

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall
on Wednesday 14th March 2012 at 7.30pm. following Planning

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Fraser

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

[] informed the meeting that a few Codsall High School pupils awaiting the no 5 bus on Elliots Lane, are causing problems such as: linking arms to block the road and forcing vehicles to stop, swearing, spitting and other unacceptable behaviour, some of which [] has photographic evidence. [] has reported the incidents to the High School and would like to stress that Mrs Tunnicliffe, Headteacher of Codsall High School, has taken firm action and disciplined those involved.

Mr Wright went onto to say that problems occurred when pupils caught the bus from Wolverhampton Road, but at least the stop was in a more visual position.

It is not the High Schools responsibility to govern and monitor the pupil's behaviour once they are out of the school gates. [] would wish to see the bus stop removed from Elliotts Lane.

Chairman Cllr Ewart asked members if there was anything they would wish to impart.

Cllr Marshall advised that the reason the Bus Company is still using the temporary stops is that there are not enough bus stops and a site meeting will be arranged.

Cllr Etheridge was appalled at the behaviour of those pupils involved and added that this behaviour would constitute a serious public disorder offence and surely a Police matter.

The Chairman asked if Police Inspector Donna Hart, who was present at the meeting this evening, would wish to comment.

Inspector Donna Hart informed the meeting that the Police are supporting the school, and have adopted an advisory role, but would enforce if the offences continue.

Councillor Marshall advised that he would arrange a site meeting for Councillors, Police, the High School, the Bus Company and Residents at 1.00 o'clock on a week day when predominantly the problems arise.

A Codsall resident [] reminded Councillors that the 5th Codsall Clean Up Weekend is taking place on 31st March & 1st April. The Clean Up Weekend fits in with the Parish Plan of Volunteering and would hope that Councillors would show leadership by example.

Chairman Cllr Ewart thanked all participants.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2012 were received. Approval proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Millar, unanimously agreed by the meeting and immediately signed by the Chairman.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

To elect a Vice-Chairman following resignation of Vice Chairmanship by Councillor Roger Etheridge.

Chairman Cllr Ewart advised the meeting that Cllr Etheridge has taken the decision to stand down as Vice Chair as current commitments would prevent him being able to give the time required to be Chairman. Cllr Ewart thanked Cllr Etheridge for his support given as Vice Chair.

Cllr Ewart proposed Cllr Michell to be Vice Chair; this was seconded by Cllr Stovin.

The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations. Cllr Barrow proposed Cllr Holland, this was seconded by Cllr Chapman.

Councillor Holland thanked members for their nomination, but stated that at present he would not stand. If however he were nominated at the AGM, he would accept.

Cllr Barrow was happy to withdraw her nomination.

Cllr Ewart proposed Cllr Michell to be Vice Chair; this was seconded by Cllr Stovin and unanimously approved by the meeting.

Cllr Etheridge thanked all members for their support during his time as Vice Chair, but felt that pressing pressures meant that he would not be able to give the time needed for the forthcoming year. He had enjoyed his time supporting the Chairman and would certainly look forward to a future time of being Chairman.

Cllr Chapman advised the meeting that she would have liked to have seen Cllr Etheridge as Chairman, as he is one of the Council's longest serving councillors, but respected Cllr Etheridge's decision. The role of Chairman and Vice Chairman is a demanding role and hopes that Councillor Michell has considered the time required to carry out the role effectively, as she is aware of Cllr Michell's commitments away from Codsall.

Cllr Michell thanked everyone for their confidence. He felt that it was a shame that Cllr Etheridge's circumstances meant he would not be Chair next year, as he was sure he would have done a fine job, but hoped he would see Cllr Etheridge as a future Chair.

Cllr Michell then took the seat of Vice Chair.

6. POLICE REPORT

6.1. To receive a report on policing

Chairman Councillor Matt Ewart welcomed Police Inspector Donna Hart.

Inspector Donna Hart said it was lovely to be back in Codsall as eight years previous she was Codsall's P.C.

Inspector Hart said that she could guarantee her style as tenacious, she has high standards and does not suffer lightly crime or anti social behaviour, she will follow from advisory to enforcement.

There will be changes; the Police have just introduced an appointment system. All appointments will be actioned within 24hrs, but efforts will now be made not just to priorities the crime, but the person who is reporting the crime. Early response will be made to those that are vulnerable and have reported ongoing problems.

Arresting Officers will now be able to hand over to Custody Officers freeing up 7/8 hours for each arrest for our local P.C.

PCSO Karly Salmon-Denson has joined the team. PCSO's have been given additional powers such as the power to arrest.

PCSO's are an important role in the Police Force; they provide a good visual presence.

The Police report will now be provided by the Community Safety Team, but P.C. Dave Allen will still provide context around the numbers.

A campaign will be made to promote the new non-emergency number 101, but the old number will still run alongside.

After answering Councillors questions, Chairman Cllr Matt Ewart thanked Inspector Hart for taking the time to address the Council this evening.

- 6.2. To meet** our new Commissioner for Community Safety, Staffordshire Mr Mick Harrison MBE who will give a brief report on his role and answer questions.

The Chairman introduced Mick Harrison MBE the new Commissioner for Community Safety for Staffordshire.

Mick Harrison informed the meeting that he had previously been a Police Officer for 33 years, the latter years spent as Chief Superintendent.

The figures reported at the Parish Council meetings may differ due to categorisation, or some crimes are just not reported, but the good news is that overall crime in the area is down and Codsall is a safe place to be.

Majority of crime stems from substance abuse - drugs and/or alcohol, this will be targeted by Strategic Integrated Offender Management Scheme. The Police will target with a vengeance those that re-offend, but if the offender wishes to turn things around they will be given support.

It is important that the cycle of crimes committed by father then son is stopped. The government is putting in place schemes for 'trouble families'. One problem family costs £75,000; Staffordshire spends £100 million on trouble families per year.

Staffordshire is the first in the country to offer a multi Agency Safety hub, bringing together all relevant partners i.e. child/adult social care, housing, police interalia.

Types of crime are changing in correlation to the economic climate. Smart Water is being utilised in problem areas, which has shown reductions in burglary where Smart Water is present.

After answering Councillors questions, Chairman Cllr Matt Ewart thanked Mick Harrison MBE for taking the time to address the Council this evening.

7. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

7.1 South Staffordshire District Council

i. South Staffordshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy Public Examination Schedule of Post Hearing Proposed Modifications

To receive documents of the above. Consultation period runs until 5pm 4th April 2012. Written responses should relate only to those changes contained in the schedule Document can be viewed in the Parish Chambers or CD given on request.

Received and noted

ii. South Staffordshire Rural Transport Partnership

Voluntary Car Scheme for Locality 4

To receive an update from SSRTP

Cllr Chapman informed the meeting that Locality 4 would like to be up and running but still has some distance to go. It was requested by the meeting to invite Mark Jenkinson the Locality Officer to attend the Planning meeting of the 28th March.

7.2 Open Spaces

7.2.1. Queens Jubilee

- i. To formally approve Open Spaces Committee recommendation for a Commemorative Sign at a cost of upto £3000. Design enclosed.
Approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Marshall and unanimously agreed by the meeting.
- ii. To delegate powers to the Open Spaces Committee to approve all expenditure upto £3,000 (or the amount approved in item 7.2.1.i).
Approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Marshall and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

7.2.2. Moatbrook Nature Reserve

- i. To agree cutting of footpaths around the nature reserve – 6 cuts £600 (£600 last year)
- ii. To agree to the request from the 'Friends of Moatbrook to place 3 natural oak benches around the reserve at a cost of £828 + Vat + Fitting.
- iii. Dogwoods and willows require cutting back £85.00

7.2.2 (i,ii,iii) Approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Marshall and unanimously agreed by the meeting

7.2.3 Oaken Drive Field

To receive legal advice from Dallow & Dallow regarding licence Agreement to Mr Furness of Oaken Drive Field.

Received and noted

7.3 Allotment/Leisure Garden

- i. To formally approve the Leisure Gardens Committee's recommendation regarding Self Management by the Watery Lane Allotment Association
- ii. To agree to the cutting of the Leylandi Hedge both sides and top at a cost of £650.00

7.3 (i,ii) Approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Marshall and unanimously agreed by the meeting

7.4 Celebration of Codsall Exhibition

Chairman Councillor Matt Ewart advised the meeting that the weekend had been very successful, the Parish Councils presence was valued and 30 responses were received.

The overall impression is that the parish is improving with good feedback, quite a few complaints regarding dog faeces and the Wheelfield was talked about with opinion polarised due to the recent consultation.

Most of the residents feel happy and safe but do not go out at night. The overall feeling that Codsall is on the up.

The Parish Council said that Rev Simon Witcombe has made a big difference in bringing the community together.

7.5 Codsall Clean Up Weekend

Saturday March 31st and Sunday 1st April 2012

10.30am Outside Flappers – Councillors are encouraged to attend.

Chairman Councillor Matt Ewart requested that as many Councillors attend the Clean Up Weekend as possible, it only requires an hour but the Feel Good Factor is immense.

8. ACCOUNTS

8.1. A report on Council Finances for year to 29th February 2012 was received, approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Stovin and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8.2. The schedule of payments to 14th March 2012 was received, approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Stovin and unanimously approved by the meeting.

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Robert Marshall gave a brief report this evening.

School Federation is going the right way.
Codsall Arts Festival has been a huge success.

10. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 16th January and attaching reports were received and noted.

Cllr Megan Barrow advised the meeting that events are being well supported. The new disabled toilets are now 'opened.' The Village Hall Management Committee are being very positive and very business minded.

Cllr Stovin informed the meeting that he is very pleased with the Village Hall Management Committee's attitude towards business and has nothing but praise for them.

Cllr Barrow will look into the security/access from Gorsty Hayes to the Village Hall.

11. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report this evening

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Stovin informed the meeting he would chase up Mr David Pattison – District Councils Head of Legal and Licensing, regarding the boundary of the Public Car Park.

Due to the barrier on the Village Hall car park, cars are now meeting on the Public Car Park resulting in increased litter. The Clerk was asked to write to the Co-operative to request that the picking of litter be increased.

13. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Councillor Etheridge thanked Cllr Marshall in his efforts to sort the ditch in Wergs Hall Road.

Drury Lane is 99% resolved.

Safer Routes to school could see an improvement to the A41

NEXT MEETING

11th April 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

A report on developments following the resignation of the Parish Council Clerk.