

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Council Meeting to be held in the Parish Chambers,  
Station Road, Codsall  
on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm. following Planning

### PRESENT

**District Councillors** M Ewart (Chair), Mrs E Forster, P Kenyon, B Holland, Mrs C Millar, G Owen, D Walls, L Stovin, **District Councillors** Mrs P Campbell, J Michell

#### 1. APOLOGIES

**Apologies** were received from Councillor Oatley

#### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

**None**

#### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

**Mr Stephen Skinner** mentioned the dates he had been given to the Clerk for the Clean Up Weekend for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> of April and 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of November. The Clerk confirmed that the dates had been noted and that they had been sent to the Diary for Village Events.

#### 4. MINUTES

**The Minutes** of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were received, approval recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting and immediately signed by the Chairman.

#### 5. POLICE REPORT

**A written** report on policing was received this evening:

##### Statistics:

<b>Burglary Dwelling</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Burglary other</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Theft of Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Theft from Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Anti Social Behaviour</b>	<b>2</b>

Burglary Dwelling: in all cases jewellery or a TV was taken which were on show. People are advised to take better care of their jewellery if at all possible and allow for what might happen; think what might be going through the head of an offender and perhaps keep a light on if you are going out. TV sets are different in that they can't be hidden or a difficult to hide away and all we can suggest in that case is that you keep them out of view or make it such that it can't be seen from outside and close your curtains after dark.

Theft from motor vehicles: most of these have been over the last week and involved property, most of which was out of view. It is all well and good covering what is valuable, but you also need to make sure that you put these items in the boot in the right way so no one really knows what it is you are doing or placing there.

Parking at schools remain a problem for many. Parking for Perfection is up and running at St Nicholas First School, it is hoped that this will make a difference there. Rotas are being drawn up for schools and speeding, past targeting have shown good results.

Parking attendants have asked that a police representative accompany them on their rounds when possible.

CCTV continues to operate well in Codsall.

Many Councillors wondered when Codsall Police Station was open as several had been led to believe that the Station was open 24hrs 7 days a week. This is not believed to be the case, the Clerk was asked to write to Inspector Chapman to clarify the position and also to invite Inspector Chapman to a future meeting.

## 6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

### a. Staffordshire County Council

Formal Notice re provision of Puffin Crossing, Bakers Way, Codsall – Comments by 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

Cllr Stovin advised the meeting of his conversation with the County Council engineers relating to the above proposal and some of the concerns and reservations that he had raised.

Following Councillor Stovins presentation a lengthy discussion took place and the Clerk was asked to write to County Council Highways to request further consideration to the following issue:

- To consider removing the existing Pedestrian Crossing by the Church Road junction to avoid having 3 crossings within

less than 200 yards and the implications for traffic and road safety.

- To consider moving the bus stop, currently in front of the Lone Singer Gardens and at the mouth of the proposed crossing, to the turn into Wood Road opposite the grassed triangle. This is considered necessary for road safety implications as the bus is currently pulling out into the traffic onto a blind bend and would in due course be also pulling immediately into the pedestrian crossing and could cause undue risk for both pedestrians and motorists.
- To consider improving the lighting in the area by the proposed bus stop particularly for security considerations.
- To consider closing off and in-filling the current bus stop lay-by which it is recommended is being moved around the corner.

**b. G.H. Dobson & Amusements**

Request to use Wheel Field for Fair Visit May 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> inclusive. Four days only.

Approval was proposed by Councillor Holland at the previous rent of £550 subject to no objections from the Police, seconded by Councillor Walls, a vote was taken

<b>in favour</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>against</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>abstentions</b>	<b>2</b>

**c. Scouts Annual Carnival**

12<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

Request to use Wheel Field for parking and donations/sponsorship.

Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Stovin proposed approval for the request of the use of the field and recommended a grant of £200 in support of the event, this was unanimously approved by the meeting.

**d. South Staffordshire Council**

South Staffs Local Development Framework Core Strategy  
Policy Choice – Consultation January 2010  
**Consultation ends 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010**

**Received** and noted.

**7. ACCOUNTS**

- a. **A report** on Council Finances for year to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010, acceptance proposed by Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Chapman, and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. **To receive** and approve schedule of payments 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010, a full explanation was given for each item by the Clerk and an apology that a cheque had inadvertently been missed numbered on the previous months schedule. This had been corrected and shown in this report. Acceptance proposed by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- c. **To receive** and approve Budget/Precept as recommended by Parish Council Finance Committee.

**The** Clerk gave a brief introduction to the budget and invited any questions that could help clarify any of the presented data.

Councillor Holland briefly outlined the discussions that had taken place in the Finance Committee and that four minor amendments had been made.

Councillor Michell proposed a further amendment to the budget proposing that the Village Hall Annual Grant be reduced by £1500, reducing the Precept by the same amount and keep the Precept to the same figure as last year.

There was no seconder for the proposal.

Discussion took place around the proposed Village Hall grant of £5,200, same as last year and the concern at the Village Halls continual losses.

Subsequently Councillor Holland proposed, seconded by Councillor Chapman that the recommendation of the Finance Committee be accepted namely:

‘That the Village Hall Annual Grant be paid this year but before consideration be given for the budget for 2011/12 that the V.H.M.C produce a business plan to improve their financial position. This should be produced before the end of 2010 at the latest.

Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Millar, proposed acceptance of the Budget Precept showing a 1.1% increase from the previous year. A vote was taken:

<b>In favour</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Against</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Abstentions</b>	<b>1</b>

Councillor Michell wished his name to be recorded as voting against.

## 8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**A written** report from County Councillor Robert Marshall was received this evening.

Councillor Marshall has presently been very busy reporting potholes! and urges that potholes are reported to County on 0800 232323 and a reference number will be given that needs to be noted as well as the date of the report.

The crisis with gritting has just about been averted. The reserves of rock salt that the County kept was more than all of the usage from last year, but because of the extreme winter these were insufficient to do our normal service. County were only managing all A and B roads towards the end of the cold period – which was still more than our neighbours.

The debate on Quarries continues. The big decision comes on March 17<sup>th</sup> but there is going to be another consultation on another option put forward by the consultations (a compromise attempt). Please can all that read this reply to it – and advises on how best to fill it in – very short!

All £10,000 of Councillor Marshalls LMIS was spent including £1000 for the church and £1300 for the Codsall Arts Festival.

A new bill called the Care at Home Bill is going through parliament. Basically if a person needs four types of help/care while living at home, this will be paid for by the local authority. In Staffordshire, the bill could be as much as £40m, of which the government would pay 75% (£30m). This still leaves the County with a shortfall of £10m. Still a very long way to go, but with very serious consequences for Staffordshire finances. It will probably take affect October 2010.

## 9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Minutes** of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010 was received and noted.

## 10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**A written** report from District Councillor Robert Marshall was received this evening.

Councillor Marshall advised that a decision at the last planning/regulatory meeting to allow an extra unit i54 site to be accessed from the Wobaston Road. There were many reservations expressed by many members (especially those from Bilbrook, Codsall and Brewood) about the extra traffic that will be passing through the local area. There are going to be some 'traffic improvements' along the Wobaston Road and Lawn Lane (the road to Brewood/Coven). There was an absolute guarantee that no other part of the i54 will be accessed from the Wobaston Road. Nobody is able to give any date for when the motorway access will be built – or indeed if AWM even have the money.

Many Parish Council members expressed concern that the new access to the i54 development is likely to be from Wobaston Road and this is going to cause considerable traffic problems through the centre of Codsall and Bilbrook and that the District Council should be endeavouring to prevent this proposal.

Codsall Leisure Centre is performing well against its financial targets. With an income of £260k against a budget of £234k; expenditure is £324k against a budget of £332k with a resulting percentage of income divided by expenditure of 80% against a budget of 71%.

Councillors Campbell and Michell advised that the Leisure Centre at Codsall is to be expanded with a larger Fitness Suite.

There is a planning application on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February on Wind Turbines in Penkridge. It is expected to be a very contentious item.

Council Tax will almost certainly be agreed at 1.9%, final decision to be made on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**10<sup>th</sup> March 2010**