

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,  
Station Road, Codsall  
on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.00pm. following Planning

**Present: Parish Councillors:** Mrs K Ewart (Chairman), M Adams, Mrs S Adams,  
Mrs V Chapman, R Hillback, T Jeavons, S Jenkinson, C Macey & P Wright

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

**Parish & County Councillor:** B Spencer

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Holland & Loftus

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

Declarations of interest received from Cllrs Chapman & Barrow – Item 9 –  
Members of the Village Hall Committee.

### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

### 4. MINUTES

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
be approved and signed as a true record.

### 5. POLICE REPORT

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

No report was received this evening.

Cllr Jenkinson said that you only have to look on social media reports  
to see the number of crimes in Codsall, there was a burglary at Oaken  
Park, the public are asking for more of a Police presence. What can  
the Parish Council do?

Cllr Barrow said she will speak with Chief Inspector David Wain to  
express our concerns. We also need to arrange for someone from the  
Police to come to one of the Parish Council meetings.

**Resolved** that the Clerk to officially write to the Staffordshire Police  
inviting a representative to attend one of the Parish Council meetings.

### 6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### 6.1 Open Spaces –

##### 6.1.2 Open Spaces Meeting – an update from Cllr

Jenkinson was provided and a copy of the Open Spaces  
minutes dated 23rd September 2020 and draft minutes of the  
meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were received. Cllr Jenkinson  
advised the meeting that there needs to be a meeting every  
six weeks. Councillors can ask questions if they want or put  
anything forward.

### 6.1.2 Wheel Field

- i. **a recommendation** from the Open Spaces Committee to replace the degenerated wheel structure and stepping posts with a Vinci Robinia Crawl net and stepping posts as per the circulated copy quotation 034962 at a cost of £4,700.00 including fitting, delivery and the disposal of waste, was considered.

Cllr Spencer advised the meeting that Codsall has real issues with speeding traffic particularly at the village gateways. Speeding vehicles are what most residents contact him about as a County Councillor.

Cllr Spencer said he understood the need for a new structure at the Wheel Field, but we have a duty to do what residents want such as additional illuminated signage. Would the Parish Council consider funding this?

Cllr Michell said there are two separate things, roads are the responsibility of County Council. We have funding for a small Parish Council, we should do what we are responsible for and not prop up Staffordshire County Council.

Cllr Macey said he had to agree with what Cllr Spencer said.

Cllr Hillback said it is right what we are doing at the Wheel Field and from the information put forward at a fair price, if a vote was taken Cllr Hillback said he would vote in favour of safety.

Cllr Ewart suggested nothing happens before the next meeting and if Councillor Spencer could bring forward to the next meeting suggested highway solutions and the costs.

Cllr Spencer said solutions and costings would not be feasible to be undertaken by the next meeting of the Parish Council. However, what most people complain to him about is speeding and parking, these are not insignificant issues.

Cllr Michell said the costs of tackling the highway issues would be high, to be effective we would need to build it into the precept for next year.

Cllr Jenkinson proposed acceptance of the quotation, this was seconded by Cllr Barrow.

A vote was taken in favour of acceptance of quotation 034962 at a cost of £4,700.00: 9 for; 1 against; 2 abstentions.

**Resolved approval** of works detailed on quotation 034962 at a cost of £4,700.00.

- ii - **a recommendation** from the Open Spaces Committee for the replacement of 3 heavy standard Beech trees at a cost of approximately £800.00 was considered.

The Chairman Cllr Ewart proposed acceptance, this was seconded by Cllr M Adams.

A vote was taken for replacement of Beech trees at a cost of £800.00: 10 for; 2 against.

**Resolved** for the replacement of 3 heavy standard Beech trees at a cost of £800.00

**6.1.3 Watery Lane Leisure Gardens** – [update to main meeting 12/5/21

– item 10.3.3] - an update given by Cllr Ewart:

Cllr Ewart advised the meeting that the office has sent out letters to all the plot holders who wanted to be considered for the new committee. Eight are allotment association members and two are non-members. All were requested to join, and a letter was sent to thank them for applying and the Parish Council would be in touch after 21<sup>st</sup> June. A mutual place to meet is to be arranged.

**6.1.4 Chapel Lane Field** – a resident's email

dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 requesting consideration to the ban of ball games was received. Cllr Hillback said we should be encouraging children to play; Staffordshire County Council promote that it is important for children to play to help combat obesity. Chapel Lane Field is one of the Parish Council's play areas.

Cllr Michell said the hedge on the access drive to the field is encroaching and needs maintaining, this does not belong to the Parish Council.

Cllr Jenkinson said that the Open Spaces Committee would monitor the anti-social behaviour.

**6.1.5 Oaken Car Park** - planting scheme submitted by the architect

of the car park with a suggested approximate cost of plants £2,587.00 was considered. Cllr Spencer said the Parish Council needs to consider the amount it will cost to plant the area, should we consider what people want, problems with speeding and conditions of the roads. The Clerk advised the meeting that consideration should be given to the planting of the plants, how will we achieve this? Also, the future cost of maintenance and weeding the area. Councillor Jenkinson suggested volunteers to plant. The Clerk advised the meeting that in the past there has not been a good track record on getting volunteers to help and it would be a travesty if the plants died as they could not be planted out.

Cllr Spencer said until we have a clear idea of costs a decision should not be made tonight.

Cllr Barrow was agreement in the difficulty in relying on volunteers for help, she went on to say that the church was going to take on the maintenance of the Singing Lady Gardens, this has not happened. We also have to be mindful of what we plant at the station car park, and what requires high or low maintenance.

Cllr Jenkinson said now that the pathway has been done it looks dull and needs some planting.

Cllr Barrow said perhaps we could look at a few trees and bark, which would be easier to maintain.

**Resolved** to bring the agenda item back to the next meeting.

**6.2 Replacement Bench** – an email dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 from Cllr Jenkinson requesting replacement of a damaged bench on Oaken Lane was considered. Cllr Jenkinson said a lot of people sit on this bench and proposed a replacement to be a Poppy and Soldier

Memorial bench. **Resolved** approval for the bench to be replaced with a memorial bench similar in design to the ones located in Bilbrook & Tettenhall.

- 6.3 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – New Courses** – an email dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 providing details of up-and-coming courses for Councillors was received. Councillors wishing to attend to inform the Clerk.

**Matter of report.**

- 6.4 Dam Mill – Road Accident** – a resident’s email dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 regarding an accident which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 was received and considered.

Cllr Ewart said it is difficult to come up with any answer to this problem.

Cllr Spencer said there is a systematic significant problem in all our entrances into the village.

Cllrs Spencer and Adams said there is a six-point plan challenge that needs to be considered regarding road accident blackspots.

Some of the statistics given at this location were two heart attacks; one driver not paying attention, and of the other two accidents, one was sent on a speed awareness course.

Cllr Spencer advised that Wolverhampton Borough Council has been written to, suggesting a joint approach venture; they have not responded as yet.

If we can substantiate speeding as the problem, then consideration would be given by Staffordshire County Highways to look into the junction but at present the road meets with Highway’s regulations. Initiatives to help alleviate speed can also be problematic - speed cameras, the flashing can be an issue if near people’s homes; rumble strips can create noise when driven over. Cllr Spencer advised the meeting that he had responded to the residents email.

- 6.5 Grant Request** – a grant request of £1,000.00 from Codsall Cricket Club was considered. Cllr Jenkinson said we want to support local community groups; the Cricket Club keeps the younger ones off the streets. Not sure of the exact figures but the group has over 70 youngsters, I feel that it is particularly important to support this group. Teams are up and running.

Cllr Barrow said they have two girls’ teams.

Cllr Spencer said he runs a club himself; Sport England have given Covid Recovery Grants, have they applied?

If they have, why would they need more, perhaps they should talk to their governing body.

Cllr Jenkinson proposed a grant of £500, this was seconded by Cllr Barrow.

Cllr Hillback counter proposed we request more information from the cricket club to whether they have received any funds from the Sport England Covid Recovery Fund before a decision is made.

A vote was taken on Cllr Hillback’s proposal: 6 for; 5 against; 1 abstention.

A vote was taken on Cllr Jenkinson’s proposal: 6 for 4 against; 2 abstentions.

Due to both proposals being even, the Chairman has the casting vote.

Cllr Ewart voted to accept Cllr Jenkinson's proposal.

**Resolved** approval of awarding a grant of £500 be given to Codsall Cricket Club.

*[Cllr Hillback left the meeting 8.30pm]*

## 7. ACCOUNTS

**7.1** **Resolved** that a report on Council Finances for year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 be approved.

**7.2** **Resolved** that the schedule of payments to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be approved.

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

*[Cllr Hillback returned 8.31pm]*

*[Cllr Wright left the meeting 8.31pm]*

## 8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from County Councillor Bob Spencer:

- Covid remains a significant challenge.
- Flooding issues we can track back on last year. This May has been the wettest on record. Flooding has reduced, gullies and drains were identified which were causing a problem.
- More potholes are being repaired.
- Speeding remains a concern.

Cllr Jenkinson confirmed that the pothole on Shop Lane had been repaired.

*[Cllr Wright returned 8.34pm]*

Cllr Macey advised that the roads in and out of Oaken village are in a particularly poor condition.

Councillor Spencer advised the meeting that if these were reported you can chase up reports and you can check up via the case number.

Cllr Sue Adams said some potholes on Birches Road are categorised 2 and 3 and get done as and when and will not do repairs for category for 1 or 2 and 3 can be marked for a long time.

Cllr Wright responded by saying categorising potholes is complete nonsense, the situation changes rapidly, even daily, particularly following downpours.

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

There were no presented minutes of C.V.H.M.C.

Cllr Barrow said bearing in mind Covid restrictions they are busy attempting to sort out Christmas events.

## 10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from District Councillors:

- Cllr Michell said Lloyds Pharmacy have pulled out of having a shop in the new Hub at District Council Offices which is a disappointment.
- It will be all open plan, very luxurious
- Hot desking will cut numbers by 40% as staff can work from home, the plan has been adjusted to accommodate for rental space

- The Electoral Boundary Commission changes will result in losing approximately 8 Councillors throughout the South Staffordshire District, Codsall South and Codsall north District will become one ward.

**11. Councillors and Clerks Report**

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

**12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

**12.1 Codsall Parish Council's Meeting Calendar** – a schedule of meeting dates from May 2021 to April 2022 was **received and noted.**

**12.2 Reopening High Streets Safely/Welcome Back Funding** – *[update to planning meeting 26/5/21 – item 8]* – an update from the Clerk – submission of bid was made with a planting scheme.

**Matter of report.**

**12.3 SSDC – Council News Round-up** – issue 219 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 Macey said he would like to discuss Japanese Knot Weed in Oaken, there is an obligation that this is removed.

**14. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

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

None

**NEXT MEETING**

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

[Meeting closed 9.50pm]