

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

**Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,  
Station Road, Codsall  
on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 7.30pm. following Planning**

### **PRESENT**

**District Councillors**, J Michell (Chair), Mrs P Campbell, R Marshall,  
**District and County Councillor** Mrs S Oatley.

**Parish Councillors**, Mrs M Barrow, M Ewart, Mrs E Forster, B Holland,  
P Kenyon, Mrs C Millar, L Stovin.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

**Apologies** for absence were received from Cllrs Owen, Walls & Etheridge.

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**None**

### **3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Limited** to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

**Mrs Lin** Griffiths Chairman of the Twinning Association addressed the meeting to advise of the success of the recent visit to France. She also reiterated the thanks given by the French Major to the Twinning Association during the visit and also the request to pass on best wishes and gratitude to Codsall & Bilbrook Parish Councils.

A gift was passed from the Major to the Parish Council, a publication showing the splendours of the Loire. Thanks also expressed for the letter sent by the Parish Council to the Major of St Prevee - St Mesmin which was read out at the formal reception.

Lin read out an extract from a new members letter following their first vi excursion with the group to St Prevee - St Mesmin. Whilst they went with some trepidation they expressed their gratitude to everyone stating what a wonderful experience and the warmth of friendship extended to them during their stay. They closed by encouraging residents to join and experience the bon ami for themselves.

Mr Stephen Skinner briefly addressed the meeting to advise the progress of Speed Watch. Stephen and several volunteers have been out on several occasions and whilst they are out with the speed gun they are having a marked affect on vehicle speed during the duration of the operation. Stephen wondered if any progress had been made relating to the signage throughout the village to warn drivers that Speed Watch is in operation in the area. The Clerk advised that he

had written to County Council and had also spoken to the Highway Engineers, the feed back was positive and it is hoped that we should see signage on the key roads in the very near future.

Stephen went on to state that more volunteers are required to make the scheme even more effective and asked Councillors to seek support from residents and friends and to pass their details to Stephen who will make the necessary arrangements.

#### 4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 were received, unanimously approved and immediately signed by the Chairman.

#### 5. POLICE REPORT

A Written report on policing was received this evening.

##### Statistics

<b>Burglary (dwellings)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Burglary (other)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Theft of a motor vehicle</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Theft from motors</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Anti Social behaviour</b>	<b>24</b>

Two of the reported incidents of burglary (other) related to a property that is currently being renovated. The property has been targeted for tools and a dumper truck. Regular Police patrols have been instigated.

The incident of theft from motor vehicle was an opportunist who broke into the vehicle to take a handbag left in view. The Police would like to remind motorists to be mindful of what they leave in sight.

The Police feel that the Anti Social behaviour figures are pleasingly low during this period with Halloween and Bonfire night occurring within the period. The Police feel that this could be due to the placement of their dedicated Anti Social Behaviour Officer who has issued several Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to youths causing problems within the area, along with positive policing throughout both events.

#### 6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

##### a. South Staffordshire Council

##### i. **Presentation** on Climate Change.

Unfortunately the District Council did not send a representative as expected but had enlisted the help of the Energy Saving Trust to give a presentation on various grants that are available to make ones home more eco friendly. Mr Aaron Millar gave a PowerPoint presentation briefly explaining all of the grants

available - increased roof lagging, cavity wall insulation, boiler replacements (following boiler failure), double glazing, and some other grants that are currently available through various schemes, some operated by the Energy Saving Trust and others by various power companies.

Mr Millar explained that this was all linked to the government target of reducing carbon emissions by 20% by 2010 and 60% by 2050.

More information can be found on the website through [www.lowcarbonbuildings.com](http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.com) or telephoning 0800 512012.

Mr Millar was unaware of the original Parish Councils request to the District Council for a presentation on how the council and councillors can increase awareness in the community and Mr Millar was unable to help in this respect.

The Chairman thanked Mr Millar for his presentation and his time this evening and also for providing the Parish Council with numerous booklets and flyers relating to the various energy saving grants available.

- ii. Mrs Maggie Quinn from the District Councils Crime Prevention Partnership thanked the Chairman for allowing her to attend at such short notice to give this brief presentation.

Mrs Quinn advised that the Codsall and Bilbrook Youth Group had been running for some time but mainly due to illness and a few other difficulties had not made a great deal of progress in recent months. Mrs Quinn advised that they are basically re-launching the action plan covering both Codsall and Bilbrook to establish activities for young people through the Codsall and Bilbrook Youth Group and other agencies. The aim is to literally produce a database of where we are now and Maggie outlined the action programme for the coming months, including speed dating sessions where young people will be able to talk one to one with Parish Councillors to establish youth requirements in the area. It is also hoped to bring in a friends group to help further all of these aims and assist the action group not only in talking to youths but in the implementation of any future agreed programmes.

Maggie briefly outlined some of the activities in mind including a tea dance for mature citizens, which is being organised at Codsall Community High School by the pupils themselves. It is also hoped to organise a celebration event in July based in Bilbrook and supported by Bilbrook Parish Council, street meetings are also to be organised to allow all residents young and old to meet with various agencies to advise them what they believe is required by the young people in our community.

Maggie agreed that data to show the progress should be recorded and reported to Parish Councils from time to time.

The Chairman thanked Maggie Quinn for her presentation and wished her every success with this initiative.

**b. Freedom of Information Act.  
Model Publication Scheme**

To adopt:

- Model Publication Scheme
- Guide to information

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council is obliged to adopt the Model Publication Scheme as published and also to provide a guide on the information that is available to the general public and how to access it. The Clerk had produced a model guide for the Parish Council that covered all the information required under the Publication Scheme. The vast majority of this information is already available on the Parish Councils website as indicated in the guide but there were a couple of areas where amendments will be required to the website, which the Clerk will tackle as soon as he is able. Councillor Ewart proposed acceptance of the scheme and the guide; this was seconded by Councillor Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting.

**c. Communities & Local Government**

Consultation – Codes of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees.

The Clerk advised that this is a consultation exercise and comments are required to be submitted by the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. Following discussion members unanimously agreed that this further legislation is inappropriate and unnecessary for Parish Councils and the Clerk was asked to write an appropriate letter expressing these views to the Committees and Local Government Office.

**d. South Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership  
Locality member Forum**

Councillor's Chapman, Oatley, Millar and Marshall advised that they would be attending the event.

**e. Staffordshire County Council**

**Consultation on:**

- (1) The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Core Strategy
- (2) The Staffordshire Minerals Core Strategy

The Clerk advised that we receive these consultations periodically and to date the Parish Council has not deemed it necessary to comment. However the Clerk advised that both of these documents are now available to view on line with

comments if appropriate to be placed on line. A hard copy document has not been produced for Parish Councils nor is it possible to download. The Clerk asked Councillors to view the documents on line and pass any appropriate comments to the County Council by the 24<sup>th</sup> November.

## 7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **A report** on Council Finances for year to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 was received approval recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Oatley and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. **The schedule** of payments to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 was received, with a full explanation of each item being given by the clerk, approval was recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- c. **Data Protection Act 1998** – To approve Annual Renewal at £35. **Approval** proposed by Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting.

## 8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**To receive** a written report from County Councillor Sonja Oatley.

Planning permission has been granted to adapt the car park at Bilbrook House.

A street meeting was held on Suckling Green Lane, and Mark Keeling Traffic Management Officer from Highways has outlined the following improvements:

Improved signs on the approach to the 'S' bend.  
 Installation of 2 black/white chevrons to highlight the bend.  
 Installation of red/black reflector posts on the bend and on the verge in front of the house.  
 The road surface will be tested for skid resistance.  
 A speed and volume count on the straight section to update records on current trends  
 The site will be considered for a speed indication device for next year's programme.

Councillor Oatley advised that she believes that the Community Learning Partnership will be in position too make a grant of £11,000.00 to the Village Hall towards the refurbishment of the Car Park. Councillor Oatley further advised that the Senior Citizens Tea Dance being organised by Pupils at Codsall Community High School are now on sale at £2 each, they are on sale in various local shops.

## 9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**The minutes** of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and attaching reports were received and noted.

## 10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**There was** no report this evening.

## 11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

### a. Bus Shelter A41 Kingswood

A letter from Perton Parish Council was received. It is believed that this shelter is barely used by the public, the frequency of the bus service on this route is low. Consideration was given to removing this bus shelter which is quite an age but on balance considering the encouragement to use public transport it was agreed that the shelter should be retained and the Clerk was asked if our workmen could continue with the refurbishment. It was not considered appropriate in view of the usage to consider a replacement.

### b. Shrewsbury – Wolverhampton Rail Users Assoc.

i **The Notice** of A.G.M. 7<sup>th</sup> November was received and noted.

ii. **The renewal** of Annual Subscription at £10 p.a., approval proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Ewart and unanimously approved by the meeting.

### c. Letter from Mr N.P. Caine – Perton re Histons Hill Traffic Lights.

Members discussed Mr Caine's letter but as the Road Safety Committee is already reviewing road safety in our area including various roads junctions it was considered appropriate to allow the Road Safety Committee to continue and formulate its own views.

Mr Caine will be advised of the result in due course the meeting did not feel it was appropriate to support Mr Caines proposals at this time.

### d. South Staffordshire Council

The meeting received a copy of the letter from the District Council relating to the large tree survey that District Council has implemented, inviting the Parish Council to have their open spaces surveyed.

The Clerk, supported by the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee, recommended this survey together periodic inspections by the District Council. The of the Tree Specialists will then be formally recorded, and a data base maintained by the District Council of all tree risks in South Staffs, together with a record of remedial works.

Large trees are a risk and can cause severe damage and injury if not properly maintained.

The cost of the survey is £2.75 per tree, it is anticipated that the overall cost for Parish Council for all its open spaces could be in the region of £700. Approval recommended by Councillor

Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Oatley and unanimously approved the meeting.

e. **Letter from Mr A.R. Hammond.**

**Mr Hammond** had written advising that he could not hear the Memorial Service on Remembrance Sunday at Codsall War Memorial and wondered if the Parish Council would be prepared to provide amplification at future services.

The Clerk advised that he had copied the letter to the Royal British Legion and to the vicar Revd Simon Witcombe. In recent years a megaphone has been used for the role call but it was clearly not used this time. Councillor Chapman advised that the Conservative Association had a megaphone and recommended that the British Legion approach the Association to borrow the megaphone in future years if they are unable to provide one for themselves.

It was considered inappropriate for the Parish Council to intervene into a British Legion event and the cost of hiring the equipment for such a short period of time was very prohibitive.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**10<sup>th</sup> December 2008**