

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

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

on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.00pm. following Planning

**PRESENT: Parish & County Councillor:** B Spencer (Chairman);  
**Parish Councillors:** Mrs K Ewart, T Jeavons, S Jenkinson, B Holland, I Kenyon,  
Mrs C Millar, D Walls, and P Wright; **Parish & District Councillors:** Mrs M Barrow,  
J Michell

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Cain, Chapman, Loftus and Morrison.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**4. MINUTES**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be approved and signed as a true record.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

**5.1 Crime and anti-social behaviour figures for Locality 4**

**Police report for Locality 4 14<sup>th</sup> November – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

The following Police Crime and ASB Report was **received and noted:**

There have been quite a few incidents of cold callers in the area, including some saying they were ex-convicts. There was a male in the area for a couple of days who was responsible for distraction theft. There was also a high value theft from the building site on Watery lane, where 2 pieces of plant machinery were stolen. There have been a few burglaries in Codsall. On 23<sup>rd</sup> November an operation took place to target anti-social behaviour and drugs use. Between Great Wyrley and Codsall/Bilbrook, 19 stop searches were carried out, including people and vehicles. Drugs and an iron bar were seized off groups of youths out that night, including those in Codsall. Saddles have been stolen from an address in Oaken and a cattle crusher from a farm on Codsall Road. 'Rural Crime Day of Action' took place on 8<sup>th</sup> November. This was a nationwide operation. Staffs Police were pro-actively stopping farm and agricultural vehicles to check that the drivers were the owners or insured to drive them. Engagement visits were carried out at farms and rural businesses and crime prevention advice given to everyone. Land Rover Defenders were targeted, the occupants checked out and crime prevention advice given to keep these iconic vehicles safe. There was also an online surgery to answer any questions about the day or the work the Police do, it was very successful with almost 100 interactions, questions and comments.

Councillor then raised concerns that no one feels safe in their homes. The Chairman Councillor Spencer advised the meeting that the Government has agreed that the Police can increase their income via Council Tax.

Councillor Jenkinson raised a concern that funding for South Staffs, would be used for Birmingham.

Councillor Spencer outlined that there was a good response to the stop and search, which is a good tool if used appropriately.

The number of car key burglaries does not appear to have abated. However, we should press that Codsall is still a low crime area. The local Police will do what the local people want them to do. The District Council would like a day of action to target scrap metal vehicles.

Councillor Barrow feels that there are a finite number of PCSO's, the Police do things differently now, there are more Police Constables in cars which can then cover a larger area and be in attendance, earlier. One Police Constable walking the streets would not have the same impact. Crime is different now, we must move with the times, a lot goes on without us knowing.

Cllr. Holland said the public need reassurances, to let our residents know, the perception is worse than reality.

Councillor Jenkinson said there is an increase with theft from houses, we have a problem, we are not content, if times are bad, we should not be complacent.

Councillor Barrow said that we hear more of older people feeling more vulnerable as the news appears to report more violence and knife crime.

Councillor Wright said we should not to be compared with crime in London.

Councillor Spencer then advised the meeting that the Police & Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire is merging Police and Fire services, this will affect back office staff.

Some Councillors thought there should be more Police Surgeries held in Codsall, to get the views from residents, leaflets to be created and a leaflet drop in the area.

## 6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 6.1 Memorial tree in Oaken Field** – a resident's letter regarding a request for permission to plant a tree in Oaken Field in memory of their Son who died in November was received and considered. **Resolved** to grant permission for a tree to be planted in Oaken Field, the Clerk to seek SSDC Arborculturalist advice for the most appropriate specie of tree.
- 6.2 Community Funded School Crossing Patrols** – an email from Staffordshire County Council regarding communities funding school crossing patrols, was received and considered. Also, an email from Staffordshire Parish Councils Association regarding the legality of Parish Councils contributing to school crossing patrols was also received and considered.

Councillors debated on whether Parish Councils or District Council should fund School Crossing Patrols.

**Resolved** that the Clerk writes to Staffordshire County Council stating that unfortunately at this point in time, the Parish Council is not in a position to fund School Crossing Patrols.

- 6.3 Oaken Drive Field – Car Park** – consideration was given for granting permission for the Clerk to apply for the discharge of planning conditions 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Cllr Millar asked the Clerk to read out the full details of the conditions being considered.
- A vote was taken in favour for the Clerk to apply for the release of conditions 11,13,14,15 and 16: 9 in favour and 2 abstentions.
- Resolved** approval.

## 7. ACCOUNTS

- 7.1** **Resolved** that a report on Council Finances for year to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be approved.
- 7.2** **Resolved** that the schedule of payments to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 be approved.
- 7.3** Confirmation by the Chairman of the authorisation of the Clerks time sheet be approved. **Matter of report**

## 8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from County Councillor Bob Spencer:

- Senior leader position at Staffordshire County Council will be axed, this will save money.
- Numbers of looked after children, social care, and bed blocking are down, this is positive news.
- A decision by the High Court has ruled that now children cannot automatically be given to close relatives but will have to go in to care for an interim period. Previously children could stay with a relative. 200 million a year is spent on looked after children up to the age of 25, previously children were looked after up to the age of 18.
- Central Government has given extra money for highways, however there are strings attached, local parishes will have to share the load, match funding, more details to come.

- 9.** The minutes of C.V.H.M.C. meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 was **received and noted.**

## 10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from District Councillors:

- Cllr. Michell said the Auditors annual letter for SSDC Audit is unqualified, this is a good achievement.
- Cllr. Barrow reported on the Challenge Panel, benefits are changing to Universal Credit, claims must be done on line; we need to make sure that residents are aware of this. There is a large number of people who live in Bilbrook/Codsall who are on Universal Credit. When claiming Universal Credit it can take up to 5 weeks before the claimant receives any money. Land lords will no longer be paid by the system; the money is given direct to claimant who will need to pay their landlords. Workshops are being carried out to provide

information. The emphasis of the Universal Credit is to: work, budget and take responsibility.

Leaflets are to be created and distributed by SSDC.

- Cllr. Kenyon advised the work club is struggling with the extra demand that Universal Credit is causing, it is taking up a lot of time. More assistance needed, and volunteers to help with this.
- Cllr. Barrow thought that the Parish Council could look at setting up a food bank and suggested that this may be put on as a future agenda item.

#### **11. Councillors and Clerks Written Report**

The Clerks written report for November 2018 was received.

##### **Matter of report**

#### **12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

**12.1 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association** – bulletins dated 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were **received and noted.**

**12.2 SSDC – Council News Round-up** – issues 94 and 95 were **received and noted.**

**12.3 Staffordshire County Council Updates** – the November 2018 newsletter was **received and noted.**

**12.4 National Association of Local Councils** – the funding bulletin for November 2018 **was received and noted.**

**12.5 Society of Local Council Clerks** – an invitation to the 2019 Practitioners’ Conference on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 was **received and noted.**

**12.6 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association** – details of the Local Councillor Training Course on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Staffordshire Place One, Stafford was **received and noted.**

#### **13. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

Councillor Spencer said a significant amount of money has been injected in to highways. If there are any issues let Cllr. Spencer know and also Councillors ideas as to what you would like to see the money spent on.

Cllr. Barrow thought level 3 and 4 pot holes be addressed as these were missed in the recent repairs.

Councillors also thought that the Wheel estate is a big priority especially the pavement.

Cllr Spencer advised that this would be brought back to a future meeting for consideration once he had received further details of the money that would be made available.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

[Meeting closed 8.55pm]

## BANK RECONCILIATION as at 30th November 2018

	<b>Balances</b>
Lloyds Bank - Current a/c	8119.64
Lloyds Bank - Instant Savings a/c	64063.88
Nationwide- Business Savings	128273.40
Petty Cash	<u>100.00</u>
	<b>200556.92</b>

### Less Unpresented Cheques

6995      48.60

<u>48.60</u>	48.60
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>200508.32</u></u>

Brought forward start of year	187588.29
Receipts for year	169252.79
Less payments for year	<u>156332.76</u>
	<u><u>200508.32</u></u>

## PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL ON 12th December 2018

<u>Cheque</u>	<u>Payable to</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Value</u>
DD	Talk Talk (Opal)	Internet	23.31
DD	Intuit	Computer Programme	69.60
BP	Microsoft	Computer \Pogramme	79.99
BP	Amazon.Co.Uk	Office Equipment	13.74
Debit card	Amazon.Co.Uk	Parish Office - Stationery - command strips	21.34
CPT	Petty Cash	Petty Cash	90.00
DEP	Petty Cash	Petty Cash	-0.55
BP	Waterplus	Water - Parish Office & Allotments	212.36
Debit Card	Brookers	Xmas Carols - Reception & Carol Service	113.66
Debit Card	Midcounties Co-op	Xmas Carols - Reception	31.30
6989	Weston Saw Mill	Land Maint. & repair - Village Hall Bench	44.98
6990	Weston Saw Mill	Christmas Carols - X-mas Tree	540.00
6991	Information Comissioner	Parish Office - Data protection fee	40.00
6992	Codsall X-mas Fair Group	S137 Local Auth. Exp. Order - grants & donations	250.00
6993	Watery Lane Allotments & Leisure Gardens	S137 Exp. Order ocal Auth. Community fund - grants & donations	900.00
6994	South Staffs District Council	Land maint. Grass & hedge cut 2nd qtr.	3724.60
6995	The Lawnmower Hospital Ltd	Land maintenance - tool repair - blower	48.60
6996	The Salvation Army	S137 Local auth. Exp. Order community event - Christmas Carols event donation	100.00
6997	HMRC Inland Revenue	Tax & N.I.	1158.80
6998	Staffordshire County Council	Superannuation	1041.6
Bacs	Wages & Salaries	Wages & Salaries	4650.46
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>£13,153.79</u></b>