

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

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

on Wednesday 11th April 2012 at 7.30pm. following Planning

PRESENT

Parish & District Councillors M Ewart (Chair), Mrs P Campbell,
Parish Councillors, Mrs S Almond, M Barrow, R Etheridge, Mrs E Forster,
P Kenyon, Mrs C Millar & **County Councillor** R Marshall

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Holland, Stovin, Jenkinson & Michell

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

[] a Codsall resident and co-ordinator of Codsall Clean Up Weekend informed the meeting that the Spring Clean Up Weekend (held on 31st March and 1st April) was well attended by residents, Councillors and the local Scouts. [] asked if the Council could award a certificate to the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers involved, to encourage the young to participate in Community Volunteering. The Chairman advised [] that Certificates would be given.

[] requested if the Parish Council could arrange for more litter pickers to be available. The Clerk advised that this would be organised before the Autumn Clean Up.

The Chairman thanked [] for organising the Clean Up Weekend and said it was a very worthwhile Community event.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2012 were received, approval proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. POLICE REPORT

a. **A report on** policing from County Councillor Robert Marshall.
Year 10/11 & 11/12 comparison

Domestic Burglary	down by 6.7%
Theft of Motor Vehicles	down by 42.9%
Theft from motor vehicles	down by 13.8%
Personnel Robbery	down by 50%

6. **South Staffordshire Rural Transport Partnership**

Voluntary Car Scheme for Locality 4

A presentation from Mark Jenkinson – Partnership Locality Officer

Mark Jenkinson informed the meeting that the scheme is based on a two-year plan. The cost for Codsall in the first year would be £2,170, the second year £1,100. The costs are front loaded due to initial set up costs.

If a Parish decided to run the administration including the paid Co-ordinator, their costs would be reduced or waived altogether. If no Parish would undertake the administration, this would then need to be re-examined by the Locality Team. The scheme would not conflict with the scheme run by SSVLA.

Mark Jenkinson in response to questions confirmed that 85% of Insurance Companies would not increase Insurance Premiums to volunteers. The Parish Council could set the criteria to include, for example, the vulnerable as well as the elderly.

Cllr Barrow said that this could be a great asset for Codsall with a potential wider scope through the voluntary sector.

A proposal to accept the scheme in principle was proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Etheridge, a vote was taken:

For 8 Abstentions 1

7. **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS**

7.1 **Annual review of Standing Orders**

To discuss and approve any amendments to the Standing Orders

After discussion it was **resolved** that Cllr Etheridge outlines any amendments with consultation with the Clerk and brings back to a future meeting for approval.

7.2 **Accordance with s85 of LGA 1972**

To advise Members of a request to the Council seeking approval of absence for Cllr. Mrs. B. Fraser for the reason of ill health and to seek a decision on the request.

Due to the sensitivity of this personal matter, it was agreed by the meeting that this item be discussed in Confidential

7.3 **Bus Shelters in Codsall**

A letter from Gavin Williamson MP in relation to the bus shelters in Codsall and the poor state that they have reached was received.

Following discussion it was **resolved** by the meeting that the Clerk approaches the Bus Company to see if partial funding would be available. The item to be reviewed again in six months time.

- 7.4 Traffic Island – Elliotts Lane & Watery Lane**
Cllr Chapman to discuss the poor state of the Island and to consider any improvements that could be made.
After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Etheridge and unanimously **resolved** by the meeting that Cllr Val Chapman approach the 'Friends of Bilbrook' volunteer group for suggestions and ideas.
- 7.5 Rural Exception – Affordable Housing**
Housing Survey – a copy of the master survey and covering letter. For the Council to decide the way forward to review the documents and make any necessary changes or comments.
Following a brief discussion it was **proposed** by Cllr Ewart, seconded by Cllr Marshall and unanimously approved by the meeting that Cllr Holland reviews the survey as Chairman of the Parish Plan Committee.
- 7.6 GH Dobson & Son - Amusements**
To receive a request from the above for use of the Wheel Field for the small annual fair. From 16th – 19th May 2012.
Councillor Etheridge **proposed approval** with the usual terms, seconded by Cllr Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- 7.7 Staffordshire Parish Council's Association**
Annual Subscription request at £696 (£693)
Approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- 7.8 Community Council of Staffordshire**
Annual Subscription request £22 (£22)
Approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- 7.9 LCR**
Annual Subscription request £15.50 (£15.50)
Approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Chapman and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. ACCOUNTS

- a. [A report on Council Finances](#) for year to 31st March 2012 were received, **approval proposed** by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. [Schedule of payments to 12th April 2012](#) were received, **approval proposed** by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- c. **To receive** Internal Auditors Report and Approve Income & Expenditure Account and the Annual Return for year end 31st March 2012 and attaching Annual Governance statement, authorising The Chairman of the Meeting and the Responsible Financial Officer to immediately sign the document.
The Chairman asked if any member had any questions regarding the accounts. Questions were then answered by The Clerk.

Approval proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting. The Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer immediately signed the Annual Return.

- d. To receive** Draft Parish Council Accounts for year end 31st March 2012, pending Audit Commissions Report.

The Clerk advised that these are draft full Parish Accounts to the year end with all of the financial information linking back to the Annual Return. These accounts will be brought back for formal approval following the report from the Audit Commission.

- e. To approve** Council Insurance Renewal with Aon Insurance at £4575.77 (£4460.81)

Approval proposed by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting.

- f. APPROVAL for Mrs Maxine Baker – Acting Clerk - to be Signatory to Bank and other accounts**

Approval proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Barrow and unanimously approved by the meeting.

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from County Councillor Robert Marshall.

In general all crime has gone down and in a recent countrywide poll Staffordshire came second in peoples satisfaction in the Police.

Health Statistics in Staffordshire

Alcohol abuse is up, obesity is up, but infant mortality in Staffordshire is low.

The white line at the traffic light junction in Elliotts lane will be moved back to increase the turning circle for buses. A site meeting will be rescheduled to discuss the location of bus stops.

10. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 20th February 2012 and attaching reports were received.

Cllr Megan Barrow gave a brief report outlining that the Village Hall is doing well, an outside patio area is being created and should be completed shortly.

The Chairman Cllr Ewart informed the meeting that the Village Hall AGM is on Monday 16th April at 7pm.

11. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor Pat Campbell informed the meeting that the changes in Planning are now being enforced, a seminar will be offered to Parish Councils outlining the changes.

District Council is reviewing its lettings. The review document was left for perusal in the Parish Council Chambers.

South Staffordshire is introducing 'Connect' which is similar to Ring a Ride, but it is open to isolated rural locations.

Councillor Marshall expanded on the scheme stating that the criteria will stipulate that you must live at least 800m from the nearest bus stop. It is a single fare of £2.00, the service will be confined within the boundary of South Staffordshire. County Council however are looking to role the scheme out to the whole of Staffordshire.

Codsall Leisure Centre is performing well.

Parish Summit will take place 4th May 2012.

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

None

13. HIGHWAY ISSUES?

To raise any concerns with County Council Highways

The Public rights of way footpath at Mill Lane is in need of some attention with sign markers uprooted. The Clerk advised the meeting that Paul Rochfort from County Councils footpath Division has been advised of the issues. County Council Robert Marshall informed the meeting that he would request an update from County Council.

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

AGM 9th May 2012

