

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

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

on Wednesday 8th February 2012 at 7.30pm. following Planning

PRESENT

Parish Councillors R Etheridge (Chair), Mrs M Barrow, Mrs E Forster, B Holland, S Jenkinson, P Kenyon, Mrs C Millar, **Parish & District Councillors**, Mrs P Campbell, J Michell, **Parish & County Councillor** R Marshall,

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ewart, Chapman, and Almond

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 11th January 2012 were received, approval proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. POLICE REPORT

A report on policing for the period 12/1 to 8/2 inclusive:

Figures

Burglary Dwelling	1
Burglary other	0
Theft from motor vehicle	0
Criminal Damage	0
ASB	2

Parking at schools is still a concern and over the coming days and weeks the result of inconsiderate/illegal parking will likely result in the issue of tickets.

Also in terms of parking, drivers are asked to park correctly after dark or run the risk of being dealt with for night time offences.

Dog fouling has been raised by a number of people and is a concern; please note that it is an offence for which you can be given a penalty of high value.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Wheel Field

To receive and discuss results of residents suggestions.

The Report of Independent Audit of Residents suggestions for the Wheel Field from Survey conducted August/September 2011

THE WHEEL FIELD.

There are five types of response to the Parish Council's request for residents' views.

- 1) Private letters from residents.
- 2) Individually signed and addressed pro-forma,
- 3) Wheel Field petition individually signed and addressed.
- 4) Scouts-individually signed and addressed pro-forma.
- 5) Bowls Club-individually signed leaflet - no addresses .

In my opinion the survey has been correctly carried out and all residents have had an opportunity to express their views. In arriving at the following results I have taken into account all signed and addressed responses from residents of Codsall whilst ignoring any response which has not shown an address within Codsall and/or not been signed. Also I have only counted opinions once, where individuals have signed in more than one category.

	<u>Retain as at present or with minor landscaping.</u>	<u>Scout Hut.</u>	<u>Bowling Green.</u>
1)	57		36
2)	68		
3)	77		
4)		24	
	<hr/> 202	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 36
	77%	9%	14%

5) Although these forms have been signed, there is no reference to the addresses. As stated above, any documents received, without an address, have not been included. Printed on the top of this form is the statement - "Wheel Field Leisure Land - Used exclusively by a few dog walkers" I feel that this statement is incorrect and very misleading.

There were 438 forms returned in favour of a Bowling Green.

Acting Chairman Councillor Roger Etheridge asked members to review the document and if there are any immediate questions to be raised then the Clerk and the Independent Auditor who is present this evening will endeavour to answer any appropriate questions.

Councillor Roger Etheridge then asked members if they would take the report with them for deliberation and the report would be brought back to a future meeting for full discussion and agreement on the most appropriate way forward, considering the report and the suggestions from Codsall residents.

b. South Staffs Council

i. South Staffordshire Voluntary Car Scheme

To receive details of the proposed scheme for Locality 4 and request for ongoing commitment and financial support.

Acting Chairman Councillor Etheridge advised the meeting that he initially thought this was an excellent proposal, but having considered it in greater detail and appreciating that this is a voluntary scheme that will be manned by a paid administrator with a payment of expenses to the volunteers he had gone cold on the scheme.

Councillor Barrow advised the meeting that most large charities these days had full time administrators and co-ordinators, all of whom were paid.

Councillor Kenyon felt the scheme is worth while but that it is a large ongoing commitment for funding by the Parish Council.

Councillor Etheridge wondered what effect that this scheme would have on the voluntary schemes already in operation and in particular the South Staffs Local Voluntary Transport Group.

Councillor Holland wondered if the District Council had liased with the organisers of these other schemes and whether consideration had been given towards co-ordinaton of all the schemes, if of course they were agreeable.

Following further discussion the meeting asked the Clerk to write to the District Council to advise that; 'the Parish Council cannot endorse the scheme as it stands, and would not wish to be making a longstanding financial commitment at this time. Further wished that the District Council contact the existing schemes for the area to see if a revised scheme assisting and co-ordinating with the other groups would be feasible.'

ii. **Summer Sussed Out and About – 2012**

To receive and respond to proposed radically changed scheme for 2012.

Councillor Etheridge advised the meeting that the Parish Council has for a number of years supported the Summer Sussed Out and About Scheme, but this year it is radically different in that it would appear that the Parish Council would have to purchase the vouchers and then administer the applications for these vouchers through the Parish Council Office.

Councillor Etheridge and several other members advised that having used the scheme in the past that it was often time consuming to make contact with the administrator of the scheme previously, as it is very popular and the phone lines were continually tied down. For this reason it was felt the administration aspect could not be undertaken by the Parish Council Office.

Members unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council offering financial support to the scheme to a maximum £1200 (as previous years) but that the administration, issuing vouchers etc would have to be undertaken by the District Council as the Parish Office does not have the resources to assist nor would the Parish Council wish to be paying additional sums for the administration of the scheme.

County Councillor Robert Marshall apologised for having to leave the meeting early.

c. **To receive a letter** from Miss Molly Jones, aged 9, regarding Mobile Youth Club used by Walsall M.B.C.

Members received the letter from Miss Jones aged 9 and applauded her thought and sentiment in passing this scheme forward for consideration by the Parish Council.

Councillor Holland advised that he had been involved some years ago with something similar where the mobile youth club has a range of high tech equipment which would not normally be available in local youth clubs.

Members agreed that this was not a project that could easily be considered by Codsall Parish Council, particularly in view of the various youth clubs that are available within the Parish but that this scheme may wish to be considered by Staffordshire County Council. The Clerk advised the meeting that he will draw the details to County Council Robert Marshall attention with a request that he submit it to Staffordshire County Council.

The Clerk further volunteered to write to Miss Jones to thank her on behalf of Councillors for her thoughts and details of this initiative.

d. **South Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau**

Update on help to Codsall residents and request to increase grant to cover increased Village Hall rent, now £787.00 (current grant £750, already paid).

Members agreed that the South Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau is of great value to the residents of our village and as it was at the Parish Councils request for these surgeries to be held at the village hall it would be appropriate to continue to support the cost of the rent at the village hall.

Councillor Michell, seconded by Cllr Holland proposed making an additional payment for £37.50 to the Citizens Advice Bureau, but to ask them in future to advise the amount of the grant request in October of each year in order that this can be fully accounted for during the budget preparation. This was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

e. **Codsall Cleanup Weekend**

Mr Stephen Skinner has agreed to again lead this spring initiative on the weekend March 31st / April 1st commencing at 10.30am.

Councillors commitment will be welcome.

The Clerk advised that Parish Council will be writing to all of our local societies, seeking support. Acting Chairman Cllr Etheridge asked for a commitment from members. Councillor Jenkinson volunteered for Saturday 31st March and he will; endeavour to encourage other members of the community to support.

Councillor Ewart who was absent this evening has also confirmed that he will attend on Saturday 31st March.

f. **Codsall & Bilbrook History Society**

Advise of change of date for 'Local History weekend' as part of Queens Jubilee, to the weekend of 16th/17th June at Codsall Village Hall.

Received and noted. The Clerk advised that he had agreed that the History Society could borrow some of the Parish Council Minute books for the event. They have done this previously against their undertaking of safe return.

g. **Western Power Distribution**

Invitation to Stakeholder Workshop, on Future Investment Plans. Local venue, Villa Park, Birmingham – 22nd February 9.30 to 1 p.m. Followed by lunch.

Received and noted

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. A report on Council Finances for year to 31st January 2012 were received, approval proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. Schedule of payments to 8th February 2012 were received following a full explanation by the Clerk, approval proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Barrow and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

To receive a written report from County Councillor Robert Marshall:

The full County Council meeting tomorrow will approve the budget and will confirm that the County part of the council tax will NOT rise at all this coming year 2012/2013. This follows on from a freeze in this year 2011/2012. Full Council will also confirm that there will also be a 0% rise for the following year 2013/2014. Staffordshire is the only council in the country to make this commitment.

With some trepidation(!) I have attached a copy of the police report for crime figures for the first ten months of this year. There has (countywide) been an improvement in Domestic Burglary which is the problem issue at present.

Smartwater will start to be introduced to Bilbrook residents in the very near future. I was unaware that Parish councils get 50% extra kits from Smartwater and I fully intend to fund a second tranche in Bilbrook and one here in Codsall. First come first served for the Neighbourhood watch co-ordinators!

The official notice for the improvements to Station road have been sent out. Copies will be on the table for the meeting.

County HQ is the successful integration of Social Care with Health. It is not an understatement to say that this will save MANY MILLIONS in the forthcoming years – not least in the sharp reduction in duplication that is inherent in the existing system.

The Federation of Codsall Community High School, Bilbrook Middle School and Perton Middle School is now in place.

The head teacher of the Codsall Middle School will leave at the end of the Summer Term to become Head Teacher of an academy in Stone.

The Bus issue has been sorted out to the majorities satisfaction and the buses will alternate as suggested in numerous meetings. My personal thanks to those members who helped me in this rather “tricky” issue.

Finally, the highway engineers went to Wergs Hall Road to look at “Rogers Drain” and twice they were unable to locate the problem. They are / will have contacted Roger directly for him to show them the problem!

9. **CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 12th December 2011 and attaching reports
Received and noted

10. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**
To receive a written report from District Councillors.

Sussed

February Sussed bookings are currently being taken.

We are trialling a new method of promoting the sussed programme within the schools in a bid to save the council money, whereby the school children will receive a 'Teaser Flyer' style postcard stating when the holiday is, when bookings are being taken, and how to download a free programme or where to collect one from. It is hoped that this approach will work and continue to attract school children to the leisure centres sessions; if this approach works we are hoping to achieve some savings.

The Easter Sussed programme is printed and ready for distribution which will be done after the February half term holiday finishes.

The centres are still running well ahead of target. Income is £77,000p ahead of last year with income as a Percentage of operating costs ahead of the budgeted target and well ahead of the target of 85%.

Codsall is significantly over spent on supplies and services, but much of this is a result of the break-ins. For example, repairs directly attributed to the break-ins come to nearly £6,500. Due to the problems, there have been changes made to the security on site, with the installation of Roller Shutters to all vulnerable areas.

Baggeridge Country Park - Events

Dudley Kingswinford Running Club held a cross country race at the park on Saturday 14th Jan. The event was well supported with over 1200 people visiting the park on that day. Sunday 29th Jan, Halesowen Cycle Club held their annual cyclo-cross race where over 150 cyclists of all ages took part this year.

Project Title: Car park prices

New machines have been installed and the new tariff has come into effect. It led to a front page article in the Express & Star. New prices are £1.50 for 1 hour and £2.50 all day. The cost of the seasonal passes has remained the same.

Project Title: Aerial Ropes equal access project.

Closer to the Edge have secured grant aid to improve disabled access to the Aerial Ropes course. They will be constructing a new lower level course underneath the existing units. This will also incorporate easy access ramps to the new unit allowing wheel chair access straight to the ropes. Closer to the Edge plan to make this, plus market this new unit, as the best equal access unit of its type in the area.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a. Staffordshire County Council

i. Temporary Road Traffic Regulation Order

Station Road/Wolverhampton Road, Codsall W.E.F 11th March work anticipated to be completed by end May 2012.

Received and noted

ii. Ice Clearing by the Parish Council - Risk

Letter from Cllr M Maryon Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport

The Clerk added that on receipt of Councillor Maryon letter, he had advised Cllr Maryon of the numerous requests over many years for grit bins in the village, and the agreement reached in 2010 for 5 grit bins in the village centre.

These have not been installed. Following Cllr Maryons intervention it has is again being confirmed that the bins will be located in the near future.

iii. Notice of Submission of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010-2026 Development Plan Document

Confirmation that Joint Waste Core Strategy has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for Independent examination.

Received and noted

b. South Staffordshire District Council

i. Single Equality Scheme

Request for Councillors to respond to online consultations

Received and noted

c. **1st Bilbrook Codsall Scout Group**

Confirmation of Carnival date as 26th May 2012 and request for use of Wheel Field and consideration for Sponsorship by Parish Council.

The Meeting readily agreed for the use of the Wheel Field by the Scouts Carnival and sponsorship grant of £200 (£200), members were also mindful that in view of the recent arson attack on the Scout building with the theft and destruction of all of their equipment it may be appropriate for the Parish Council to make a small grant to assist in their renewal programme.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Scout Group to request that they advise what equipment they are seeking to replace with approximate costs and that the Parish Council will be pleased to consider a donation towards some of this equipment, with appropriate publicity to keep the Scout Groups renewal in residents mind.

12. HIGHWAY ISSUES?

To raise any concerns with County Council Highways

Several members advised that the first drain in Keepers Lane from Birches Bridge had dropped and this was proving hazardous for motorists and likely to cause vehicle damage or even an accident.

Several members also reported a mains leak in Suckling Green Lane near to the junction with Farway Gardens. The leak is severe and the road is flooded.

In the absence of County Councillor Robert Marshal who had to leave the meeting, the Clerk advised that these items would be flagged through the County Council's Clarence system for attention.

NEXT MEETING

14th March 2012

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.

Confidential**Working Party re Council Employees****Re Clerks Recommendation for Wages and Salaries increases**

To receive minutes and proposals from the Committee

Present

Cllr R Etheridge (Chairman) Cllrs Mrs C Millar, R Marshall, S Jenkinson, J
Michell, P Kenyon, B Holland, Mrs P Campbell, Mrs E Forster and Mrs M
Barrow

Confidential item

In pursuance of the powers contained in section 1 of the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960, the chairman moved 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.

Item 1; Remuneration to staff

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Holland gave a resume of the outcome of the various discussions that had taken place under the auspices of the joint working party following the Council meeting of the 11th January 2012.

It was unanimously resolved that;

1. the Council endorse the actions of the working group
2. the letters as now drafted and tabled at the meeting, be distributed to staff
3. the working party be authorized to proceed with the appointment of a suitably qualified person(s) to undertake the Job Evaluation exercise.

no decision be taken in respect of increased remuneration to staff or the filling of the vacant post of assistant foreman referred to by the Clerk in his report to Council on the 11th January, until such time as the job evaluation exercise has been completed.