

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall
on Wednesday 10th October 2012 at 7.00pm. following Planning

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

No declarations of interest from Members were received and no requests for dispensation were submitted in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

There were a number of residents present at this evening meeting.

[] a resident of Codsall wished to speak regarding item 6.1. []
[] stated that a station car park would increase the problem of traffic flowing through and into the village and is in total disparity to the Parish & Community Plan.

[] went on to say that as with some of the other country style car parks within the District, an unlit car park situated in Oaken Drive Field would be a magnet for antisocial and perhaps criminal behaviour.

[] said that he is aware that Cllr Stovin is passionate about keeping our open spaces and that no proper surveys, such as a traffic survey, has been carried out. The Parish Council should justify the spending of taxpayers money on a car park.

If a vote was taken this evening then for the sake of consistency to previous meetings, it should be a named vote.

A resident from Kingsley Gardens informed Councillors that she had already written to the Parish Council outlining her fears that if an unlit car park is put on Oaken Drive Field how would this be policed? It could end up being a meeting point, which would then result in increased noise levels and anti social behaviour. The Parish Council should ask Network Rail why they sold the car park in the first place.

A piece of greenbelt should not be used for a car park.

Another resident from Kingsley Gardens added that the onus should be put on Network Rail to resolve the problem. If a station car park is implemented then the village will become a commuter village. A public consultation should be carried out.

A resident from Oaken Lanes said that they were concerned that not enough research has been carried out. What would happen if 70 commuters came to the village when the car park could only accommodate 30. The junction of Oaken Drive onto Station Road has seen near accidents, what costs would be involved to make it safe? and is there a real need for a car park?

[7.30pm Cllr Kenyon and other residents arrived]

The Chairman Cllr Michell advised the new arrivals of the discussion that had taken place and asked if any would wish to speak.

A resident from Fairfield Drive informed the meeting that Fairfield Drive was plagued by inconsiderate parking, but they would not wish to see the greenbelt used for parking - temporary or not.

A resident from Oaken Lanes accepts that the Parish Council has no legal duty to carry out surveys but it should have a moral duty to carry out statistical analysis of who would use the car park and where they are from as the Parishioners of Codsall would be the ones to have to pay.

Could not the Parish Council implement a similar system in operation at Bilbrook where a public car park is managed privately as an alternative for long stay parking?

Another resident from Oaken Lanes expressed his view that the problem lay with the railways selling off the original car park to the brewery and that the land should be compulsory purchased back by Network Rail.

Chairman Cllr Michell drew the Public Participation to a close as all members of the public wishing to speak had spoken.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2012 were **approved** as an accurate record and duly signed.

5. POLICE REPORT

a. **There was** no police report received this evening.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she is still awaiting a response to previous correspondence sent to Inspector Donna Gibbs. **It was resolved that the Clerk again writes to Inspector Donna Gibbs requesting a police report and feedback of recent crime in the area, to be received by the next council meeting of the 14th November 2012.**

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

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.

6.1. Station Parking

To discuss options to resolve station parking, following a recent site meeting with County Highways Community Liaison Manager, Mr D Wright, and Parish Councillors.

Cllr Holland asked the Clerk to give a brief resume of the report given to Councillors outlining station parking and a recent site meeting with County Highways.

The Clerk advised the meeting of the background to the parking problems; (from residents in the vicinity of the station petitioning the Parish Council to address the situation, to local traders expressing their concern that commuter parking within the centre of the village as having an adverse effect to trade). The Parish Council at its meeting of 23rd February 2011, resolved “to agree in principle to the provision of a car park” and for possible sites to be identified.

A preferred site was identified by the Parish Council, however negotiations have ended with no short-term solution that will enable the Parish Council to lease the land.

Therefore, if the Parish Council is to address parking issues created by railway users, the previous three identified sites needed to be reassessed. To help with the assessment, a site meeting was undertaken with Parish Councillors and County Council Highways Community Liaison Manger, Mr D Wright.

Mr Wright concluded that in terms of access and highway safety, Oaken Drive Field was the only feasible site.

The Chairman then asked Councillors to open the discussion:

Cllr Mrs V Birch said the Parish Council has two choices: to do nothing or to do something to address the parking situation.

Cllr Holland referred to Cllr Stovin’s report identifying a need for station parking and therefore a need to address the problem. However Cllr Holland advised that he did not want to see the village become a park and ride, but with the Parish Council already agreeing in principle to provide a car park Cllr Holland made two proposals;

Proposal 1

“ A temporary car park be provided for 30 vehicles on council owned land at Oaken Drive Fields, that the car park be constructed and landscaped to preserve the rural nature of the area.

That planning permission be sought for a temporary car park and that the District Council is asked to make the provision for the siting of a permanent car park in the next local development framework.

That the Clerk be asked to obtain design and costings for the car park.

That once designs and costing are obtained that they are presented to the council with the best way of financing the project.

That once the design and costings have been approved, the clerk be authorised to apply for planning permission.

That County Council in consultation with residents implement parking restrictions on highways around the station.

That Network rail provide secure and protected cycle racks at the station.”

Proposal 2

“That the Clerk be asked to arrange a meeting with the Co-op, District Council, traders and business as to the long term management of the Village Centre Car Parks.”

The two proposals were seconded by Cllr Birch.

Cllr Millar asked if the proposals could be discussed and voted separately. Cllr Holland confirmed that they were two separate proposals.

A discussion on Proposal 1 took place.

Cllr Birch reiterated that the parish had only two choices and the Parish Council has acknowledged that parking around the area of the station is a problem.

Cllr Stovin is concerned that Highways have manoeuvred the Parish Council into the site that is on greenbelt land, and he will strongly vote against it.

Cllr Marshall agreed with Cllr Birch in that the Parish Council has two choices to do something or not. Cllr Marshall feels that District Council should ensure that the preferred option is included in the Local Development Plan, that the proposed site at Oaken Fields is temporary and therefore as little cost as possible should be spent on its construction, but also ensuring that measures are in place to discourage any antisocial behaviour that might develop.

However Cllr Marshall advised that he is aware that parking at Codsall & Bilbrook is a big problem and advised the meeting that there had been a recent incident where an ambulance could not navigate a road because of station parking and had to drive over a verge. Therefore it would be a dereliction of duty if we did nothing.

Cllr Jenkinson said it would cause further issues if parking restrictions were imposed on the local roads without providing a car park.

Cllr Ewart said he had three points/concerns: The Car park would be unlit, that further consultation with Network Rail should take place, and how to ensure that the proposed temporary status will remain temporary. If we are uncertain that it would not remain temporary, then the car park in Oaken Field should not go ahead.

Cllr Ewart drew Councillors attention to a letter Mr Williamson MP had written to the Parish Council (a copy had been provided to all councillors that evening) that in his position as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of Transport, Mr Williamson is in constant talks with Network Rail.

Cllr Michell advised members that in 2008 a meeting with Network Rail had taken place and they had clearly indicated that they were not prepared to do anything, they had bigger problems in other areas. Then at an arranged meeting in 2011 with Mr Williamson MP, Midland Railway, Councillors and Network Rail, representatives from Network Rail failed to attend.

Cllr Michell advised that it would be unlikely that planning permission would be granted if Highways oppose, and in instances where the planning authority have approved plans against highways, they have then been overruled on appeal.

Cllr Birch advised that as Highways have indicated that they are not happy with the other sites and that there is no other land available, then we have no choice but to site the car park on greenbelt land. The issue of constructing a car park on greenbelt land however would apply to the preferred site as well as Oaken Drive Field, but with the addition of housing on the preferred site.

Cllr Holland said this is one of the most difficult decisions he has had to undertake since being a Parish Councillor, however parking is a real problem. There have been numerous conversations over good many years with Network Rail that has led nowhere. Cllr Holland went onto say that he is mindful for the village not to become a park and ride village and therefore the second proposal was important.

Cllr Holland reiterated for clarity, the above two proposals, seconded by Cllr Birch, a vote was taken:

Proposal 1 (as stated above)

For 10 Against 2 Abstentions 2

Proposal 2 (as stated above)

For 14 Against 0 Abstentions 0

Resolved that a temporary car park be provided for 30 vehicles on council owned land at Oaken Drive Fields, that the car park be constructed and landscaped to preserve the rural nature of the area.

That planning permission be sought for a temporary car park and that the District Council is asked to make the provision for the siting of a permanent car park in the next local development framework.

That the Clerk be asked to obtain design and costing for the car park.

That once designs and costing are obtained that they are presented to the council with the best way of financing the project.

That once the design and costing have been approved, the clerk be authorised to apply for planning permission.

That County Council in consultation with residents implements parking restrictions on highways around the station.

That Network rail provides secure and protected cycle racks at the station.

The Council also **resolved that the Clerk be asked to arrange a meeting with the Co-op, District Council, traders and business's as to the long term management of the Village Centre Car Parks.**

6.2. Codsall Clean Up Weekend

An invitation for Councillors to attend the Clean Up Weekend. Saturday 3rd November & Sunday 4th November 2012 at 10.30am. To meet by the Lone Singer / Crown Pub.

The Chairman informed the meeting that resident Mr Skinner has again kindly arranged for the Autumn Codsall Clean Up Weekend and would encourage as many members to attend.

Cllr Jenkinson advised that it would be encouraging for refreshments to be provided for volunteers after the Clean Up. The meeting **resolved** that coffee and biscuits be provided in the Parish Council Chamber for approximately 11.30am on the Saturday and Sunday.

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. To receive a report on Council Finances for year to 30th September 2012. Unanimously **approved**.
- b. To receive and approve schedule of payments to 10th October 2012. Unanimously **approved**.

- c. South Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau
Resolved that the annual subscription request for 2013/14 £787 (£787) be approved.
- d. To re-consider an Application for Grant from Perton & Codsall UTD F.C. following additional information being provided. **Resolved** that a donation of £250 be approved.
- e. To receive confirmation by the Chairman of authorisation of the Clerks time sheet. **Matter of report.**

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from County Councillor Robert Marshall.

Crime in the County is down by 7.5% although Locality 4 is not fairing so well.

36 troubled families are being targeted within South Staffordshire.

Support at Home scheme is proving to be successful and is now being adopted by other counties nation-wide as a template for good practise.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 18th June & 16th July and attaching reports.

Cllr Barrow advised that the Village Hall is fully booked most days.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from District Councillors.

Planning application for the new Community Fire Station has seen some objections, as the footprint will increase by 50%.

Codsall Leisure Centre is to extend the gym; the Leisure Centre is performing better than expectations with a 123% return on expenditure, excluding capital expense.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

11.1. South Staffordshire District Council

11.1.1 South Staffordshire Connect Update Report received,
Statistical data can be viewed in the Parish Chambers
Matter of report

11.1.2 South Staffordshire Local Plan – Engage update
Matter of report

11.2. Staffordshire County Council – The 2013 Volunteer Staffordshire Awards. Nominations can be made by going to:

www.volunteersstaffordshire.org.uk/awards

Matter of report

- 11.3. Staffordshire County Council – Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010-2026 Development Plan Document.
Notice of Consultation on proposed additional modifications following examination. The Table of Proposed Additional Modifications, the Tracked Change Version of the Strategy, the Policy Map and the Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Modifications are available to view at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/wcs. Responses can be made by emailing: programme.officer@staffordshire.gov.uk
Matter of report
- 11.4. Boundary Commission for England – Publication of revised proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries – Report to be published 16th October 2012, www.independent.gov.uk/boundarycommissionforengland. Consultations to be received by Tuesday 10th December 2012
Matter of report
- 11.5. Watery Lane Allotment Association – To receive an Invitation for Councillors & Clerk to attend AGM. Friday 12th October 2012, at The-Forget-me-Not Club at 7.30pm.
The Chairman encouraged members to attend. Cllr V Birch and the Clerk informed the meeting that that they were willing to attend.

12. HIGHWAY ISSUES

To raise any concerns with County Council Highways - **None.**

NEXT MEETING

14th November 2012