

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 7.15pm. following Planning

## PRESENT

**District & Parish Councillors** J Michell (Chair), Mrs P Campbell, **Parish Councillors** Mrs V Birch, Mrs E Forster, B Holland, S Jenkinson, P Kenyon, L Stovin **County & Parish Councillor** R Marshall

### 1. APOLOGIES

**Apologies** were received from Cllrs Ewart, Chapman, Barrow, Etheridge, Almond & Millar

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

**None**

### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

[redacted] a resident from Codsall asked the Chairman if District Councillors could at a future council meeting, provide an update on South Staffordshire District Councils initiative on Climate Change.

The Chairman John Michell advised [redacted] that he and his fellow District Councillors would request an update from District Council.

*[ 7.23 Cllr Marshall arrived]*

### 4. MINUTES

**The Minutes** of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were **approved** as an accurate record and duly signed.

### 5. POLICE REPORT

To receive a report on policing from South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership. 1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> July. **A matter of report.**

Cllr Jenkinson wished the meeting to be advised that there had been ongoing problems within Oaken relating to anti social behaviour. Many of the elderly residents are feeling vulnerable and frightened by the antics of a group of youths. The youths have been jumping on cars, throwing eggs and being generally aggressive if approached. A number of residents have contacted the police but have had little support or feedback.

The Clerk advised that she too had reported the incident to the Police approximately four weeks ago, and again has not received any feedback.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he was aware that our local P.C. is on sick leave.

The meeting **Resolved** that the Clerk writes to Inspector Donna Gibbs expressing the Councils disappointment that no police reports have been submitted to the Parish Council for the last two months and the lack of feedback by the police to reported incidents.

## 6. **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- 6.1 To Adopt Code of Conduct for Councillors in compliance with the Localism Act 2011. The Council unanimously **approved** formal adoption of the new Code of Conduct this evening.
- 6.2 **Recruitment of Administration Assistant**
- 6.2.1 **Resolved** that the job advert for the post of Administration Assistant be approved.
- 6.2.2 **Resolved** that the advertisement for the vacancy of Administration Assistant be displayed on South Staffordshire District Councils website, the Parish Council website and Bilbrook Work Club.
- 6.2.3 **Resolved** to approve delegated powers on the recruitment of the post of Administration Assistant to be given to the Personnel Committee.
- 6.3 **Christmas Carol Service 2012**
- 6.3.1 **Resolved** to approve installation and removal of Christmas lighting 2012 at £3,600 + VAT (£8,500 last year) and any additional charges that maybe charged by Staffordshire County Council.
- 6.3.2 **Resolved** to approve the cost of the sound system for the Parish Council's annual Christmas Carol Service £170 (£160.00 last year).
- 6.4. Request received from County Councillor Robert Marshall for the Staffordshire flag to be flown on Codsall Parish buildings. **Resolved** that delegated powers are given to Cllr Robert Marshall to arrange for the flag to be flown on one of the Parish Councils existing flagpoles.
- 6.5. **St Nicholas** Parish Church – Christmas Tree Festival 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012 - to consider Parish Council's participation. Following discussion it was **resolved** that the Parish Council would not participate in this years Christmas Tree Festival.
- 6.6. **Planning Training** offered by South Staffordshire District Council on enforcement and an update of the Local Development Framework – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> November 18.30 – 20.30 at District Council Offices, Councillor Chamber. **Resolved** that Councillors Holland & Birch would attend one of the dates; they will advise the Clerk as to which date.
- 6.7. **Staffordshire County** Council Green Paper Launch Consultation - responses can be made online [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/greenpaper](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/greenpaper). Closing date 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012. **Matter of report.**
- 6.8. A request received from a Codsall resident for two or three benches to be installed within the fenced playground area in Codsall. Following discussion it was **resolved** that two benches in keeping with the play park be purchased and installed, upto to a cost of £600.
- 6.9. **Staffordshire Playing Fields Assoc.**
- 6.9.1 **Annual Report & Accounts 2011/12** – Held in Parish Council Chambers to view. **Matter of report.**
- 6.9.2 **Annual Subscription 2012/13** £15.00 (£15.00). Unanimously **Approved.**
- 6.10. **Smartwater Project – Codsall** - Funding has been received through the Staffordshire Local Community Fund, supported by Cllr Marshall for £1000. An order has been placed with Smart water. The Parish Council will liaise with South Staffs LPT Partnerships Manager and the Police to identify appropriate streets within Codsall, Codsall Wood and Oaken. **Matter of report.**

## 7. ACCOUNTS

- 7.1 A report on Council Finances for year to 31<sup>st</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 was received. Unanimously **approved**.
- 7.2 To receive schedule of payments to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Unanimously **approved**
- 7.3 A notice from the Audit Commission on the appointment of external auditor Grant Thornton UK from 2012/13 and scales of fees. **Matter of report**
- 7.4 Details of back pay for the Clerk for the period of 17/02/2012 – 01/09/2012, (the duration of the position held as Acting Clerk) was received. **Approval** for payment was proposed by Cllr Holland, seconded by Cllr Stovin and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- 7.5. **Grants & Donations**
- 7.5.1. **Codsall Community Arts Festival Assoc.**  
To receive a request for a donation towards the cost of booking Simon Trpceski to give a piano recital on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at Codsall Community High School. **Resolved** that the Parish Council would make a donation of £100.
- 7.5.2. St Nicholas - Half Year grant £3,000. **Resolved** to approve the half-year grant.
- 7.5.3. Codsall Village Hall – Half Year grant £2,600. **Resolved** that this would be brought back to the main meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

## 7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report from County Councillor Robert Marshall was received.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will sit on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and, amongst the items under consideration will be an update on how we are doing with Drugs and Alcohol.

There has been a change in how education will be funded. Although the total amount that our schools in Staffordshire receive will be the same as before, the way it is distributed will alter. Big schools get more, small schools and Middle schools will get less. Definitely a relevant subject in Codsall (and Bilbrook).

Two candidates have been announced for the Police and Crime Commissioner position for Staffordshire. The election will take place here in Staffordshire and over the whole country on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Smartwater Rollout project will commence in Codsall in the next couple of weeks.

There was a special Full Council meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the new Green Paper for Adult Care, the model which has been created here in Staffordshire.

Another big piece of work that every council needs to address is the “Troubled Families” agenda. In Staffordshire there are an estimated 1400 troubled families (and another 800 in Stoke). On average, each of these families costs society about £75,000 every year. There are three contributing forces: Worklessness, Truancy and Crime / Antisocial behaviour.

We have now got a list of our first 480 of these families. Tamworth, Newcastle and Cannock have the most, Staffs Moorlands, South Staffs and Lichfield have the least.

## 9. **CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 9.1 The minutes of V.H.M.C. were not received for this evening's meeting.
- 9.2 A request from Codsall Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee for the Parish Council to agree to improvements to the signage at the entrance of the Village Hall Car Park. **Resolved** that in principle the Parish Council has no objections to the Village Hall improving the signage. However this is subject to the Parish Council reviewing the design and the Village Hall seeking approval from the local planning authority.

## 10. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

A written report from District Councillor Robert Marshal.

The Localism Act received royal assent in November 2011 and two consequences are the "community right to challenge" and the "community right to bid". The District is currently working up a programme to support Parishes in any ventures that they undertake.

The latest corporate indicators have been published and the indicators show that the council is getting even more efficient in its dealings with the public.

Based on the 2011 Census, there are now 108,100 people living in South Staffs. Figures for age numbers and ethnicity and similar cohorts can be obtained on request.

The next edition of our South Staffs Review is being finalised and it will go out in October. The Council now has over 2000 followers on its Twitter Feed.

The locality consultation processes "My place, My Say" where members of the community, local businesses, voluntary sector etc has begun in earnest. A members forum for Locality 4 (Codsall, Bilbrook, Perton and Pattingham) will be held at the Council offices on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Staffordshire Environmental Fund is winding down and will stop on 31 – 3 – 2013. They hope to fund at least another 30 schemes totalling £600,000 so there is still time to apply for grants for any project that may be developed in Codsall. 01785 811600 or [www.staffs-environmental.co](http://www.staffs-environmental.co) are the contact details.

The council is still updating the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the District. The walking festival was the most successful to date with over 400 participants joining in the various walks all over South Staffordshire.

Work is constantly being done to improve service to the public. Over the 3 months May, June and July, there were 28,500 calls to the council and of these only 7% were "abandoned". In addition to this, about 3300 people were seen to by Solutions staff and other officers. Of these 3300, 84% were seen within 15 minutes.

The vacancy rate at our industrial units is 9.4% against a target of 10%.

Baggeridge Country Park has received Green Flag status for the 14<sup>th</sup> successive year.

In the year 2011/2012, 3% less was sent for disposal than the previous year and the recycling rate is now up to 50%.

## 11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- 11.1 Invitation to attend the Community Council of Staffordshire's Annual General Meeting - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 - 7p.m.  
Annual Report and Accounts can be viewed in the Parish Council Offices.  
**Matter of report**
- 11.2 **Staffordshire County** Council's Animal Health Seminar 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 to be held at South Staffordshire District Council Offices. **Matter of report**
- 11.3 **Friends of Moatbrook** Nature Reserve - AGM 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012 - 7p.m. to be held at Parish Council Chambers.  
The Chairman John Michell encouraged members to attend. Cllr Birch advised that she would attend.

## 12. HIGHWAY ISSUES

None

**NEXT MEETING**  
**10<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

*[ The meeting closed at 8.34pm ]*

[Bank Rec](#)

[Payment Schedule](#)