, the clerk highlighted that the new signs that have been put up are causing some problems in neighbouring villages also. The clerk has contacted SCC regarding this and this is being looked into and changes are due to be made. In the meantime, Cllr Mountney agreed to send some dates to the clerk for a meeting with Alton Towers. • Website – The clerk informed the meeting that she had received an email from the Webmaster regarding a few issues on the website. It was unanimously agreed that no photographs of the councillors would be put on the website, all telephone numbers for the Parish Councillors would be removed and only the new email addresses recently set up for the councillors would be displayed. The Clerk's telephone number would remain as a point of contact. The clerk informed the meeting that she and Cllr Kelly were having a meeting with the Webmaster so would pass on this information. Cllr Shermer thanked the clerk and Cllr Kelly for giving their time. <p>b. New email account – The clerk reminded councillors to set up their parish council email address as is discussed at the last meeting if they had not already done so</p> | Cllr Ratcliffe Clerk Cllr Mountney Clerk |

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| 6. | <p>Planning (Permitted & Refused are decisions by ESBC) a. P/2019/01489 – Cllr Turner updated the meeting as follows Application process so far</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing date for application was 17/08 for flooding mitigation to be received by ESBC • Flooding information was not provided and the applicant has requested an extension • The approval of this extension is being discussed at committee and is currently on Agenda for Sept 28th meeting • Decision notice will not be issued before the flooding information has been received, should the extension be granted <p>What is Next</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion about emails that have been exchanged and information session for village on 11th Sept • A discussion about fundraising that will need to happen and that £5500 has already been raised from 7 contributors who have proactively contacted the PC • Cllr Turner asked other Cllrs if the PC had agreement on way forward and the response was yes. <p>b. P/2021/01073 - Erection of a single storey front and side extension - 13 Narrow Lane, Denstone, Staffordshire, ST14 5DR – No objections were raised.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>War Memorial – Cllr Shermer welcomed Tracy to the meeting who has taken over the role of the gardener and will work alongside the Lengthsman in the village. With regards to the war memorial, the Lengthsman took advice from TaylorMade and used a weed killer in a safe manner.</p> <p>Cllr Mountney also informed the meeting that she had spoke to Mr Plant in the village, he agreed to have a look at the paving surrounding the War Memorial but not until after November. If he can do anything he will be able to work on it in the new year. Mr Plant also gave £50 to Cllr Mountney, this was passed to the clerk at the meeting to bank for payments for plants in the village. A letter of thanks has been sent to Mr Plant. Cllr Mountney agreed to remind Mr Plant regarding clearing out the ditch in the village.</p> | <p>Clerk Cllr Mountney</p> |
| 8. | <p>Denstone College Prep Opening – Cllr Shermer and Cllr Stratton along with the clerk attended the opening of the Prep School. Cllr Shermer reminded everyone that a further meeting would be held with the head of Denstone College within 3 weeks of the term starting. Head will contact the Parish Council to arrange this.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>Denstone Wildlife Meadow – Cllr Shermer informed the meeting that the Meadow is now open to the public.</p> <p>The clerk asked the Parish Council if they were happy for the Lengthsman to cut the grass path at the Meadow as part of his duties. This was unanimously agreed.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Broadband – Borough Councillor Sankey advised the meeting that he had now mapped the list from Openreach with the electoral register. He confirmed that a number of properties and the wider area have been missed. However, he is still progressing this with Openreach on how far out we go. In the meantime, Cllr Turner will draft an email for approval by Cllr Sankey to send to all interested parties to update them. Cllr Wright agreed to take a map of the village to Cllr Shermer.</p> | <p>Cllr Sankey Cllr Turner</p> |
| 11 | <p>Facebook Page – Cllr Turner raised the issue regarding the use of the current Facebook Page “Denstone Voice”. She suggested that the page be looked at and possibly rebranded. Clerk to raise with the Webmaster at the meeting on the 8th September. Cllr Turner volunteered to take this onboard.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> |
| 12. | <p>Parish Council Forum Feedback – Cllr Turner gave feedback on the first Parish Council Forum meeting. She informed the meeting that it had the potential to be a great avenue for</p> | |

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| | the sharing of information, ways to solve common issues and networking with other Parish Councillors. It was of course early days but the issues raised by the 12 Parish Councils represented were Potholes, Footpaths, Flooding, Planning and Grass cutting. All issues that are regularly on our agendas. The next meeting is in November and Cllr Turner is happy to continue to attend. In the meantime, Cllr Turner will check the ESBC website for the minutes of the meeting. | |
| 13. | Defibrillator Training – Cllr Mountney informed the meeting that she had spoken to the Nurses at Denstone College and they were happy to go ahead and use the Village Hall for the training. Cllr Mountney will email potential dates for the training to the clerk. | Cllr Mountney |
| 14. | Junior Play Area –. Cllr Shermer thanked all the councillors who gave up their time to tidy up the play area. | |
| 15. | Compost Bin – Cllr Shermer informed the meeting that some incorrect items had been put in the compost bin. The clerk had contacted Cllr Beckett-Fountain for a list of what can be put in the bin so this does not happen again. The clerk has also written to the ESBC and requested that the Parish Council are given 2 brown bins for the railway line to help with the garden waste. | Clerk |
| 16. | Highways issues a. Lady Meadow Lane – All the new properties have now been sold. Clerk to chase a reply from the ESBC. b. Potholes & drainage issues in the village – Cllr Shermer informed the meeting that she met Trevor Mellor from SCC in the village looking at the drainage issued raised by the clerk. He confirmed that he was on the case and seeking answers to our issues raised. c. Footpaths and Pavements – Marlpit Lane pavement has now been completely resurfaced. Cllr Shermer asked for a picture to be sent to her to send onto Richard Rayson expressing thanks from the Parish Council. Cllr Turner to send a photo. | Clerk Cllr Turner Cllr Shermer |
| 19. | To approve the following payments: Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Wright. The cheques were signed at the meeting and the clerk will distribute. a. Webmaster pay for August 2021 = £125.00 [LGA 1972 s142 & 144] b. Clerk's pay for August 2021 (Made by Standing Order) = £397.80 [LGA 1972 s112] c. Clerk's expenses - £49.06 – Stamps, Stationery and Paper d. Eon Lighting August 2021 = £22.49 [Parish Councils Act 1957 s3] e. J Etherington – Cleaning Village Hall toilet August 2021 = £50 f. Russ Whitehurst – Lengthsman August 2021 = £170+ expenses of £23.27 = £203.27 g. Sue Edmonds – The Meadow = £29.99 h. Lavin – Leaflet planning £61.00 i. Hags – Junior Play area – Repairs = £2581.20 Replacement cheque as previous chq stopped at bank due to signature. | Clerk |
| | Items for Future Agenda Nothing raised | |
| | Date of next meeting – Date of next meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 7 th October 2021 at 7pm | |