

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,  
Station Road, Codsall  
on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm. following Planning

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

None

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

None

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Limited** to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

**4. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be approved and signed as a true record.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

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

None

The Chairman advised the Council there is to be a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March with the Police, regarding measures that can be taken regarding the 'Den' near Springfield House.

**6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**6.1 Trees for Climate Change** - emails from SSDC and Forest of Mercia dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were considered.

Suggestions of Codsall House Field, Oaken Field and Wheelfield these could be discussed at a future Open Spaces Meeting. A public consultation for suitable locations could be a consideration, also put on the Parish Council website.

**Resolved** to be put on the Open Spaces agenda and on the Parish Council website for suggestions for suitable locations for consideration.

**6.2 New Development Footpath leading to Sandy Lane** - an

email dated 25<sup>th</sup> February sent to Cllr Spencer was considered. Cllr Spencer said he raised the issue of the damage to the set of railings. The railings will be fixed by Staffordshire County Council and the developer will put in an additional barrier onto Sandy Lane.

Cllr Holland wished to express his thanks to Cllr Spencer for his hard work on this issue.

**6.3 Access restrictions to Public Footpath on Hushpins Lane** – a residents email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 was considered. Cllr Michell said Staffordshire County Council are yet to act on the restrictions at both ends of the footpath, it is imperative it is done. Cllr Spencer said the Right of Way team have now cleared it. There is no real stile at Hushpins Lane end of the footpath, this may have been done to discourage walkers. Cllr Spencer said he can report this to the Rights of Way team. They are attending to it quickly, have they replaced the signpost posts at either end.

**6.4 Request for narrowing of Junction at Moatbrook Land and Wood Road** - a residents email dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 was considered. Cllr Spencer advised that this junction is not considered by County Highways as an issue. Sweeping junctions such as this one is the preferred option. Cllr Spencer went on to say that narrowing of the junction will not solve the issue, Highways will not alter the junction as they would have to justify the expenditure when there is nothing wrong with it. If Parish Councillors feel strongly to alter the junction it would have to be funded by the Parish Council with the approval of Highways. Cllr Holland said that the biggest problem are vehicles exiting on to Wood Road. This could be addressed by looking at the white lines and to bring it more to the right-hand side and some yellow lines. Cllr Jenkinson said exiting on to Wood Road is the issue with the visibility, and speed going in to Moatbrook Lane. Cllr Wright advised the meeting that considering that he lives near there and has done all his life, he has never seen any accidents. In his opinion the junction at Slate Lane is worse. Cllr Michell said he would like to back-up what Cllr Wright said. It is best left alone. There are worse junctions in the area that could have money spent on them. Cllr Holland raised concerns regarding the position of the post box. Cllr Wright said that that problem could only be dealt with by moving the post box. Cllr Ewart suggested traffic calming measures, “we should be looking at more attractive ways to slow traffic such as flowerbeds instead of humps, it is effective in France”. Cllr Chapman suggested it is deferred to the next agenda and have a site meeting beforehand. Cllr Spencer advised that the knocked down signs are already being dealt with by County Council. Cllr Spencer advised the meeting that if the Parish Council want to put something on the road this could result in large legal bills and consultation is required; it is not a quick process.

**Resolved** to go on the next Main Agenda and a site meeting held beforehand.

**6.5 Codsall House Field** - a request from Cllr Barrow to give consideration for improvements on Codsall House Field.

Cllr Barrow said Codsall House Field is such an asset and not valued and used enough by residents. There is a stump that need to be cut down from a fallen tree in the past.

A possibility would be to have benches and tables, a pathway around the edge it would be nice. The hedge is overgrown. This is another piece of land to cherish.

Cllr Jenkinson said he is passionate about our open spaces, a discussion needs to be brought back to an open spaces meeting, to consider if it is it to be improved or a project. It is looking good; we need to keep making improvements.

At present the field gets a rough cut. The fencing repairs monies has been put to one side. Option one would be to repair the fencing or replace like for like.

The Clerk to get quotes for all options. All Councillors to have an input in what we would like. Perhaps a small version of the Wheelfield, wildflower meadow. Councillors of the Finance Committee to discuss.

Funding grants and match funding, private organisations, appoint an architect there are possibilities.

**Resolved** to find the look of a similar scheme and for the Open Spaces to consider options to be bought back to main Council

**6.6 Casual Vacancy – North Ward** to be advised that an election has been requested. The election will be held in May. **Matter of report.**

**6.7 Locality 4 Forum - Community Safety Update** an email dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and presentation slides from SSDC's Community Wellbeing & Partnership Officer and to give consideration if members wish to access the available funding and if so for which menu items. Our decision will be put forward at a Zoom Meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March by SSDC was considered.

**Option 1: Home/Shed Security Equipment Bundle:**

Minder driveway & vehicle alert; Safe cans for money, cards, and car keys; Wireless battery powered smart doorbell camera; Public reassurance messages.

**Option 2: Ears and Eyes Network:**

Wireless battery powered smart doorbell cameras; Targeted distribution for victims of domestic violence, burglary, car key theft, vehicle crime; Links to locations of ANPR and CCTV for evidence gathering; Also, for people living with dementia who have tendency to leave home.

**Option 3: Target Hardening for the vulnerable:**

The Minder Walk Safe; Signal blocking drink can save; Take 5 Campaign against scams – promotional information and materials; public reassurance messages.

**Option 4: Smart water Target Hardening Scheme:**

Property marking in areas of theft and burglary; Smart water signage; Public reassurance messages.

**Option 5: Bespoke Police Campaigns:**

Tackling anti-social behaviour e.g., off road bikes, presence in early hours; Target hardening campaigns e.g., car key thefts, home security; Public surgeries e.g., police awareness days for engagement with police; Public reassurance messages.

Cllr Spencer said he looked through and none of the options gripped him. It is about eyes and ears but there may be some opportunities to employ through youth work provision, we are a prime candidate due to county lines, different proposal for youth provision.

Cllr Holland said he thinks we do need to work with youth engagement and through the locality forum, organise groups we need to bring something back to make links into existing organisations on youth engagement.

The Chairman said we know the 'Den' is back. Need a youth worker who could liaise with the youth, we need to communicate with the young, it could be greatly beneficial.

Cllr Holland said it has to be multi-agency and local clubs' solution.

Cllr Michell said we do suffer from car key burglaries, not sure how we can tackle this through this programme as the funding is restricted – option 5.

Officers are being drawn away from the neighbourhood to tactical crime.

There are two issues, option 5 and youths.

Cllr Ewart agreed, if we have to stay within the suggestions, we should go for option 5.

Cllr Spencer said he agreed completely with Cllr Holland, it is all in the timing, after Covid, youths will go back to organised groups. Boscobel Squadron has offered support, they need to know where the youths are.

Cllr Jenkinson said there are different groups out there such as the cricket club, it can help through sport, it is a big thing to get the kids onto the right path and mix with the right sort.

Option eyes and ears, neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Holland said we need someone to respond.

A vote was taken for option 5, 8 for; 4 abstained.

**Resolved** that the Parish Council would support option 5 for access to available funding.

- 6.8 Weed Spraying Around Village** – Cllr Michell requested that the Council to consider whether the use of Weed Killer should be used around the Parish. Cllr Michell said spraying randomly around the village means less strimming has to be done which is more expensive. Some Councils have asked for spraying not to be done. A bit more effort has to go in the verges, we should not be spraying unnecessary, we should at least try. The District Council perhaps should not use weedkiller for a year.

Cllr Jenkinson said he agreed for this, Oaken adopted a verge and the District Council came and sprayed it after wildflowers had been planted.

Cllr Ewart agreed with Cllr Michell and proposed we approach the District

**Resolved** that the Parish Council write to SSDC to request the use of weedkiller be suspended from use around the Parish for a trial period of 12 months.

*[Due to loss of connection Cllr Spencer left the meeting 8.15pm]*

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

**7.1** **Resolved** that a report on Council Finances for year to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be approved.

**7.2** **Resolved** that the schedule of payments to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be approved.

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

## **8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Deferred

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

There is to me a meeting on Monday. Nothing else to report.

## **10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Report from District Councillors:

Cllr Barrow said it is all Covid at the moment. Time is being spent on the boundary commission; it will be especially important for Codsall. There would be a reduced number of Councillors, we are worried that the Parish will be left with less representation. We might be under pressure in Codsall for other areas.

Cllr Spencer is taking the lead in Locality 4.

Ward boundaries. District Councillors could be reduced from 49 to 41

Wards will go and it will become one area of Codsall.

Each Parish Council are fighting for their own area.

Cllr Ewart said boundary lines are being drawn up by South Staffordshire Council.

## **11. Councillors and Clerks Written Report**

A written report from the Clerk was received. **Matter of report.**

Cllrs said that they were delighted with the progression of the play area. Cllr Jenkinson said the MUGA stainless steel benches will come soon.

**12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**13. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

**Concerns to be raised with County Council Highways:**

- There is a pothole on Sucking Green lane by the bend.
- A pothole in Church Lane by the graveyard, was repaired, now breaking up again.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

[Meeting closed 8.36pm]