

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall

on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 7.00pm. following Planning

Four members of the public were present.

PRESENT: Parish & County Councillor: B Spencer (Chairman);

Parish Councillors: N Caine, Mrs V Chapman, Mrs K Ewart, B Holland, I Kenyon,
N Loftus, S Jenkinson, Mrs C Millar, D Walls and P Wright;

Parish & District Councillors: J Michell

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Councillors Barrow, Jeavons & Morrison

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Reverend Margaret Mattocks, the Vicar of St. Nicholas Church, Codsall, gave her support for item 6.7 – a grant application by Codsall PCC for the maintenance of the churchyard and wished to thank the Parish Council for their support given in the past.

Rev. Margaret Mattocks went on to say that the Church is finding it difficult to meet continuing needs. There is only approximately two or three years left before the current churchyard is full.

Rev. Mattocks then advised the meeting that there are plans to extend the Churchyard, but this comes at a cost, plus there would be an increase to ongoing maintenance costs, as the graveyard expands.

Rev. Mattocks went on to say that the Churchyard is a community asset, all residents regardless of faith can be buried or have their ashes interred within the churchyard. The churchyard is used a lot by the community; without the continued support of the community and the Parish Council, the extension may not go ahead.

4. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2019 be approved and signed as a true record.

5. POLICE REPORT

5.1 Crime and anti-social behaviour Report for Locality 4

Dates: 14/3/19 to 7/4/19:

There have been four burglaries, two were attempted break ins and one was a business. One of the break ins had a vehicle stolen off the driveway (a high value vehicle, believed to be an Audi) and the attempted break in may also have been offenders after an Audi. One incident took place in Broadway and one in Ravenhill Drive.

There have been instances of minor ASB at the new MUGA (multi use games area) where kids have been climbing up and sitting on the hoops and older kids stopping the younger ones feeling comfortable being there. Local Officers and PCSO's have started paying the area some attention and parents seemed happy to see a Police presence there.

There have been reports of cars parking in the corner of the Co-op carpark at night and possibly using drugs.

PC's and PCSO's, led by Sgt Dorrington carried out Operation Cable on Friday 29th March. Areas targeted Wombourne, Pattingham, Perton, Codsall and Bilbrook. There was no one around Codsall and Bilbrook around 10-10.30pm, around the times the older kids are usually out and about, but there was no sign of anyone in the usual hotspots.

On Friday 6th April a report of thirteen sheep that had been killed in a field near Weston Park off the A5. The sheep had been butchered, the offender knew how to butcher a sheep, the farmer said this was a 'proper professional job'. The sheep had only just delivered lambs 2-3 weeks prior to this happening. The public are urged to ring 101 if they see any strange vehicles parked near fields of sheep at night and try to get the registration number.

There have been reports of cars parked on Station Road, on the footpath causing a problem for people trying to get through with a buggy.

Cllr. Caine said that parking tickets cannot be issued in Staffordshire and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire, Matthew Ellis is not in favour of parking tickets.

Cllr Jenkinson informed the meeting that a member of Busy Minds received a scam phone call, luckily they grew suspicious, and when challenged, the caller became aggressive.

Cllr. Spencer said he will bring these issues up at the next Safer Neighbourhood Forum.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

6.1 County Councillor's Fund – consideration was given to highway projects within the Parish where Councillors feel that the County Councillor's enhanced fund of £20,000.00 for Codsall & Bilbrook Parish, could be best spent.

The Chairman Cllr Bob Spencer advised the meeting that the grant given is a one off and there are strings attached; the money must be spent on projects that prolong the life of the roads and pavements. Projects such a signage would not be considered.

The money is to be shared with Bilbrook Parish Council and there is an expectation of match funding; although it would not have to be pound for pound.

Councillor Bob Spencer went on to advise that some Parish Councillors had already put forward projects such as pot holes on Suckling Green Lane and flooding in Shop Lane.

Councillor Spencer then advised the meeting information regarding drains, and that a change in weather patterns is resulting in deluges, which is creating water volumes that are too great for drains to be able to cope with.

The Chairman then informed Councillors that now is the opportunity for them to say how and where the money is to be spent, they can advise him in person or email him.

Some concerns were raised as to how Amey would cope with the additional Highway work.

Cllr. Jenkinson said the drain in Shop Lane needs to be investigated.

Cllr. Holland said Highways should make reinstatement of roads more efficient – utility tag and better report.

Cllr Holland then went on to say that Severn Trent were undertaking works on the whole of Whitehouse Lane; the whole of Whitehouse Lane needs resurfacing, would it not be prudent for Highways to work in partnership with the utility companies so that all the road and drainage gets done at the same time, reducing costs for Staffordshire Highways?

The pavement on A41 Newport Road, the righthand side of the pavement has disappeared – reinstate the pavement – could do this locally.

Cllr Caine advised that there are many pavements that are suffering from grass creep, wheelchairs cannot get by at the A41 gateway in to South Staffordshire.

Cllr. Millar asked if Church Road pavement and road could be inspected.

Chairman Cllr Spencer advised that some streets are not suitable for surface dressing such as the Wheel estate, the pavements need to be reengineered, and the estimated cost to repair the Wheel estate is £400,000.00. The estate is on the repair schedule, however, Cllr Spencer advised that it could still be a couple of more years before the work will be undertaken.

Cllr Spencer advised that he is in favour for works to the pavement on Church Road.

6.2 Open Spaces –

Codsall Village Hall Playing Fields

6.2.1 Boundary dispute – consideration was given to authorising the Parish Council’s Solicitor, Dallow & Dallow, to act in the Parish Council’s interest with regards to various boundary disputes around the Village Hall Playing Fields with a deposit of £200.00 required on engagement. The Clerk advised Councillors that at the moment our solicitors cannot give a firm estimate to costs but would keep the council advised.

Resolved approval for Dallow & Dallow to act in the Parish Council’s interest with regards to various boundary disputes around the Village Hall Playing Fields within a set budget of £600.00.

6.2.2 MUGA - Anti-social behaviour – a letter dated 25th March from Codsall Village Hall Management Committee was received and considered.

Cllr. Jenkinson said the MUGA is used a lot and it is in the right location, but with anything new you will always get a few problems.

Chairman Cllr. Spencer advised that we should not make decisions based on two reports. The Police is managing the issue; it is being used a lot and we have to consider the bigger picture.

6.2.3 Damage to fencing – an email from Codsall Village Hall regarding damage to the wooden fencing was **received and noted.**

The meeting was advised that the Parish Council’s workmen had twice since repaired the fence.

The incidents relating to ASB and vandalism have been reported to the Police; the local PCSO officers have said that they would patrol the area.

[Cllrs. Barrow, Chapman, Holland, Jenkinson Kenyon & Loftus left the Chambers for the following discussion]

6.2.4 Codsall Community Group (CCG) – MUGA –an email from CCG suggesting a hardstanding area at the MUGA, also benches and bins to be installed near the MUGA was **received and considered.**

Some councillors felt that a hardstanding area was needed as well as benches.

Other Councillors felt that a site meeting is required before a decision could be made.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council would need to liaise with the Village Hall as the land is leased to them and any additional bins installed SSDC will not empty.

Councillors then queried the grant amount CCG had received for the benches and bins so the Parish Council could ascertain any monetary shortfall; also the area size and costing of the proposed hardstanding. Councillors felt that more facts and figures would be required before a decision could be made.

Resolved that the Clerk to writes to Codsall Community Group requesting that CCG:

- i]. seeks a letter of approval from Codsall Village Hall Management Committee that they would be happy with hardstanding, bins and benches to be placed on the playing fields and a copy of the Village Hall Managements response letter to be given to the Parish Council for our records.
- ii]. provides the Parish Council with more details as to the size, location, suggested materials and cost of the hardstanding, the number of benches and bins required, and the cost plus full details of the amount of money CCG are prepared to contribute to the proposal.

[Cllrs. Barrow, Chapman, Holland, Jenkinson, Kenyon & Loftus returned to the Chambers]

6.2.5 Wheel Field - consideration was given for a section of the Wheel field 2m x 20m to be treated and sown with general annual meadow mix at an approximate cost of £200 for ground preparation and sowing and for an annual cut and collect at an approximate cost of £50. Location: between the wall field entrance and the orchard.

Cllr Holland proposed refusal, a vote was taken: 4 for; 3 against; 3 abstentions.

Vote invalidated.

- 6.3 Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy** –a draft Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy was received and considered.
Resolved to adopt the presented draft policy and for Cllr. Loftus to be the Parish Council’s appointed Safeguarding Officer.
- 6.4 SLCC – Annual membership renewal** – renewal of Annual membership at a cost of £210.00 was considered.
Resolved approval for the renewal of the Annual Membership at a cost of £210.00.
- 6.5 Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual subscription renewal** – renewal of annual subscription at a cost of £20.00 was considered.
Resolved not to renew the subscription.

- 6.6 Replacement Bus Shelter A41** - [update to 6.2 Main Meeting 13th March 2019] – a letter from Silver Poplars Residents’ Association was received and considered.

Cllr. Caine suggested sending a survey to residents of Strawmoor Lane and residents of the few houses near the junction to Strawmoor Lane and Holyhead Road and for the Clerk to obtain results from Perton Parish Council on their survey.

Cllr. Michell felt that we should be encouraging the use of the bus service and we should bring back options regarding costings and type of shelters to a future meeting of the Parish Council for further consideration.

Cllr. Holland said why are we getting in to this hear, big debate, should we replace it, and certainly not with a great edifice.

Cllr. Jenkinson said a replacement should be built with breeze block and a flat roof, as it has to be a substantial because the bus stop is situated in a very windy location. Cllr Jenkinson then went onto to advise the Council that costings previously obtained by the Parish Council for a replacement was around £3,500.00.

Resolved that the Clerk compiles and sends out a survey letter to all the residents living on the perimeter of the junction with Holyhead Road and Strawmoor Lane, and all residents of Strawmoor Lane, (from A41 up to the large farmhouse). The results of the survey to be brought back to a future meeting of the council for further consideration.

[Cllr. Walls left the chambers for the following discussion:]

- 6.7 Grant Request - Codsall PCC Grant request Codsall PCC Graveyard** – a grant request application for £6,000.00 towards costs in the upkeep and maintenance of St Nicholas Graveyard was received and considered.

Resolved approval of awarding a grant of £6,000.00 to be paid in two half yearly instalments.

[Cllr. Walls returned to the chambers]

- 6.8 Support Staffordshire – Annual Membership** – details of annual membership at a cost of £25.00 was received and considered.
Resolved not to subscribe.
- 6.9 Dam Mill accident** – a resident’s email regarding a motor accident that took place on 9th March 2019 was received and considered.
Resolved that Cllr. Spencer would discuss the issue with Highways and feed back to council.
- 6.10 Planning Application 18/01022/FUL** - an email from the resident was **received and noted.**
- 6.11 Standing Orders** - [Update to item 6.1 13th March 2019]– a copy of Draft Revised Standing Orders was received and consideration given for a motion to amend Standing Orders in accordance to Standing Order IX. ii.
Resolved acceptance of a motion to amend Standing Orders in accordance to the presented amended Revised Standing Orders.

6.12 A.G.M- 8th May 2019 – Due to local elections on 2nd May 2019 and Bank holiday Monday, 6th May – consideration for approval of deferring the scheduled AGM of the Council to Wednesday 15th May 2019 in order that the meeting can be convened in accordance with 10(2)(a) & 26(2)(a) of schedule 12 of the 1972 Act.

Resolved approval to reschedule the AGM of the council from May 8th to the 15th May 2019.

7. ACCOUNTS

7.1 Resolved that a report on Council Finances for year to 31st March 2019 be approved.

7.2 Resolved that the schedule of payments to 10th April 2019 be approved.

7.3 Confirmation by the Chairman of the authorisation of the Clerks time sheet.
Matter of report.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from County Councillor Bob Spencer:

- Finance issues, mid-term agreement, paying for adult social care and looked after children costing more. Some money may be found by Central Government.
- County Council fund of £27,000.00, in two parts of £13,500.00. £7,000.00 can be spent on paint and signs.
- Community Grants of £2,500 can only be spent in amounts of £500.00. Any community groups wishing to apply of the County grant must meet the criteria, criteria includes helping to tackle isolation, inclusion and improving life chances. Match funding is required. The criteria for grants can be viewed on Staffordshire County Council's website.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CVHMC)

The minutes of C.V.H.M.C. meeting of the 18th February 2019 was **received and noted.**

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Report from District Councillors:

- Currently there is a move to reduce the Planning Committee at SSDC from 49 to 21. A smaller number, but better trained and better equipped. This is contentious there are worries that not all areas will be represented. The make-up of the Committee is yet to be decided.

11. Councillors and Clerks Written Report

A written report from the Clerk was **received and noted.**

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 The Great British Spring Clean – an email detailing the Great British Spring Clean taking place between 22nd March – 23rd April 2019 was received and considered.

Resolved that that the Spring & Autumn clean-up campaign be put out to the community and that Cllr. Jenkinson would organise the clean-up twice a year.

12.2 South Staffordshire Street Scene – an update was **received and noted.**

12.3 South Staffordshire Council 2019 Combined Local Elections – briefing notes, issues number 5, 6 and 7 were **received and noted.**

12.4 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – bulletins dated 21st and 28th March 2019 were **received and noted.**

12.5 SSDC – Council News Round-up – issue 109 was **received and noted.**

12.6 Watery Lane Allotments Association – an email of thanks for the Parish Council's donation towards the cost of constructing the raised beds at Watery Lane Allotment Site was **received and noted.**

13. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Any concerns to email Cllr. Bob Spencer.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15th May 2019

[Meeting closed at 8.50pm]