

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

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

on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.00pm. following Planning

**PRESENT: Parish Councillors** Mr N Caine, Mrs V Chapman (Late), Mrs K Ewart, Mr B Holland (Chairman), Mr S Jenkinson, Mr I Kenyon, Mr N Loftus (Late), Mrs C Millar, Mrs A Morrison, Mr B Spencer & Mr P Wright,  
**Parish & District Councillors** Mrs M Barrow **Parish & County Councillor** Mr R Marshall

Two members of the public were present.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Jeavons.

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

The following declarations of interest were received for items: 11.1 Cllr Caine a non-pecuniary interest and item and 3.1 Cllrs Barrow, Chapman, Kenyon, Jenkinson, and Loftus.

### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

### 4. MINUTES

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be approved and signed as a true record.

(7.06pm Cllr Loftus)

### 5. POLICE REPORT

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

**28 days up to 05.02.17:** Burglary Dwellings 5, Burglary other 1, Criminal damage (exc Arson) 3, Drug Offences 2, Less Serious Violent Crimes with Injury 3, Other Offences 1, Other Serious Sexual Offences 2, Other Theft 10, Other Violence against the person 14, Personal Robbery 1, Theft From Motor Vehicles 1, Theft of Motor Vehicles 1, ASB 2

In the 12-month period crime figures in the area has gone up, but ASB figures have gone down.

Cllr Barrow raised her concern on the number of burglaries in the area.

Cllr Marshall would like to publicise Smartwater.

Cllr Spencer was concerned that the crime figures appeared to be out of control.

Due to members concerns in the increase in the number of crimes and especially violent crime the meeting **resolved** that the Area Commander or Police Sergeant is invited to a future meeting of the council to discuss concerns.

## 6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

*Councillors Barrow, Chapman, Kenyon, Jenkinson and Loftus took no part in the discussion or decision of the following item.*

**6.1 Codsall Community Group** – an email dated 17<sup>th</sup> February seeking permission from the Parish Council for the group to hold a Codsall Summer Dog Show and Fair on the Wheel Field on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm with set up before 10.00am and clear up after 4.00pm was **received and considered**. Cllr Jenkinson as Chairman of Codsall Community Group gave an overview to the Council on what the event would entail. Cllr Jenkinson advised the meeting that the event would be aimed for everyone including children & families. The event would have food stalls, a small fair, the dog show and also cake and produce stalls. Members asked Cllr Jenkinson questions on parking facilities and toilet provision. Cllr Jenkinson advised that the group thought that the public car parks in the village would provide sufficient parking and the group would seek permission from District Council for use of their car park. Porta Loos would be brought in and placed on the Wheel Field for the event.

**Resolved approval** on condition that the group agrees and adheres to the council's terms and conditions for use of the Wheel Field; subject to the group submitting an appropriate health and safety event policy to the satisfaction of the Clerk, and to ensure that the date of the fair will not clash with any other established large village event.

**6.2 Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy 2016-2020 – Consultation** - draft document consultation open to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 was **received and considered**.

Cllr Bob Spencer raised a concern that the Information Commissioners plans relates to nothing new and the part of the plan covering public confidence; local policing as the bedrock; public shaping the police; he fails to see how it will work. The Nine Point Plan in his view is unrealistic to achieve.

Cllr Spencer then went on to say that the recent HMIC report identified Staffordshire Police as having to make improvements in keeping people safe.

The ICC consultation is not user friendly and there is no reference made in reducing crime.

The recent local figures showing Fourteen cases of crime against the person appears high for an area as small as Codsall.

Cllr Holland raised his concern that the plan did not address adequately prolific offender management.

Cllr Mrs Ewart commented that she did not view the plan from a police point but as a resident, therefore did not see the shortcomings.

Cllr Spencer advised the meeting that the role of the PCC is different from the Police's. The voice of the people should be heard from the PCC. However, in his view the Nine Point Plan is not realistically achievable.

**Resolved:**

- i. that Mathew Ellis is invited to attend a future meeting of the council.
- ii. Cllr Spencer is given delegated powers to formulate an appropriate response to the Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy 2016-2020 - draft document consultation.

**6.3 Codsall Parish Council's Business Plan** – was received and consideration for approval to:

- i. Minutes of the Business Plan Committee Minutes dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017. **Resolved approval.**

The Chairman Cllr Holland then went on to discuss the presented update in detail and the following points were raised by the meeting: Cllr Chapman advised that she had not been able to achieve any progress with South Staffordshire Council on S106 Agreements and advised that it was important that the council does not miss out on opportunities.

Cllr Marshall commented that a lot of Councillors really want to know what we can get under the S106 agreement and would Highway infrastructure improvements be allowed under S106.

**Resolved** that the Business Plan Committee will seek to draft a policy on S106 Agreements with South Staffordshire Council's guidance.

Chairman Cllr Holland raised his concern on the adequacies of the GP Practise in Codsall in being able to absorb the provision of services for another 400-people resulting from SAD. Cllr Holland thought that a new site for the doctors may need to be considered such as sharing the site at Histons Hill with the clinic.

Members discussed that the Parish Council would have little influence regarding the clinic site or with the doctor's surgeries.

Cllr Barrow advised that South Staffordshire Council had discussed this issue at a recent Health and Wellbeing meeting. However, relocation of the doctors practice must be initiated by the doctors practice.

Cllr Spencer advised the meeting that all GP Surgeries are presently having to decide on three integration policies. He suggested that we ought to ask the Doctors how they were likely to move forward and which policy would they adopt.

**Resolved** that the Clerk writes a letter of enquiry to Russell Surgery on which integration policy the surgery is likely to adopt.

The meeting discussed enforcement of Dog Fouling and recent changes to legislation.

**Resolved** to invite a member of SSDC Enforcement Team to a future Business Plan meeting to discuss the issue of Dog Fouling enforcement and following on from that meeting the Business Plan Committee to consider a new section of the Plan under Prosecution – Enforcement Powers.

The meeting was advised that the Business Plan Committee would put a recommendation to the Finance Committee to include a reserve in the budget over the next two years for Christmas Light improvement, for improvements at the Singing Lady Gardens (first year) and Birches Bridge shop area, (second year).

The Chairman Cllr Holland advised the meeting that the Business Plan helps focus the Parish Council and it is pleasing to see the progress being made.

The Business Plan Committee recommended a Parish Council Newsletter to be initiated to help keep residents advised of the work and projects that the Parish Council are undertaking and within it, it could include a section on the benefits of Smartwater in deterring crime.

**Resolved** approval of a Parish Council Newsletter being compiled by the Business Plan Committee, published and distributed to residents of the Parish.

ii. **Business Plan Review Update: Resolved** approval of the Review Update report.

#### 6.4 Parish Council - Policies & Procedure Review

The following Policy Documents were **received and reviewed and approved:**

- a. Complaints Policy
- b. Guidance notes to Public Participation
- c. Policy on Combating Harassment & Bullying
- d. Grievance Procedure
- e. Disciplinary Procedure
- f. Grant Policy
- g. Sickness & Injury Policy Statement
- h. Flexible Working Policy

#### 6.5 Parish Council - Policies & Procedure Review

The Health & Safety Policy Documents were **received and adopted.**

### 7. ACCOUNTS

7.1 **Resolved** that a report on Council Finances for year to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be approved.

7.2 **Resolved** that the schedule of payments to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to be approved.

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

## 8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The following verbal report from County Councillor Robert Marshall was given:

- 9 out of 10 parents were allocated their first choice for Secondary School. Of 7494 applicants aged 11, 92.5% got their first choice and 97% got one of their top three.
- Just before Christmas, an Iron Age find was discovered in Leek by two metal detectors called 'Leekfirth' Could be 400BC.
- A partnership led by Staffordshire County Council and BT to make superfast broadband available in some very remote places of Staffordshire is the first partnership of its kind.
- New secondary school is progressing well and will open in Branston (East Staffordshire) in September 2018
- December Unemployment 4790 (0.9%) and JSA (0.5%), figures still good. From February 2016 to February 2017 gone up to 14,731, since 2010, 70% of total increase is full time jobs.
- Locality 4 Forum meeting at 5pm in the members room at South Staffordshire District Council on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- Anti-social parking around schools. Received a huge petition from St Nicholas and letter from Head Teacher regarding this issue.
- Safe & Strong last Monday discussed missing persons, adult social care, market failure preventing 'low level neglect' of children in Staffordshire. The annual report of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board has one statistic only the number of unaccompanied child asylum seekers rose from 20 in March 2015 to 74 in March 2016. Our numbers are higher than average.
- Staffordshire pension scheme – last quarter up 4.0% (benchmark 4.1%), this year 19.8% (benchmark up 19.6%). Property portfolio:  
1yr up 5.9% (benchmark 2.2%)  
3yr up 12.9% (benchmark 10.9%)  
5yr up 11.2% (benchmark 8.8%)
- Domestic violence figures up  
Female 694 in April 2014 to March 2015 up by 35% to 955 in April 2015 to March 2016  
Male 21 in April 2014 to March 2015 up by 50% to 42 in April 2015 to March 2016  
Children 797 in April 2014 to March 2015 up by 30% to 1035 in April 2015 to March 2016
- Child protection rate up 64/10,000 in April 2015 up to 711/10,000 March 2016
- If Parish Councillors wish me to raise any questions to ask full council at County on the general state of roads, and are we getting value for money on highway contract speak to me after the meeting.
- Eight districts and we have only one active Highway Inspector.
- Flooding a problem in parts of Staffordshire

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

The minutes of C.V.H.M.C. meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 was **received and noted.**

Cllr Barrow commented that the Village hall was running well and no problems. Members asked if the issues of lighting had been sorted and what time did they switch off at night. Cllr Barrow advised that the lights go off at 1pm, and CVHMC had addressed all local residents concerns.

**10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

A verbal report from District Councillors was given:

- Health and wellbeing meeting – Cllr Barrow felt all is not right, moral in the health service is low, and appears we have a postcode lottery, not good enough in South Staffordshire.
- Planning – 6 Birches Road, Codsall, variation of condition, we recommended refusal.
- SAD consultation finished – one person approached and raised concerns of the number of houses being built behind Suckling Green Lane/Oaken Park.
- Audit meeting – Cllr Marshall thinks KPMG audit fee high £50,000.

**11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

**11.1 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association-** bulletins dated 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 were **received and noted.**

**12. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

**Resolved** that County Councillor Robert Marshal would take Councillors issues after the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**[8.30pm meeting closed]**