

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall,
on
Wednesday 11th February 2009 at 7.30pm. following Planning

PRESENT

District Councillors J Michell (Chair), Mrs P Campbell, R Marshall, **County Councillor** Mrs S Oatley, **Parish Councillors** Mrs V Chapman, R Etheridge (Late), M Ewart, Mrs E Forster, B Holland, P Kenyon, G Owen, L Stovin and D Walls.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs M Barrow.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Etheridge declared an interest in item 7c as a patron to Codsall Arts Festival.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

Mr Stephen Skinner enquired as to whether there would be a Public Meeting to meet the new Police Inspector, Inspector Andrew Chapman. Mr Skinner was advised that we were not aware of any arrangements at the present time, but the Parish Council would undoubtedly invite Inspector Chapman to a future Parish Council meeting.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2009, were received and unanimously approved and immediately signed by the Chairman.

5. POLICE REPORT

There was no Police report this evening.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- i. **South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership**
Face to Face Event

Notice of event Monday 16th March 2009 11a.m. to 1p.m.
Councillors and Public Welcome.

Was received and noted.

ii. **Shropshire Council**

Local development Framework for Shropshire Core Strategy Issues and Options – Consultation 26th January to 9th March 2009.

Was received and noted.

iii. **South Staffordshire Council**

Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Preferred Spatial Strategy - Consultation February 2009

- a. **Invitation to Councillors** to attend discussion 26th February 2009, 7p.m. to 8 p.m. – Codsall Parish Chamber.

Was received and noted.

The Chairman encouraged as many Councillors as possible to attend.

- b. **To receive and review** above documents and formulate any appropriate response.

The Chairman stressed the importance of examining this document and preparing an appropriate response and sort the views of members as to whether a sub committee should be formed to examine the document and prepare a response, with the Chairman suggesting that members attend the various planned meeting with officers before formulating a committee meeting.

Members were unsure of this approach and as this document had only just been received, members had not had the opportunity to view this rather substantial document.

Members however on reviewing the supporting documents were concerned that the presentation of the 'Settlement Hierarchy', showing a split of 'Main Service Villages, Local Service Villages and Small Service Villages', from which the major future development hinged, the bulk of the developments being proposed on the 'Main Service Villages', which include Codsall and Bilbrook.

Members were concerned that this 'Settlement Hierarchy' seems to be cast in stone and not forming part of the consultation document. Accordingly after lengthy discussions Councillor Robert Marshall proposed that the Parish Council minute and write to South Staffordshire Council recording the Parish Councils concern and unanimous opposition to the 'Settlement Hierarchy' as stated in these documents. Seconded by Councillor Chapman and unanimously approved by the meeting.

Members further asked the Clerk to write to all Parish Councils in South Staffordshire to advise them of our concern and seek their support and views.

Several members expressed the view that there was a very strong argument for the development of a new village within South Staffordshire as well as the view that many of the smaller villagers may welcome development to keep their communities alive and vibrant. Members were unanimous in their opposition to further increasing the large villages which in so doing will destroy the village structure and atmosphere that everyone is fighting to retain.

- c. **Additional Parish/District Council Liaison Group Meeting**
Monday 9th March. To receive Planning Officers Presentation on Core Strategy Document.
Nominations for attendance required.

Councillors Millar, Holland, Etheridge, Michell and Forster indicated that they would attend.

iv. **Recent Adverse Weather**

Are gritting contingency arrangements adequate for the needs of Codsall Parish?

County Councillors Oatley advised the meeting that she as well as the Clerk had been in contact with County Council Highways, during the recent adverse weather as certain high risk areas had not been gritted or salted nor were there grit bins available, which left many areas in extremely dangerous condition. County Council have advised Councillor Oatley that several roads in our Parish were exempt some years ago as they did not meet the usage criteria. No advice of these downgrades had been published. Councillor Oatley had supported the Parish Clerk in seeking the return of gritting on the main through roads to the village centre, Station Road and Oaken Lanes which have been scattering rinks during recent weeks, these roads are extremely narrow, with narrow pavements, which are used by a lot of people including people walking to the Railway station, and St Nicholas First School Walking Bus. With the pavements also being in a dangerous state, there is a high risk of accidents in these conditions. Other major areas of concern are Chillington Estate, particularly Chillington Drive, which provides the main access to St Nicholas School, several vehicles have been seen to skid off the road across the pavement in the recent adverse conditions, and again this is creating a high risk to school children and other pedestrians. Other areas of concern where a gritting lorry may not be relevant but certainly the provision of grit and salt would be appropriate are Holly Bush Lane and the main access roads to Oaken, Church Road and Sandy Lane and the village centre and main car parks where Traders and residents could provide self help.

Following a lengthy discussion Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk of any other locations where it would be realistic to provide a grit/salt bin.

The Clerk has then been asked to write to County Council Highways, with a formal request from the Parish Council relating to the provision of grit bins.

Members were extremely conscious that the recent adverse weather conditions have not been seen for some considerable number of years and do not wish to get this out of context, but members are also aware that long range weather forecasting is becoming far more accurate and that predictions for a particularly hard winter have been forecasted several months ago and members wondered whether the County Council (and other Councils through out the country), had paid sufficient heed to these warnings when reviewing the contingency arrangements for the winter including access and stop piling grit and sand as well as the appropriate equipment in the right locations including grit bins. Many members recalled that it was some years ago many farmers had a contract to clear and maintain certain roads during adverse weather.

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **To receive** a report on Council Finances for year to 31st January 2009
- b. **To receive** and approve schedule of payments to 11th February 2009.
- c. **Codsall Community Arts Festival**
To receive and approve grant for 2010 Festival.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

To receive a written report from County Councillor Sonja Oatley.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 19th January 2009 and attaching reports. **(Not received)**

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

To receive a written report from District Councillors.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a. *Staffordshire County Council*

Community Paths Initiative – Bids for 2009/10

b. *Community Council of Staffordshire*

Request to complete 'Community Support Survey'

c. *South Staffs Housing Association*

Letter to introduce new Neighbourhood Involvement Officer and request to meet Parish Councillors.

NEXT MEETING

11th March 2009.