

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Council Meeting held remotely by Zoom in accordance to Covid-19 2020 regulations on Wednesday 8th July 2020 at 7.00pm, following Planning

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: B Holland (Outgoing Chairman), M Adams, Mrs S Adams, Mrs V Chapman (Chairman), Mrs K Ewart, T Jeavons, S Jenkinson, N Loftus & P Wright; **Parish & District Councillors:** Mrs M Barrow; **Parish & County Councillor:** B Spencer

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND NOTIFICATION OF REQUESTS RECEIVED FOR DISPENSATION

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The outgoing Chairman Cllr Holland gave a huge thank you for the support given to him this year, the Chairman went on to say that it has been difficult and unusual term of office, he also expressed his thanks to all the staff. The Chairman stated that in some ways the year has brought the community together, although in the instance of the allotments, not necessarily, that was not so nice.

In his term he is happy that a public meeting was held regarding the new Neighbourhood Plan and that Councillors agreed new play equipment for Codsall Village Hall, Work on the War Memorial was prevented from starting due to the Coronavirus lockdown but should be undertaken within the year.

Cllr Holland advised the meeting that he had decided to use his Chairman's Allowance on a Community Award for three people who have volunteered their time to the community of Codsall. A voucher and an award would be presented to three local volunteers: Pete Dooley for tidying-up the village centre; Mike Andrews for litter picking the area over the last four years and Sandra Jeavons for gardening a grassed area on the Chillington Estate. They have just done this without any funding and have done this off their own back. This should be acknowledged and the award is a small way from the Parish Council to say thank you.

The Parish Council unanimously **approved** Cllr Val Chapman in becoming the next Chairman.

The in-coming Chairman, Cllr Val Chapman congratulated the out-going Chairman Cllr Brian Holland and said well done in what has been a difficult year. Who would have thought that our country and the world would have to deal with Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. Cllr Val Chapman first joined the Parish Council in 1995.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Cllr Val Chapman proposed Cllr Kirstin Ewart as Vice Chairman; this was seconded by Councillor Brian Holland. There were no other nominations proposed. Councillor Kirstin Ewart was **approved** by the meeting.

6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**a. Finance Committee**

Resolved that Cllrs Chapman, Holland, Jeavons, S Adams, M Adams and Barrow would stand on the committee.

b. Personnel Committee

Resolved that all Cllrs stand on the committee.

c. Village Hall Management Committee Representative

Resolved that Cllrs, Chapman and Barrow would stand on the committee.

d. Open Spaces

Resolved that Cllrs, Jenkinson, Barrow, Jeavons, Ewart and M Adams would stand on the committee.

e. Business Plan Committee

Resolved that Cllrs Holland, Chapman, Ewart, Jeavons, S Adams and M Adams would stand on the committee.

f. Any other proposed Committee - none**7. NOMINATIONS AND APPROVAL for Signatories to Bank and other accounts**

Resolved Cllrs, Barrow & Jeavons to remain on the mandate and Cllr Chapman to be added.

8. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th June 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

9. POLICE REPORT

Crime figures for Codsall and Bilbrook – January to March 2020.

Cllr Spencer said Staffordshire Police has benefitted from funding allowing them to clamp down on drugs, in particular those at the top of the drugs chain. Figures will be published in due course.

Cllr M Adams said the crime figures for domestic abuse, violence and sexual offences has increase by 50%.

Cllr Spencer said the use of hydroxide by the young to get a high is a danger to their health and the low-level damage in the area in probably connected. It is a national problem, after the lockdown it is a release.

Cllr Wright commented that the increase in domestic violence being linked to the lockdown.

The drugs den by Springfield House has been semi cleared, the youths have stopped coming.

Cllr Spencer discussed the community speed watch and said it is deployable resource. Anyone can be trained up to use the camera the road must be risk assessed, if the operator of the camera has been out within six months they will need to be trained again on using the equipment. Codsall Parish Council have a camera. Michelle Shaker is the County Co-ordinator.

Cllr Chapman said in the past groups have been trained, but after a time do not continue to monitor the speed of a chosen road. People do not take it serious enough, it has minimal impact as you just get a letter making you aware of your speed.

10. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 10.1 Annual Review of Standing Orders** - amendment and approval of the council's Standing Orders was considered. **Resolved approval** that the Finance Committee and Business Plan Committee would meet twice a year. The Budget Review every quarter. Open Spaces Committee a minimum of 4 times per year. All dates to be scheduled in on the calendar. Meetings to be called to get dates.
- 10.2 Annual Review of Financial Regulations** - amendment and approval of the Parish Council's Financial Regulations was considered. **Resolved** that the Parish Council is Covid-19 compliant.
- 10.3 Insurance Renewal** – ratification of the renewal of the Parish Council's Insurance Policy including Liability Insurance at a cost of £2,762.24, (£2,771.15 last year).
Resolved approval of renewal of the annual insurance, cost £2,762.24.
- 10.4 Open Spaces – Codsall Village Hall Playground** – [*update to Planning meeting 22nd January 2020, item 7.1 and Main meeting 11th March 2020, item 6.5.2 and Main meeting 6th June 2020, item 6.5*] -
- 10.4.1 Funding - Veolia** - to be advised that the Clerk has submitted Stage 2 Application. Date of decision to be made 9th September 2020
Matter of report.
- 10.4.2 Quotations** - approval for the following was considered. The Clerk to:
- write a specification and proposed schedule of works for the playground design based on the councils approved Plan A
 - upload specification on to Contract Finder
 - assess quotations and approve the supplier based on the contract evaluation matrix.
- Resolved** that the Council unanimously agreed approval.
- 10.4.3 Playgrounds – Covid-19** - the Government Covid -19 Guidance for managing Playgrounds was **received and noted.**
- 10.5 Asset Register** – the Parish Council's Asset Register as at the 31st March 2020 was **received and noted.**
- 10.6 Annual Subscription Renewal - Staffordshire Parish Council's Assoc** – to receive notification and to consider renewal of annual subscription cost £704.00, (£704.00 in 2019).
Resolved approval of annual subscription renewal of £704.00.
- 10.7 Watery Lane Allotments** – the relaxing of the plot holder's rota schedule put in place to help maintain Social Distancing was considered.
Resolved approval to relax plot holder's schedule.
- 10.8 Neighbourhood Plan** – to be advised that South Staffordshire District Council decision to designate the Codsall Neighbourhood Plan area has formally been agreed and that the Parish Council can now proceed on the basis that Codsall Parish is now a designated neighbourhood area.
Matter of report.
- 10.9 Casual Vacancy** - to be advised that for the parish [North ward] in which the casual vacancy has arisen a request to the Returning Officer to hold an election to fill the vacancy has been made. A poll cannot currently take place until 6 May 2021 as a result of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the 2020 Regulations. **Matter of report.**

11. ACCOUNTS

11.1 Resolved that a report on Council Finances for the year to 30th June 2020 be approved.

11.2 Resolved that the Payment Schedule to the 9th July 2020 be approved

11.3 1st Quarter Budget 2020/21 Review, Clerks report, Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet up to 30th June 2020 was received.

Resolved acceptance of the presented reports.

11.4 Confirmation by the Chairman of the authorisation of the Clerk's time sheet.

Matter of report.

12. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The following verbal report from County Councillor Bob Spencer was given: Staffordshire County Council are struggling with the budget, there is a 40% increase in looked after children exposed to domestic abuse, there is a need to protect the most vulnerable.

Potholes, report them first through Highways, then pass on to him with the reference number so he can chase them up or challenge if potholes are not being repaired.

There has been an increase in fly tipping, there is evidence for 26 of the incidents, hopefully this will lead to prosecution.

The majority of Covid-19 cases have been within Bilbrook.

Support given to the Job Club to help with the increase of the unemployed.

Exercise at the village hall for health and wellbeing is not allowed.

Local Strategic Plan only applies to businesses not residents. The next step going forward, taking it more seriously.

A list of the Leicestershire local lockdown, what does it look like, who makes the decision for Staffordshire, in a Covid-19 meeting, shows it is unclear who will make the decision, need to have a local plan, District, Parish have a right to have a say.

County plan on the website highlighting potholes not repaired, performance indicators for not meeting timescale in which to carry out repairs, this will put pressure on to meet target.

No one seems to be happy with Amey in what they do, they do what they want, and then they audit how well they have done?

Repairs along Suckling Green Lane are breaking up again.

Barnhurst Lane repairs have been done twice now, even landscape contractors at the boatyard have been filling in some of the holes.

Unemployment issues due to Covid-19 affecting automotive and aerospace within the parish. Unless there are contingency plans are in place we will struggle, we need to be proactive not reactive.

Road concerns, unless we do it will get in a mess. Is there a role in Resilience Board to help our residents?

Cllr Spencer mentioned the 3-tier working together, County District and Parish, there is 19m in Government grants.

Checks and balances, Cllr Michell asked can we put more input into this, we do not expect any large redundancy in this area.

There are regular updates on how they support residents and businesses.

13. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

£10,000.00 grant received from South Staffordshire Council has helped due to a loss of income due to Covid-19.

14. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Barrow wish to reinforce what Cllr Spencer has said. As District Councillors we are asking difficult questions, trying our best.

There are Covic-19 plan in place. We had originally been included in Wolverhampton and Walsall as we have a WV postode. South Staffordshire are doing well with low numbers of Coronavirus.

15 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

None

16. HIGHWAY ISSUES

The road condition along Barnhurst Lane is bad, the boatyard helped in clearing the road and pavement.

Cllr Jenkinson said in Oaken there is a grass verge by the field, could the residents of Oaken adopt this land? It is owned by the Housing Association and covered in weeds, it looks terrible, the village very keen to adopt it. Cllr Spencer said to ask the residents of Oaken to contact him as he knows who would deal with this.

Cllr Spencer wished to thank the Parish Council office for distributing leaflets regarding the relaxing of restriction parking on yellow lines on Chapel Lane.

NEXT MEETING

22nd July 2020

[Meeting closed 8.30pm]