

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Rescheduled Main Council Meeting

held in the Parish Chambers,

Station Road, Codsall

on Wednesday 20th January 2010 at 7.30pm. following Planning

PRESENT

Parish Councillors M Ewart (Chair), Mrs M Barrow, Mrs V Chapman, Mrs E Forster
P Kenyon Mrs C Millar, D Walls **District Councillor** Mrs P Campbell,
Mrs S Oatley

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Owen, Stovin, Holland and Etheridge.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Item 6d, Proposed Federation of Bilbrook and Perton Middle Schools; Councillor Chapman is a governor of Bilbrook First School.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

Mr Stephen Skinner asked if any details had been received relating to the promised resurfacing of the pathway between Lloyds Bank and Wolverhampton Road, which had been promised by the County Council back in October.

The Chairman and the Clerk responded that indeed a promise was made but no dates had been provided, but County Council would be reminded of their obligation and the urgent necessity of this dangerous pavement/footpath to be resurfaced.

The Clerk asked members to report any poor surfaces particularly pavements and roadways, which had deteriorated badly as a result of the recent severe ice and snow. The Clerk advised that he had reported Station Road, between Wilkes Road and Chapel Lane. Members asked if the Clerk would also report the breaking up of the surface on the pedestrian crossing in Station Road, numerous pot holes and deteriorating surface in Stafford Lane, similar situation in Whitehouse Lane, Codsall Wood, and several large potholes developing in Heath House Lane. Additionally various sections of the grass verge on Wood Road have been damaged by contractors carrying out underground excavations in the road.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2009 were unanimously approved and immediately signed by the Chairman.

5. POLICE REPORT

A report on policing was received this evening for the period 10/12/2009 to 13/01/2010.

The figures for the period are as follows:

Burglary dwelling	3
Burglary other	3
Criminal damage	1
Theft of motor vehicle	0
Theft from motor vehicle	2
Anti Social Behaviour	8

Burglary other includes one where tack was taken from stables; please review security and be vigilant, report any suspicious characters to the local Police. Another incident has resulted in security being reviewed at a school where a theft took place out of hours. Systems are now in place and if it were to happen again, then the police would have good evidence with which to investigate.

The incident of criminal damage was the result of a possible snowball being thrown at a double glazed unit.

Two of the thefts from vehicles resulted in the loss of at least a sat nav; the police would like to reiterate again that items such as these are targeted at the moment by thieves, and therefore should be put out of sight, if not taken from the vehicle completely, as well as any indication of its presence within the vehicle.

Anti Social behaviour incidents are pleasingly low this month, to the credit of not only the police, but also others involved in local work.

Speed is a concern for many within the village. The police are training officers with a new device; drivers should take note that they are out there and that a notice for speeding results with points on your driving licence.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Staffordshire County Council

i. Proposed Pedestrian Controlled Crossing – Bakers Way Codsall Consultation, views and comments welcomed.

Consultation, views and comments, the Chairman sought Councillors views. Several Councillors questioned the necessity for this crossing and exactly who would benefit by a further crossing close to the junction with Church Road, with a further crossing within couple of hundred yards by the grass verge adjacent to Vaughan Gardens.

Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that there were no strong objections and bearing in mind that funding had been found for this

crossing and it is very close to implementation it would be churlish to refuse particularly as it is so difficult to obtain any improvements from Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.

ii. Integrated Planning and Transport Dept.

Staffordshire Freight Strategy – Parish Council Questionnaire

This relates to Heavy Goods Vehicles travelling through the area and trying to determine any increase.

This was acknowledged by members that heavy goods vehicles movements is not a particular problem other than the occasional difficulty when vehicles are servicing the stores in the village. However the Clerk asked members to complete and return the questionnaire to the County Council for their particular area if they consider it appropriate.

b. South Staffordshire Council

Updating and screening Report 2009 for Air Quality in South Staffordshire

To see report go on line, consultation period ends 31st January 2010.

Members were asked to go online through www.sstaffs.gov.uk to review the document and forward any comments they consider appropriate. Members considered the air quality in the Parish to be high, with no problems from any sources of pollution that they are aware.

c. Perton and Codsall United F.C.

The Progress report from club was received by members. The club is also seeking additional volunteer support, whilst members were not able to assist in this respect they all indicated that they would pass the message around the area to seek additional volunteers for the club.

d. Proposed Federation of Bilbrook and Perton Middle Schools

Consultation until 22nd February 2010.

Members believed that this move to make one head to cover two schools was an educational administrative matter, which did not directly affect Codsall Parish, and therefore did not consider it appropriate to make any comment.

e. Parish Plan

The draft Parish Plan is now available for consultation the Consultation period ending on the 12th February.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Plan had been produced by the Parish Plan Steering Committee who would welcome any comments on the draft and if any members or residents would like to make comments to please make these in writing to, the Parish Plan Steering Committee, c/o Parish Council or by email - codsallparishplan@googlemail.com.

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **A report** on Council Finances for year to 31st December 2009, was received, approval recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. **The** schedule of payments to 13th January 2010 was received following an explanation of each item by the Clerk. Approval recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of County Councillor Robert Marshall this evening there was no report submitted.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 16th November & 14th December 2009 & attaching reports were received and noted.

Councillor Megan Barrow who is Vice Chair of the VHMC advised the meeting that the committee is carefully looking at its accounts and budgets in order to increase its income. Whilst the Village Hall is being well used, increasing costs is causing a current deficit which needs to be addressed. Fees will be increased but other recommendations are being sought particularly on how to introduce more groups to these excellent facilities. There remains availability in the programme for other groups to use on a more regular basis. Councillor Barrow would keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Pat Campbell had advised members that the recent adverse weather had cancelled scheduled District Council meetings and at the moment there was nothing to report.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a. Staffordshire County Council

Re Gritting Schedule

Letter from Councillor Mike Maryon, the portfolio holder for highways, explained the current necessity to restrict road gritting to main roads during the recent extreme winter conditions.

Whilst South Staffordshire had not experienced the severe weather seen in the north of the county it was however recognised that whilst our main roads remained passable, many of our side roads in Codsall were extremely hazardous. The Parish Council request last year both in the early part of the year and towards the approaching winter period requesting gritting boxes in various locations, particularly for the village centre had been refused as 'Not Meeting Criteria'.

Additional comments were made that, if these requests had been heeded, the necessity for gritting crews to visit certain areas could have been reduced, at significant cost saving to the County Council.

The Clerk has indicated that he will again make these observations and requests to Staffordshire County Highways.

b. Community Council of Staffordshire

Best Kept Village Competition 2010

Following a brief discussion where it was acknowledged the difficulties and costs in being able to effectively compete in this competition remains restrictive, with many areas that are judged under the control of other authorities, and not the high standard required.

For this reason it was agreed not to enter the competition again this year.

c. South Staffs Community Partnership

Invitation to Councillors 45+ to attend **Intergenerational Workshop**

On the 10th February at Codsall High School, between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Clerk advised the call he had received to encourage Councillors to attend if they can. Councillor Oatley also advised she had been contacted and if anybody could attend could they please liase with Councillor Oatley accordingly.

d. Grants for Community Learning – Information Days

Invitation to attend – Local Venue Pendrell Hall

26th February 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Received and noted.

e. Community Council of Staffordshire

Staffordshire Diary of Village Events 2010.

Opportunity to add events – closing date 1st March.

Received and noted

The Parish Council will submit the days for the Codsall Cleanup Weekend.

The Clerks advised that this had been circulated through the Village Hall and other local organisations.

NEXT MEETING

10th February 2010

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

Christmas 2010

To consider outline proposal for Christmas Fayre in conjunction with Wolverhampton Round Table.

The Chairman and the Clerk advised members of a meeting that had taken place with Wolverhampton Round Table at the instigation of the Parish Council to discuss the possibility of a Codsall Christmas Fayre on possibly the second Saturday of December 2010.

This would be an all encompassing event involving traders, outside event organisers to run various stores and Christmas attractions to form a Christmas Fayre/market, following on latter on in the day by a formal Christmas Light switch on, followed by the Parish Councils traditional Carol singing concert and visit from Santa.

This is being given serious consideration by Wolverhampton Round Table who would basically lead and organise this ambitious event. The Round Table representatives were extremely keen to get involved and make this a regular event.

They are to discuss the matter at their next committee meeting and will come back to the Parish Council in due course.

The Parish Council Chairman Matt Ewart advises that if this did make progress he would hope that several members would volunteer to form a Parish Council sub-committee to join with the Round Table to facilitate and progress this ambitious event.