

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Council Meeting held remotely by Zoom in accordance to Covid-19 2020 regulations on Wednesday 14th October 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, N Loftus, S Jenkinson & P Wright;

Parish & District Councillor: Mrs M Barrow & J Michell;

Parish & County Councillor: B Spencer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Morrison.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

4. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

5. POLICE REPORT

5.1 Crime and anti-social behaviour figures for Locality 4

None

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

6.1 Open Spaces

6.1.1 Codsall Village Hall Playground – Veolia – the financial agreement was received and consideration was given for permission to be granted for the Clerk to complete the Details & Declaration form and agree to the compulsory payment of £3,810.00 to the landfill operator (Veolia).

Resolved approval

6.1.2 Watery Lane Allotment site

i. Carpark Maintenance - an email from Watery Lane Allotment Association dated 2nd October 2020 requesting for the parish council to fund the purchase of 40 tons of MOT stone for the top carpark was considered.

Resolved approval

ii. Complaint Form – an allotment holder's complaint form regarding the closure of the Allotment Site during National Lockdown in March 2020 was considered. Cllr Jenkinson said the Parish Council allotments rent fees are far less compared to other allotment sites; a refund should not be given for the six weeks that the allotment was closed. If the plot holder is not happy with how the Watery Lane allotments operate, they have the option to move to another allotment site.

Cllr Spencer said we are in unprecedented times, we made a good decision and acted in good faith, we are sympathetic to the ploholders and not being able to go on site, however we

are trying to do our best in these difficult times and trying to keep everyone safe.

Cllr Holland said we will need to look at those plotholders travelling a distance with the new three tier system. If Codsall does go into tier three, maybe this is something we need to look at.

Cllr Spencer thought that further discussion is needed and we need to set out our intentions if we have to go into tier two or three, we need to be prepared. We can give advance warning if we have to go into tier three. Hopefully however we will get some specific advice from the Government.

Cllr Jenkinson said if we are not registered as a Covid secure site people would have to register their name and date as they do in sport. The Clerk advised the meeting that this did not apply.

Cllr Spencer thought we need another separate meeting to discuss QR code as an option and/or to pre-book to go on site. Cllr Spencer went on to state that we do need to get a policy established, we will need to have a clear audit trail of our decision process.

Cllr Holland said the QR code is an option, we do need to be organised as some areas could go into tier three, plot holders living in areas designated as tier 3, would we need to restrict who could go on site?

Cllr Michell advised we need to be careful targeting other areas, Staffordshire had more Covid cases last week than surrounding areas.

It was proposed that a QR be put in place and a letter sent to allotment holders on potential changes in the future on attending the site.

A vote was taken: for 10; abstentions 3.

Resolved to obtain a QR code for the allotment site; notify allotment holders advising of the QR code which must be used when visiting the site, also of future potential changes on attending the allotments, this is dependent upon if Covid-19 numbers rising, meaning we have to go into tier two or three and Government guidelines.

6.1.3 Replacement Bench – Near Singing Lady Gardens - a recommendation by the Open Spaces Committee to replace the broken bench situated opposite the shops, at the back of the wall of Singing Lady Gardens at a cost of £1,065.00 was considered.

Cllr Jenkinson thought that we should encourage people to sit in the village and have as many benches as possible; the cast iron benches last a long time and the replacement with the broken wooden bench should be done as soon as possible.

Cllr Barrow suggested a metal Remembrance metal bench at a cost of around £700.00, they are black with a red poppy with cut out of a soldier.

Cllr Jenkinson asked if the Singing Lady Gardens would be the right place for the remembrance bench. Would need more hard standing, could look at another location where the ground is more substantial.

Cllr Spencer proposed a Remembrance bench for as the replacement bench near the Singing Lady Gardens.

A counter proposal was made in accordance with the Standing Orders B2 Vii by Cllr Michell for a cast iron bench opposite the shops, back of the wall of the Singing Lady Gardens and a Remembrance bench to be sited elsewhere, the location to be decided at a future Open Spaces meeting. This proposal was seconded. A vote was taken on the counter proposal: 12 for; 1 against.

Resolved

- i. the purchase of a cast iron bench at a cost of £1,065.00 to replace the broken bench opposite the shops, at the back wall of the Singing Lady Gardens.
- ii. the purchase of a Remembrance bench, the siting of which to be discussed at a future Open Spaces meeting.

6.1.4 Land Maintenance Contract with SSDC – the current Land Maintenance contract with SSDC of £12,000.00 per annum was received and considered.

Cllr Holland said we need to look at the generic contact, the plan of the map, see if the price we currently have is reasonable price, importantly Oaken Field. The meeting then were advised that at the last Open Spaces Committee meeting the committee had agreed to look at the contract.

6.2.1 Website accessibility – the website accessibility audit was considered.

Resolved approval of the recommended changes and the draft accessibility statement.

7. ACCOUNTS

7.1 Resolved that a report on Council Finances for year to 30th September 2020 be approved.

7.2 Resolved that the schedule of payments up to 6th October 2020 be approved.

7.3 confirmation by the Chairman of the authorisation of the Clerks time sheet.

Matter of report

7.4 The Half Yearly Accounts and Budget Review for 2020/21 were **received and approved**

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from County Councillor Bob Spencer.

- At the recent Flood Forum meeting that was sent out to members it was reported the recent rain fall did not cause any real problems other than under the railway bridge on Station Road. Walking around the area looking at the topography, in particular Moatbrook, every property has large front gardens with hard standing, need to look at other solutions to solving flooding issues.

- Lighting has been upgraded in Staffordshire, monetary value of 1.6 million in energy savings.
- Money has been made available for potholes, flooding and rights of way, it requires a quick response, suggestions to come forward on how this should be set.
- In Staffordshire, single online for reporting crime. Anti-social behaviour has gone up, the rest has gone down, could be due to Covid-19.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CVHMC)

The minutes of C.V.H.M.C. were **received and noted**

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A verbal report from District Councillors.

- Cllr Barrow said there is a concern with Covid-19, figures are going up, 120 in every 1000, if we go into tier two we will know in the next two weeks.
- Alteration works to continue at the council offices, the hoardings will be in place for a long time.

Cllr Holland asked what the hardship levels are within the District. Cllr Spencer replied that there are no details as yet.

11. Councillors and Clerks Written Report

The Clerks written report was **received and noted**

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 Near Oaken Field - 'Den' – an update from PCSO Louise Jones was **received and noted**

12.2 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – a bulletin dated 24th Sept 2020 was **received and noted**

12.3 Residents email - an email regarding a dog attack on Perton Fields was **received and noted**

13. Items for Future - Each Councillor may use this opportunity to report on matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

Councillors should note that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.

- Cllr Holland would like a discussion around the work schedules and duties of the Parish Council workmen.
- Cllr Wright would like a discussion about Russell House Surgery regarding appointments and waiting times.
- Cllr Martin Adams would like the Neighbourhood Plan and the way forward brought back for discussion.

14. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Cllr Spencer said more potholes than ever are being repaired. During the Covid-19 Spring lockdown 80% of Highways staff were in attendance, they should be praised for continuing to work during this time. Cllr Jenkinson asked about the state of the footpath on Heath House Lane, and why did this not get done at the same time as the road repairs when it was closed to traffic. Cllr Spencer replied that he had queried as to whether it is safe to walk along there, he does not think so, however there is a difference of opinion at Staffordshire County Council. Cllr Kenyon regularly rides a bike but he would not cycle along there it is too dangerous. Cllr Ewart said many drivers travelling along Heath House Lane do not appear to stick to the 30 mph speed limit.

NEXT MEETING**Wednesday 11th November 2020**

[Meeting closed 8.53pm]