

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall
on Wednesday 11th July 2012 at 7.00 pm following Planning

PRESENT

District & Parish Councillors J Michell, Mrs P Campbell, **Parish Councillors** Mrs S Almond, Mrs M Barrow, Mrs V Chapman, R Etheridge, Mrs E Forster, B Hollnd, P Kenyon, **County & Parish Councillor** R Marshall

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ewart, Stovin, Jenkinson and Millar

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

3. **Crime and Disorder Act**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 places a duty on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications when exercising its functions and to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

Unless otherwise stated it was not considered that the resolutions moved herein would have any adverse impact for the purposes of the Crime and Disorder Act.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

[] a resident from Codsall Wood, said that he had just undergone training as part of Community SpeedWatch and asked if the Parish Council would fund the purchase of relevant Speed Watch Equipment for use in the location of Codsall Wood.

[] was advised that Bilbrook Parish Council and Codsall Parish Council had already purchased Speed Watch equipment such as a laser gun and that this one laser gun should be adequate to cover all areas.

Codsall & Bilbrook Community Speed Watch has stalled as a volunteer co-ordinator is required.

Cllr Brian Holland informed the meeting that he is willing to act as the Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator and would persue this with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership Co-ordinator.

[] a local resident asked Councillors to take into consideration results of the public consultation carried out on the Wheel Field and previous Parish Council meeting minutes.

[] said she would not like the Wheel Field sectioned off for a Bowling Green for a few private members.

[] would like to see the Wheel Field as an open Space that people can enjoy.

_____ said he would like to see the Wheel Field remain as a public Open space and if 1 private organisation is allowed a section of the field this will set a dangerous precedent.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2012 were **approved** as an accurate record and duly signed.

6. POLICE REPORT

- a. A report on crime figures compiled by South Staffordshire District Council was **received and noted**.

County Councillor Robert Marshall added that figures show that the first three months, County crime figures are down by 4% from last year. In South Staffordshire Locality 4 are the least improved locality.

7. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

7.1. Wheel Field

Following public consultation, Councillors to discuss and decide future plans for the field.

Cllr Chapman said that this has been on the table for a long time and referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2010. Cllr Chapman advised that the open spaces are for the benefit of the whole of the community and morally the field should not given for the use of one private club.

Cllr Marshall expressed his view that Codsall Parish has a moral duty to make as much use of the field, for as wider range of the community as possible. As far as he is concerned he would like to see more mature trees, more parking, picnic area and a green gym. It would not be right to leave it untouched for the few.

Cllr Kenyon said he would like to see the field utilised as a community space. Development could be done sympathetically enhancing the field, we should see this as an opportunity to benefit the wider community.

Cllr Holland agrees with Cllr Marshall that the field is under used and could be opened up to provide greater usage by the wider community. The Parish has a lack of facilities for older children, this presents an opportunity to provide facilities for all aspects of the community even bowlers, a benefit for the elderly. Cllr Holland stated he would like to see a green gym and a bowling green, providing extensive and best use of the field for all sections of the community.

Cllr Barrow agreed that the Parish lacked facilities for the older children and elderly and would like to see the field used for everyone in Codsall for pleasure.

Cllr Campbell agreed with Councillor Marshall that the field should be for the benefit of the whole of the village. Cllr Campbell would like to see it as the centre of the village becoming the Village Green similar to Wombourne.

Cllr Marshall proposed that this council approves sympathetic improvements to the provision of amenities to the Wheel Field that will enhance the enjoyment of this amenity for as many people in Codsall as possible.

The improvements will be in line with the Parish Plan and Community Plan Mission Statement.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Holland. A vote was taken:

For 7 Against 2 Abstentions 1

It was **Resolved** that an improvement scheme would be drawn up that will incorporate the activities of dog walking, annual fair, parking and have additional improvements to include mature tree planting, footpaths, a green gym, benches, picnic tables and a possible offer of an area to the Ex-Service Mens Club for the purpose of a bowling green. The Open Spaces Committee would liaise with interested parties including the police. Any member of the public wishing to be involved to write to the Parish Council.

7.2. Members' Conduct and the Registration and Disclosure of Interests

7.2.1 New Code of Conduct

For members to consider adopting the new code of conduct set out by SSDC once formalised, or NALC. **Resolved** that the Parish Council will formally adopt the new Code of Conduct set out by South Staffordshire District Council at its meeting of 12th September 2012.

7.3. Watery Lane Allotment & Leisure Garden Association

Written request received from the Association for a meeting to be arranged between a small group of Councillors and Committee members.

Resolved that the Open Spaces Committee meet beforehand to look into nationwide rents charged and how other allotment associations are organised. A representation from the Parish Council Open Spaces Committee will meet with the Watery Lane Allotment Assoc. Committee.

7.4. Upgrade of Parish Council Office Security

An upgrade of parish office security – cost £200 - inclusive of supply and installation.
Unanimously approved

7.5 TREE WORKS

7.5.1 Allotments – Watery Lane

7.5.1.1. To ratify expenditure to remove storm-damaged trees brought down over the brook, into field, damaging fence. Cost £350 – inclusive of the removal of all timber and repair to fence. **Resolved**

7.5.1.2. The removal of three dead Alder trees along brook - £300.00. **Approved**

7.5.2 Childrens Play Area

To remove all dead wood from Ash and the removal of overhanging limb onto Childrens Play Area - £115.00. + VAT. Consultation and advice has been taken from Mr S Dores, District Council Arboricultural Officer **Approved**.

7.5.3. Wheel Field

- 7.5.3.1. The felling of 5 beech trees due to canopy thinning within the last twelve months (an indication of root decay), increasing the threat to dwellings lining the south-eastern side of the road – cost £2750 + VAT. Consultation and advice has been taken from Mr S Dores, District Council Arboricultural Officer. **Approved**
- 7.5.3.2. Beech trees to be replaced by 5 new beech trees – Cost £875 for 5 (12-14 heavy standards – larger trees) or 5 for £450 (as standards – saplings). **Resolved** that this should be considered by the Open Spaces Committee at the next Open Spaces meeting.
- 7.5.3.3. To consider planting replacement trees ready for when the remaining beech are felled. A whip planted in Nov 2012 would be a standard by 2017, which is approximately the time the 3 remaining beech will need to be felled. Cost £2.00 per tree. **Resolved** that this should be considered by the Open Spaces Committee at the next Open Spaces meeting.
- 7.5.3.4. To consider receiving beech felled as planks for future use i.e. benches, plaques, bollards, signs, fence posts, natural log seat, etc. One trunk can be converted free of charge. **Approved.**

7.6. South Staffordshire Council

South Staffordshire Local Plan, Core Strategy Public Examination Schedule of NPPF and Post Consultation Proposed Modifications

Document is available to view in the Parish Chambers or online www.sstaffs.gov.uk/corestrategy . Consultation runs until Wednesday 8th August 2012. **Received and noted.**

7.7. **Station Parking**

Resolved to reschedule discussion until the meeting of 12th September as the site meeting which had been resolved to take place prior to tonight's meeting, has not taken place.

7.8. **Holiday Cover**

Resolved that Mrs Beverly Jenkinson covers the Acting Clerk from 18th July – 30th July, (8 days) on a voluntary basis with no remuneration.

7.9. **Employers' First Aid Obligations**

Resolved that in order to meet BS 8599-1 the new minimum level, the Parish Council purchase two new First Aid Kits (Parish Office and Workmens Garage) - Cost £14.75 each.

8. **FINANCE**

- 8.1. A report on Council Finances for year to 30th June 2012 was received. **Approval** proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Forster and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- 8.2. **Schedule** of payments to 11th July 2012 was received. **Approval** proposed by Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Barrow and unanimously approved by the meeting.

- 8.3. External Auditor's Certificate and Report. There are no issues arising from the Audit. The annual return is in accordance with proper practices and all relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met. **Matter of report.**
- 8.4. **To consider an** Application for Grant from Perton & Codsall UTD F.C. **Resolved** that this application is deferred until the following information has been provided:
- a. The grant amount given by Perton Parish Council
 - b. How many club members are residents of Codsall.
- 8.5. **Parish Council** Chambers building maintenance. **Resolved** that Councillors Jenkinson, Etheridge and the Acting Clerk compile and approve a dilapidation schedule with costs. The schedule is to be emailed to all Councillors, any objections or comments to be sent to the Acting Clerk within two days. If no amendments received, the work to be carried out over the summer recess.
- 8.6. **To consider** skip hire at a cost of £135.00 + VAT for the purpose of disposal of items within the parish office loft and workmens shed. **Approved.**
- 8.7. **Annual** subscription to CPALC £25.00 **Approved.**

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report from County Councillor Robert Marshall.

There has been a problem with flooding in recent weeks and some properties have flooded. I have spoken with, and have a meeting booked with David Wright on Tuesday 10th July to discuss all aspects of this, including the clearing of blocked gullies and drains.

The crime figures for Codsall / Bilbrook are mixed. Up to 28th June, serious acquisitive crime was down in Staffordshire as a whole by 4.4%. In South Staffs this figure was -35% (168 down to 109) but in our own patch it is up from 8 to 11. Domestic burglaries are the main issue, which is why I want to get Smartwater rolling in both Codsall and Bilbrook as soon as possible. Lime Tree Gardens is now completed; Lane Green Road (part of) will be started this month.

Violent Crime with Injury is down 7% across Staffordshire, 18% in South Staffs and no change in Codsall / Bilbrook (6 against 6). Domestic Violent Crime is down very slightly on last year (south Staffs down from 19 to 17, C&B down from 3 to 2). Antisocial behaviour across all Staffs is down 18% on last years figures (6471 down to 5330), South Staffs -38% (498 to 307). All this said, we do have some issues here in C&B.

The Conservative candidate for the new position of Police and Crime Commissioner will be announced after three Hustings on Thursday 12, Friday 13 and Saturday 14th. (the Friday event is at Codsall Village Hall)

Staffordshire County Council were invited to speak at a Public Health Festival on Monday 2nd July on the subject of Community Malnutrition. Extremely good feedback has been received.

The financial situation and the overall budget of the SCC was looking very rosy a few weeks ago, but demographic pressures (amongst other things) have made it much tighter than originally expected. No firm figures yet, but I should be able to give specific figures by Septembers meeting.

10. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 21st May 2012 and attaching reports were received.

11. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No written report from District Councillors were received this evening.

Cllr Marshall however advised the meeting the Codsall Leisure Centre Gym Facilities will be extended to over 900 members. The Leisure Centre is doing extremely well and has covered costs to income/expenditure.

In light of recent heavy rains District Council are cleaning drains.

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

None

13. HIGHWAY ISSUES?

Cllr Etheridge would like Oaken Park to be reappraised in light of recent flooding; drainage on Station Road under the bridge needs to be assessed as severe flooding keeps occurring.

NEXT MEETING

12th September 2012