

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,

Station Road, Codsall

on Wednesday 12th June 2019 at 7.00pm. following Planning

There were four Members of the public present.

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

Parish Councillors: M Adams, Mrs S Adams, L Carpenter, Mrs V Chapman,
Mrs K Ewart, T Jeavons, S Jenkinson, Mrs A Morrison, B Spencer P Wright;

Parish & District Councillors: Mrs M Barrow and J Michell

The Chairman advised that the Parish's Civic Sunday held on 2nd June went well and he was pleased with the number of attendees and the interaction between all groups of the community. The Chairman then advised the meeting that it was Revd. Margaret Mattocks's first Civic Sunday for the Parish and the church service went well. The Chairman thanked everyone for their support.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Kenyon and Loftus.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked about the hedge along Holly Bush lane and who is responsible for maintaining it, as people cannot walk on the pavement because of the encroachment. The resident then reported that there were two blocked gullies in Oaken causing flooding problems.

4. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2019 be signed as a true record.

5. POLICE REPORT

5.1 Crime figures for Codsall & Bilbrook – crime from January 2019 to April 2019 were **received and noted.**

Crime Figures From 01/01/2019- 30-04-2019:

Anti-Social behaviour 63; Burglary 21; Criminal damage & arson 19;
Drugs 3; Other crime 4; Other theft 22; Possession of weapons 0; Public
order 5; Robbery 4; Shoplifting 11; Theft from the person 1; Vehicle
crime 16; Violence & sexual offences 55.

5.2 Crime and anti-social behaviour figures for Locality 4

The Police report for Codsall 8th May – 10th June 2019 were **received and noted.**

PCSO Louise Jones outlined to the meeting the police report:

Not much crime or anti-social behaviour calls have been received, the youngsters appear to be behaving themselves.

A recent road crime operation had been undertaken by the police in the village which resulted in 15 drivers being issued with warnings for defective tyres; 2 vehicles seized - 1 for no insurance, 1 on behalf of DVLA for not having been taxed for 12 months; 1 HGV driver stopped and warned for exceeding the 7.5t weight limit.

There will be another operation in around three to four weeks.

Cllr Bob Spencer advised that some residents have raised concerns that the visibility of Police seems to get less and less, however Cllr Spencer informed the meeting that more police officers have to be assigned to Stoke on Trent and Stafford where there is a greater need for a larger police presence.

Cllr Spencer then went on to advise the meeting that Codsall is now better placed since the police have been operating from South Staffordshire Council Offices. Staffordshire Police are also now targeting what residents want them to target. The Police report demonstrates this; the Police are listening.

Cllr. Martin Adams raised concerns over how figures for 'Violence and Sexual Offences' were recorded and wondered if the statistics for the two crimes could be shown separately.

The Chairman, Cllr Holland said feedback is positive, it provides reassurance seeing the Police and PCSO's out and about in the area.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

6.1 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – [*update to the meeting 15/5/19- item 14.6*].

A report from the Clerk dated 4th June regarding CIL was received and considered.

The Chairman went on to advise the meeting that CIL is a charge on developments (and runs in tandem with s.106 contributions). The rate of CIL is set by the Charging Authority (South Staffordshire District Council) following consultation with communities and developers.

Parish Councils are entitled to a "Neighbourhood proportion" of the CIL monies received by District Council. (This has benefits over s.106 monies which Parish Councils have no legal right or say as to how s.106 monies are spent).

The Chairman then went on to say that we should be seriously considering this as an option due to the amount of development that will take place in the Parish.

The amount of CIL we would receive would depend on whether we have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan in place (to date we have no Neighbourhood Plan).

No Neighbourhood Plan — we would receive 15% (capped at £100 per existing council tax dwelling in the Council's area).

Adopted Neighbourhood Plan — we would receive 25% of CIL receipts (uncapped).

CIL monies can be used to support the development of the local area Infrastructure that can include physical, social and green infrastructure e.g. Highways; cycleways; education facilities; sports and community halls; parks and play areas.

The Chairman then went on to say that we should lead people at District Council, CIL needs to be lobbied for wider support.

Councillor Megan Barrow raised Districts Councils concerns that the introduction of CIL could make developments more expensive.

Resolved:

- the Clerk to write a paper on how District will consider the introduction of CIL.
- District Council members to approach District Council on CIL and how we go about requesting its introduction by District Council and then to report back to a future meeting of the council.

6.2 Neighbourhood Plan – a Neighbourhood Plan Factsheet was received and considered.

The Chairman outlined to the meeting the principle of a Neighbourhood Plan and then advised that the Parish Council would have to undertake a wide consultation however, a Neighbourhood Plan does hold weight, a current approved Neighbourhood Plan would shape any new local plan being considered.

Councillors raised the following points:

- Cllr Barrow thought that any plan that can influence planning applications, is to her, a good idea and holding consultation with residents will provide a clearer perspective of what is important to the village.
- Cllr Carpenter thought that a Neighbourhood Plan could present ideal opportunities
- Cllr Wright felt that presently he cannot understand what a Neighbourhood Plan would entail, he would need more time to consider the implications.
- Cllr Jenkinson advised that a Neighbourhood Plan would take a lot of work.
- Cllr Michell thought that we should investigate a Neighbourhood Plan further, but it should not be undertaken just because the Parish Council could have a higher proportion of CIL.
- Cllr Spencer thought that the agenda item needed more investigation. Parishes must drive this, perhaps all parishes can get together on this issue.
- Cllr Martin Adams thought that a neighbourhood plan is essential, he thought it will provide an opportunity to shape the Parish, we will have more influence on design and on open spaces. It is important that we have more planning documents to support our decisions and not just the local plan. We should

continue to look into the option of undertaking a neighbourhood plan.

- Cllr Sue Adams felt that it should be considered as a control point and as a financial point. We as a Parish would have better control if we have a neighbourhood plan and more protection for the village.
- Cllr Morrison felt that more time was needed to understand what is involved.
- The Chairman said we ought to consider the concept, it is a big leap forward. The Government is trying to get control back at local level/parish level and a Neighbourhood Plan is a tool to do this.

Resolved for the Clerk to bring back to the Council more information, and a mind diagram.

6.3 Christmas Lights – the Clerks report dated 4th June 2019 was received and considered. The Clerks report outlined to members various costings for new additional Christmas lights for 2019; existing Christmas Light costs and cost increases to the Parishes ongoing expenditure for testing, erection, removal & storage, if, additional lighting was to be approved by the council.

Cllr. Michell raised concerns over the cost of the Christmas lights which he said equates to be around 10% of the annual precept. Following further debate as to whether Birches Bridge should have Christmas lights or just the village centre, the Chairman Cllr Holland proposed:

- approval for the purchase of additional Christmas lighting for the village centre at a cost of £5,010.00 and approval of the resulting additional costs of £1,300.00 as detailed in the Clerks report; proposal seconded; a vote was taken: for 11; against 1; abstention 1. **Resolved approval.**
- approval for the purchase of additional Christmas lighting at Birches Bridge at a cost of £3,000.00 and approval of the resulting additional costs as detailed in the Clerks report; proposal seconded; a vote was taken: for 8; against 3; abstentions 2. **Resolved approval.**

Cllr Chapman wished it to be recorded that businesses at Birches Bridge feel the poor relation to Codsall village centre. Cllr Barrow added that the shops at Birches Bridge feel that they are not being looked after.

6.4 Wheel Field Slip Road Parking – to receive and consider an email from Cllr Kenyon.

In accordance to standing orders V.2 iv, the Chairman, in view of the absence of Cllr Kenyon, deferred the item for consideration to the meeting of 10th July 2019.

6.5 Open Spaces -

6.5.1 Oaken Field Car Park – a request from Cllr Michell for consideration to be given to the removal of barbed wire, fencing and strategic planting to be approved, was received. Cllr Michell advised the meeting that he feels with the broken fencing and barbed wire surrounding the coppicing on Oaken Field car park, it gives the impression that the car park is not

finished. Cllr Michell advised that on the right-hand side, a post and rail fence should be erected.

Resolved that authorisation is given to the Clerk, to incur expenditure for the removal of wire, and fencing and the introduction of planting, in line with the current budget for Open Spaces and for a site meeting to be arranged for councillors to consider and confirm with the clerk on site, the works to be under taken.

6.5.2 Watery Lane Allotments – skip hire – an email regarding the hire of two skips at a cost of £220.00 was received and considered.

Resolved approval for the hire of two skips at a cost of £220.00.

6.6 Grant Request – 1st Bilbrook Codsall Scout – a grant request application for £200.00, towards costs of staging the annual carnival and fete was received and considered.

Resolved approval of awarding a grant for £200.00.

6.7 Litter pick boards – an email from South Staffordshire Council asking if Parish Councils would like to loan a litter pick board to encourage residents to get involved in keeping their neighbourhood clean and tidy was received and considered.

The meeting was advised that the boards would have to be taken in each night and put out again next day. Cllrs raised concerns on who would do this and where the board could be stored overnight.

Resolved that any Parish Councillor wishing to take on the initiative, to advise the Clerk.

6.8 Replacement Bus Shelter A41 – analysis sheet of the results of the bus stop survey were received and considered.

Two surveys were returned out of the twenty-eight surveys that had been sent to residents living near the A41 Kingswood bus stop. The two responses received back stated that they did not use the bus stop on a regular basis.

Cllr Holland proposed that the Parish Council would not replace the bus shelter on the A41 due to the lack of demand; the proposal was seconded.

A vote was taken: for 11; against 1; abstention 1.

Resolved that due to the lack of demand shown by Codsall residents for the bus shelter's reinstatement, the parish council would not be replacing the bus shelter on the A41.

7. ACCOUNTS

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

7.2 Resolved that the schedule of payments to 13th June 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:

- The flooding problems at Dam Mill are being addressed. The landowner is working with the County Council.
- Traffic regulations are being consulted upon for zones at the top of Birches Road and part of the Chillington estate. There was a positive response from the emergency services for traffic regulations to be in place. All residents have been written to within the proposed zones for the approval of yellow lines being introduced. The further from the centre of the zone, there is less of a problem with parking and as a result less support for the introduction of yellow lines. On the Chillington estate the problem is around the area of the school particularly Walton Gardens with dropping off and picking up, cars are parking over driveways. The intention is to put yellow lines around the corners of the roads and zig zag lines in Walton Gardens. There is a compromise, the smaller the proposal the more likely it is to go ahead, we will have to wait and see if this is the case.
- County Councillor's enhanced fund of £20,000.00 will be split between Codsall and Bilbrook; it is to be used on Church Road pavement in Codsall and Wesley Road, Bilbrook. It is difficult to decide where best to do the repairs. Repairs to the highway surfaces need to be done before slurry can be laid. If the Parish Council contributes to the footpath repairs the cost would cover around 100m. In the two locations, majority of the footpaths can be repaired. Consideration for the Parish Council to make a financial contribution towards costs to the road/pavement repairs to be brought to the next meeting of 26th June.
- The pothole that has developed at Histons Hill lights, is a utility issue.
- The verge needs cutting back along Holly Bush Lane and Shop Lane.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CVHMC)

The minutes of C.V.H.M.C. meeting of the 15th April 2019 was **received and noted.**

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Verbal report:

- District meetings are just starting up, selections for councillors have taken place for the different committees.

11. Councillors and Clerks Written Report

Written reports from the Clerk were **received and noted.** There were no councillor reports.

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- 12.1 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association** – bulletins dated 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th May 2019 were **received and noted.**
- 12.2 Codsall Village Hall & Playing Fields Charity Ltd** – details of the Annual General Meeting on 17th June 2019 was **received and noted.**
- 12.3 SSDC – Council News Round-up** – issue 121 was **received and noted.**

13. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Councillors concerns on Highways to be raised with Councillor Spencer after the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10th July 2019

[Meeting closed 8.56pm]