

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Council Meeting held remotely by Zoom in accordance to Covid-19 2020 regulations on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm. following Planning

**Present: Parish Councillors:** Mrs V Chapman (Chairman), M Adams, Mrs S Adams, Mrs K Ewart, B Holland, T Jeavons, I Kenyon, Mrs A Morrison, S Jenkinson & P Wright; **Parish & District Councillor:** Mrs M Barrow & J Michell;  
**Parish & County Councillor:** B Spencer

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Loftus

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Declaration of interest received from Councillor Barrow: item 6.3 – Committee Member. Cllr Barrow and Chapman: Item 6.4 – Committee Members.  
No written requests received for dispensation.

### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

### 4. MINUTES

**Resolved** that the Main Minutes and Personnel Committee Minutes held on Wednesday 8th July 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

### 5. POLICE REPORT

#### 5.1 Crime and anti-social behaviour figures for Locality 4

Cllr Holland spoke about the issues of youths congregating on land near Oaken Field and asked about feedback or report from the Police on any displacement from the meeting.

**Resolved** that the Clerk to request an update from PCSO Louise Jones. Cllr Spencer said ~~he is the Head of~~ *as a member of* the Safety Neighbourhood Panel ~~and advised the meeting~~ that South Staffordshire District Council's Community Safety Officer has a legal duty to act on these issues.

### 6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### 6.1 Accordance with s85 of LGA 1972

Councillors to consider approval for absence or deem that a casual vacancy has occurred for Cllr Ian Kenyon (due to the personal nature Councillors to consider approval of: *PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (agenda item to be moved to the end of the meeting due to the confidentiality)*. As Cllr Ian Kenyon was in attendance this meeting, the discussion was deemed to be no longer applicable.

**6.2 Flooding Plan** – an email dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 from Cllr Spencer regarding a plan to reduce flooding issues was received. Consideration was given for the Parish Council to purchase of hedge plant whips and for the Parish Council to take on the long-term responsibility for maintenance of this hedge along Moatbrook Lane. Cllr Spencer advised the meeting that the Local Flood Forum met around a month ago. Four to five sites have been identified that flood on a regular basis when it rains. Staffordshire County Highways are in talks with

the forum and will get involved if houses are damaged. The Flood Forum said mitigation measures are needed. The idea of a 100m section along Moatbrook Lane could be planted with a Hawthorne hedge could be the solution. Codsall Parish Council Workmen could maintain it.

Cllr Jenkinson agreed the long-term maintenance could be done by the Parish Council workmen or we could ask the local landowner.

Cllr Holland said good quality soil would need to be used, if the hedge is planted on the highways verge this would be diverting the boundary from the land owner, look for help from the forum and the land owner is on the understanding that the Parish Council would take on the maintenance.

Cllr Wright said that all the drains are blocked near the location with plant material and should be cleaned as the first point of action. Cllr Ewart thought that the land owner should take responsibility for the run off and maintaining the ditches.

A vote was taken for the landowner to be contacted regarding the responsibility of the hedgerow: for 12; against 0; abstention 1.

**Resolved** the landowner to be contacted regarding the long-term maintenance of the hedgerow.

[Cllrs. Barrow and Chapman took no part in the following discussion]

**6.3 Grant request – Codsall Village Hall** – a grant application for £5,200.00 dated 23rd July 2020 was considered.

**Resolved** approval to awarding the grant request of £5,200.00, to be paid in two instalments, half yearly.

[Cllr Chapman took no part in the following discussion]

**6.4 Get Codsall and Bilbrook Blooming** – an email dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 regarding a request from Get Codsall & Bilbrook Blooming seeking permission for planting along Station Road and the Square was received and considered.

Cllr Holland said it seemed a strange request, there is a need to encourage and involve the community. Is the group formally constituted and do they have their own insurance and what about the future maintenance? We do need to check on this, it is well meaning but the group could get tired of it. Cllr Kenyon thought it was a good idea in principal, but it needs to be organised by a properly constituted group. Cllr Spencer said if we want to move forward but we need to discuss future maintenance, this paralyses us and suggests the Parish Council write to the group for more information. They could be invited to the next meeting of the council. Cllr Jenkinson this is good in principal and members of the public should be encouraged. Cllr Barrow agreed they should join a future Parish Council Meeting to discuss being a constituted group and having appropriate liability insurance.

**Resolved** the Clerk writes to the group requesting more information before a decision can be made.

## 7. ACCOUNTS

- 7.1 **Resolved** that a report on Council Finances for year to 31<sup>st</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 be approved.
- 7.2 **Resolved** that the schedule of payments up to 6th September 2020 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.

- Staffordshire County Council are responding to issues on Covid-19. There are local out breaks, two have been reported in the local schools. Children back to school is going ok.
- There is a good level of Highways work activity along Heath House Lane and Wood Road, more potholes are being filled than being reported. Any potholes spotted need to be reported, the more reports the greater the chance of being repaired, if they do not get reported they are less likely to get repaired.
- The issues discussed at the Flooding Forum were that Chapel Lane and the Chilling Estate are now sorted. Dam Mill & Birches Road remain priority. Drainage problems near the bypass in Codsall when there is heavy rain, possibly a broken drain.
- There have been several requests to adopt pieces of land, this is less of a priority for Staffordshire County Council at the moment.
- Cllr Holland asked about the funding for cycle routes. Cllr Spencer advised that the first trench of funding has been given to link large urban areas. Two hundred and fifty responses have been received, some of these should get a share of the second trench of money.
- Due to drains blocked and collapsed on Heath House Lane it became a larger job to repair which resulted in the road being closed for some time. The Footpath has not been re-surfaced, at the blind bend the footpath is less than 18" wide. Will need to write to the Portfolio holder County Councillor David Williams to discuss the issues along Heath House Lane.
- Cllr Holland ask the Chairman if traffic management report could be done in Codsall.

## 9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CVHMC)

The minutes of C.V.H.M.C dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 were **received and noted.**

## 10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A verbal report from District Councillors:

- Cllrs Barrow and Michell attended a Council Meeting, Bilbrook Middle School reported that two teachers were being tested for Covid-19. Concerns are that 15 to 29-year olds are the ones who are more likely to spread the virus.
- South Staffordshire Council swimming pools and 4G pitches are open.
- Public access to the Council building could be open in October.
- There are 60-70 work stations.
- The District Council are trying hard to deal with office balance and testing.
- Building hoardings will be going up this week around the council building.
- Budgetary requirements are going on at the moment, with an appointment on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and feed-back in October.
- The Planning Department are sub-contracting out some of their work.
- Government funding is to stop, need to look at ways to make savings through efficiency without cutting costs.
- Cllr Martin Adams advised that he has read that the cost of building work to be carried out on the Council Building has risen from £8 million to an estimate of at least £10 million. Cllr M Barrow advised that the financial figures still stack up.
- The council building in its current state is not fit for purpose, it needed to be updated to help with moving with the future, long term it will be value for money.
- Working in association with other bodies, the parish council and county council will help with communication.

## 11. Councillors and Clerks Written Report

The Clerk informed the meeting that works were due to be started on the War Memorial; stone colour match had just been approved.

## 12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

**12.1 Footpath clearing** – a letter of thanks from a resident for the clearing of the alleyway between Chapel Lane and Queens Gardens by Codsall Parish Council workmen was received. **Matter of report.**

## 13. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Cllr Chapman asked Cllr Spencer what can be done about the narrow section of land on the Wolverhampton Road, near to the mini island, that looks like an alley way but does not go anywhere, as it is a mess.

**Resolved** Cllr Spencer and the Chairman to go on a site visit.

## NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

[Meeting closed 8.30pm]

