

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

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

### PRESENT

**County Councillor** R Marshall (Chair), **District Councillors** Mrs P Campbell, J Michell (Late) Mrs S Oatley, **Parish Councillors** R Etheridge (Late), Mrs E Forster, B Holland, P Kenyon, L Stovin

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Councillor Robert Marshall had been requested by the Chairman to Chair the meeting. The Clerk asked the members for any nominations, the members unanimously appointed Cllr Marshall.

### 1. APOLOGIES

**Apologies** were received from Councillors Ewart, Millar, Walls (P. C. representative for the Arts Festival), Chapman, Etheridge, and Owen.

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

None

### 4. MINUTES

**The Minutes** of the meeting held on 10th February 2010. Approval recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Stovin, unanimously approved by the meeting and immediately signed by the Chairman.

### 5. POLICE REPORT

A written report on policing was received this evening for the period of 10/02/10 to 9/03/10:

#### Statistics

Criminal Damage	2
Anti Social Behaviour	3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	3
Burglary Dwelling	3
Burglary other	0

Reports on Criminal Damage related to the swings in Codsall Park and a small crack to a window caused by a small stone.

Anti Social Behaviour is again pleasingly low; it is worthy of note that the ASB figures are a reflection of the hard work undertaken by the police and partners in tackling this priority issue.

Theft from motor vehicles, the police advise that all valuables are locked away out of site and that Sat Nav cradles are also taken out of windows and locked away. High visibility police patrols have continued to be prevalent in pertinent areas such as car parks.

Burglary dwellings - forensic evidence has been obtained and investigations are still on going.

## 6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

### a. Parish Plan

To view accept and approve the key objectives of the Parish Plan. (Formal adoption of the Plan will be submitted following any amendments at the Parish Plan Conference on the 12<sup>th</sup> March). Amended Draft Parish Plan is available to view on [www.codsallparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.codsallparishcouncil.co.uk) see Parish Plan link.

Approval proposed by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Oatley and unanimously approved by the meeting.

The Clerk wished to record the time and the effort put into this Plan by Councillors Holland, Ewart and Millar and local resident Mr Stephen Skinner.

### b. Staffordshire County Council Community Paths Initiative – Bids 2010/11

To identify any locations for investigation by the Open Spaces Committee.

**Several suggestions** were made, which the Open Spaces Committee will investigate and prepare a bid, if appropriate.

### c. Shropshire Council

**Shropshire Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Final Plan Publication.** Comments on 'soundness' by 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

Viewing and response via [www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning)

**Received and noted**

### d. Codsall Clean-up Weekend 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> April. 10.30 a.m. at Singing Lady (Flappers)

Lead by Mr Stephen Skinner, supported by Codsall Parish Council and Pet Stop.

**Received and noted.**

Local resident Stephen Skinner was thanked for leading this initiative.

**e. Staffordshire County Council**

- i. Letter from County Councillor Robert Marshall seeking support to oppose West Midlands Regional Assembly quarrying objectives for the next decade.

**Councillor Marshall** explained that Staffordshire was disproportionately providing sand and gravel to the West Midlands Region. Full details are available to live [www.staffordhsire.gov.uk/mineralmadness](http://www.staffordhsire.gov.uk/mineralmadness) and should you agree please sign the E-petition before the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

- ii. Proposed Puffin Crossing Bakers Way, Codsall.  
Response to Parish Council's concerns.

**Members** received the response from County Council which advised that the crossing was necessary to provide a safe crossing for residents to the North of Bakers Way to the shops in the village.

The bus stop is to be moved towards Church Road and will improve rearward visibility for bus drivers exiting the stop.

The proposed scheme has passed an independent safety audit.

Members noted the response having been provided with a more detailed drawing for the proposal.

**f. Letter from John Dodd seeking support for Neighbourhood Watch set up costs.**

After discussion by members, members felt that the Parish Council could not financially support the set up costs for the Neighbourhood Watch, one scheme in isolation could be feasible, but would set a precedent and several scheme requests would adversely affect the Budget.

**g. Community Council of Staffordshire**

- i. Invitation to forum 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future' on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30 a.m. at Stafford Borough Council Civic Suite.

**Received and noted**

- ii. Invitation to renew membership at £12 pa. (We have made contribution of £20 in past years).  
£20 contribution proposed by Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and unanimously approved by the meeting.

- h. Wolverhampton Airport Action Group**  
Newsletter and proposal to mothball action group.

**Received and noted.**

The Clerk suggested a letter of thanks to the Wolverhampton Action Group maybe appropriate; this was readily endorsed by all members.

- i. South Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership**  
Requested update of locality profiles.

Members were asked to provide the Clerk with any appropriate information.

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

- a.** A report on Council Finances for year to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010, acceptance proposed by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Michell and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. To receive** and approve schedule of payments to 10th March 2010 a full explanation was given on each item by the Clerk. Acceptance proposed by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Michell and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- c. To approve** land maintenance work.
- i. Allotments – Trees, Stream & boundary - £540  
ii. Moatbrook – Nature Reserve path – 6 x cut & strim £600.00

**Approval for** land maintenance work at the Allotments and Moatbrook Nature Reserve was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting.

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

There was no written report this evening.

Councillor Robert Marshall advised that County Council Rates will increase by 1.9% this year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest of the Shire Counties. Next years budget will prove to be difficult with central government dictating increases in Health and Social Services.

Tenders for the Waste to Energy Plant at Four Ashes will be reviewed shortly and an appointment made.

The West Midlands Regional Assembly which disbands on the 31<sup>st</sup> March is to make a decision on 17<sup>th</sup> March relating to future Sand and Gravel extraction in Staffordshire see 6e, i. above.

Central Government funding will reduce by 5% from 2011.

**9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010 are not yet available, awaiting V.H.M.C. approval.

**10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

District Councillors Campbell, Oatley, & Michell advised:

- V Festival Appeal re Noise Limitation had been allowed this will allow increase of noise level by 5 decibels.  
Traffic problems caused by Access/Egress to site will be improved this year.
- Gypsy & Travellers sites are still in the background with several proposals coming forward, but none in our immediate area.
- Bus Passes and Tokens Control will pass to County Council Control 2011.

**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

In pursuance of the powers contained in Section 1 of the above Act I move that the press and public be now excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the business about to be transacted is of a confidential nature and that publicity will be prejudicial to the public interest.

**NEXT MEETING**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

## **CONFIDENTIAL**

### **Councillor Etheridge joined the meeting**

#### **Village Hall Management Committee**

- a. **To Brain Storm**, then discuss ideas on how VHMC can improve the facilities usage and financial position.

It was agreed to postpone the Brainstorm with Cllrs Marshall, Michell, Holland and Stovin, agreeing to meet in the near future together with Councillors Ewart and Chapman who will probably wish to be involved.

- b. **To consider additional financial support to cover VHMC current cashflow crisis.**

The Clerk presented the meeting with a summary he had prepared of the trading accounts for the past 2 years together with a projected 2010 trading Profit and Loss. This had been extracted from the 6 months cash-flow forecast, and Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 prepared by VHMC Treasurer.

From this information the Clerk had further summarised his recommendations for short-term support to the VHMC.

#### **Terms for consideration of additional support to Village Hall Management Committee.**

- Advanced payment of half-yearly grant of £2600 on 1<sup>st</sup> April (normally September) to cover projected Cash flow shortfall to end of June (excluding major repairs and Capital Expenditure), on the understanding that working alongside Parish Council sub-committee;
- Immediate action is taken to;
  1. Review costs particularly wages.
  2. Improve income.
  3. Increase usage of Hall and facilities
  4. Produce realistic Business Plan and means of delivery by beginning of June.
- Joint committee to assess and produce Capital expenditure needs for remainder of year, recommending any immediate support that maybe need from the P.C. by,
  1. Prioritising urgent replacements.
  2. Provide competitive quotes.
  3. Assess available grants.
- Revision of Cash flow and new projection to end of September, to be produced for the June Parish Council meeting for consideration of ongoing support.

A lengthy discussion took place on the Village Hall Management Committee's current financial position, with reflections made by several councillors that this had arisen from time to time over the last 20 years.

It was recognised that help is needed in the short term, both by way of advice and good practice as well as possible short-term financial assistance. Comments were made about the failure to accommodate the Bowling Club and the possibility of the Village Hall being run by the Parish Council, although the financial implications were not considered.

Eventually Councillor Stovin, seconded by Councillor Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting, proposed approval of the Clerks recommendations.