

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MAIN MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall

on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7.00pm. following Planning

Two members of public present

Present: Parish Councillors: Mrs K Ewart (Chairman), M Adams, Mrs S Adams, Mrs V Chapman, R Hillback, B Holland, T Jeavons, S Jenkinson, N Loftus, C Macey & P Wright; **Parish & District Councillor:** Mrs M Barrow

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Councillors Michell & Spencer

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Watery Lane Allotment tenant came to discuss dogs not being allowed on the allotment site. Is this recent that the no dog rule must be adhered to. She was told she was not even allowed to leave the dog in the car and was officiously asked to move off site. Why cannot well behaved dogs be allowed on site. The Allotment Association have a three-year rule in place. There should be a plan if dogs are brought on site. Who made the decision no dogs on site? Should there be a rule in place to allow dogs kept on a lead on site.

4. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 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 Wheel Field – A request received from Cllr Jenkinson for the council to consider whether dogs should be kept on a lead while on the Wheel Field due to the amount of dog fouling. Cllr Jenkins said he has nothing against dogs however dog owners have a responsibility to clean up after their dogs which can be difficult when the dog is running around the field. The Wheel Field is a multi-use area and there now appears to be an increase in the amount of dog foul on the field. A lot of investment has been made and we do not want it known as the dog foul field.

Cllr Jenkinson went on to say that in his opinion two dog signs are needed at both entrances.

Cllr Wright said he feels that we need patrols not enforcement signage.

Cllr Jenkinson said we do need signage.

Cllr Macey said no dogs allowed if the field is being soiled, it is a public health issue.

Cllr Chapman said we need to keep educating the people, we have got to put up signage.

Cllr Holland said there is the potential for dog attacks and toxocariasis. The need for a formal resolution of what we want as byelaws.

Cllr Macey said he has seen signage that tugs at dog owners' conscience a sign that it is common decency to clean up after your dog

Cllr Jenkinson said dog attacks, as an owner you are responsible for keeping it under control, it is common decency.

Resolved Cllr Macey to email the Clerk the suggested signage to forward on to Councillors.

6.1.2 Watery Lane Allotment site

i. **Dogs on allotment site** - one email and one letter regarding dogs on the allotment site was considered. Cllr Barrow said her dog often sits in the car.

Cllr Chapman - it is ok for dogs to be in the back of cars.

Cllr Hillback said it is ridiculous being told what you can and cannot have in the back of your car.

Cllr Holland said it should be the spirit of allotment site tenants and what the Allotment Association and allotment holders want.

Cllr M Adams said it should be mandatory that dogs are not allowed on allotments.

Cllr Ryan said it should be on the tenancy agreement that dogs allowed on site in cars only and appropriate signage displayed on site.

A vote was taken to allow dogs on site in cars only; 10 for; 2 abstentions.

Resolved signage to be put on allotment site to allow dogs in cars only on site.

ii. **Skip hire** – to receive and consider the authorisation in advance to hire a skip at an approximate cost of £120.00 + VAT (£120 in October 2020).

Resolved approval.

6.1.3 **Codsall Village Hall Playgroud** – due to increases in incidents of vandalism of the new playground equipment and MUGA, a recommendation made by the Open Spaces Committee for the Council to consider the purchase of four wildlife cameras at an approximate cost of £90.00 each plus appropriate signage.

Resolved approval.

6.1.4 Open Spaces Signage – signage on all Parish Council Open Spaces was considered. Cllr Jenkinson said the signs need to say that Codsall Parish Council own the land. Suggested wording has been emailed in the past to Councillors. The signs need to be a reasonable size and show that the land is owned and maintained by Codsall Parish Council.

Resolved approval for new signage to be purchased and placed in all of the council's open spaces.

6.1.5 Open Spaces Meeting – draft minutes from the committee meeting held on 29th September 2021 were **received and noted.**

Cllr Holland said he would like to propose that once the minutes are seen by main council that all the actions proposed in the minutes are automatically approved. The Clerk advised the Council that this would be in contrary to regulations and proper practices. Cllr Holland said that it was not against regulations, it is just what the Clerks wants.

The Clerk advised that recommendations made by any Committee are only that, recommendations, the Council resolves any decision and for good governance, decisions made by council have to be open and transparent and in accordance with proper practices.

Councillor Barrow asked why planting at Oaken car park has not been carried out. The Clerk explained the reason had been outlined in the draft open spaces committee minutes and the Clerks report but then went on to outline the Open Spaces recommendations. Cllr Barrow asked why we could not just plant the hydrangeas, the clerk explained that the Open Spaces differed to what the council had already resolved and now the decision was bound by the six month rule.

Cllr S Adams said that we have not yet been able to read the Clerks report.

The Chairman Cllr Ewart said that the Clerk appears to be only cherry picking on what is brought forward to the meeting. The Clerk was not given the opportunity to respond to the comment.

6.1.6 Codsall House Field – consideration was given for acceptance of a quotation for works to replace the stock fencing around Codsall House field with 138m of 1200mm high steel estate railings galvanised and powder coated white with anti-vandal security fixings at an approximate cost of £15,822.00.

Resolved: Councillors requested that a sample of the fencing be bought to the next main meeting.

- 6.2 Bus Shelter at South Staffordshire Council** – an email from Codsall Community Hub regarding a request for the Parish Council to give consideration for providing a bus shelter by the Community Hub opposite the bus shelter already in place. (The bus shelter on Wolverhampton Road belongs to SSDC) was considered. The meeting was advised that the Parish Council does not own the bus shelter which is already in position opposite SSDC’s building. **Resolved** that Codsall Parish Council will not fund a new bus shelter on the opposite side to where the current one is positioned.
- 6.3 Chairman’s Chain** – updating the engraving of the Chairman’s chain of past Chairman was considered. The Chairman’s chain should have been updated a few years ago. **Resolved approval** to update the chairman’s chain.
- 6.4 Neighbourhood Plan** – consideration was given to moving forward with the Neighbourhood Plan. **Resolved** a meeting to be arranged with Councillors on moving forward with Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.5 Road Safety/Speeding in the Village** – consideration was given to road safety in the village. **Resolved** to be brought back to a future meeting.
- 6.6 Queens Jubilee** – the following suggestions made by the Open Spaces Committee to commemorate the Queens Jubilee were considered:
- **Picnic in the Park** – to be held on Sunday 5th June 2022 on the Wheel Field. Cllr Chapman suggested the Codsall Community Group could do this as we have already organised the Summer Show.
 - **Tree Planting on Oaken Car Park** – to plant a number of trees on Oaken Field Car Park as indicated on the site map. Tree saplings to be obtained from the Woodland Trust.
- Resolved** that the Open Spaces Committee would look at it.

7. ACCOUNTS

- 7.1 Resolved** that a report on Council Finances for year to 30th September 2021 be approved.
- 7.2 Resolved** that the schedule of payments up to 12th October 2021 be approved. Cllr Chapman said that she would like to be called on to sign payments as she has not yet be asked and that this is recorded in the minutes.
- 7.3** Confirmation by the Chairman of the authorisation of the Clerks time sheet. **Matter of report.**
- 7.4** The Half Year Accounts and Budget Review for 2021/22 were **received and approved.**
- 7.5 Budget Precept** – the draft budget precept for 2022/23 was considered. **Resolved approval.**
- 7.6 Finance Committee Meeting** – the draft minutes from the meeting on Wednesday 6th October 2021 were received and noted.
- 7.7 Mazzars – External Audit of Annual Accounts year ended 31/3/2021** – the External Audit Certificate and opinion for 2020/21 was **received and noted.**

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of County Councillor Bob Spencer, there was no County Council report this evening.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CVHMC)

The minutes of C.V.H.M.C. meeting of the 19th July 2021 was **received and noted.**

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from District Councillors.

- The Climate Change meeting was long, what South Staffordshire Council are doing is good to read. In the pack they have a plan and are monitoring to see if they can do better.
- Bringing forward the Local Plan, slides show that there are 85 new homes proposed near Codsall railway station, not sure if this is sheltered accommodation.

11. Councillors and Clerks Report

A report from the Clerk was **received and noted.**

Cllr S Adams advised that it was not good enough that they had only received the report this evening as we have not had chance to read it. The Clerk advised the meeting that when the Clerks Report was introduced by the council they requested the Clerk gave a report as the District Councillors Report and the County Councillors Report - on the evening of the meeting and then the report is run through at the meeting. However, if the Council now wishes for the report to be submitted with the pack, then she would do so.

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Climate Change Workshop – a copy of presentations from speakers; workshop notes from Locality Groups and a link to the recorded event were **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.

- Japanese Knot Weed
- Quality of potholes

14. HIGHWAY ISSUES

14.1 Weekly Highways Statistics report.

A report up to 14th September 2021 was **received and noted.**

14.2 Concerns with County Council Highways

Cllr Wright advised that there are road work signs still in place along Wood Road.

Resolved for the Clerk to speak with highways to see if they can be removed now as the date for works to commence has come and gone.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10th November 2021

[Meeting closed 8.45pm]