

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall
on Wednesday 9th December 2009 at 7.30pm. following Planning**

PRESENT

Parish Councillors M Ewart, Chairman, Mrs E Forster, Mrs C Millar, G Owen, L Stovin

District Councillors Mrs P Campbell, Mrs S Oatley

County Councillor R Marshall

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Kenyon, Walls, Holland, Chapman, Barrow and Etheridge

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

Mr Stephen Skinner advised the meeting that the Codsall Clean Up Weekend had again been successful and whilst the litter and rubbish was considerably less than previously, nevertheless they had filled a large number of bags.

The Chairman thanked Mr Skinner for organising and leading this event and hoped that Mr Skinner would organise a similar weekend next year.

Mr Skinner thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk for the organisation on behalf of the Parish Council together with provision of litter pickers and gloves together with Pet Stop who have also provided equipment and sponsorship for this event. Mr Skinner confirmed that it is the intention to organise a similar event in April 2010 on dates to be arranged.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2009 were received and unanimously approved by the meeting and immediately signed by the Chair.

5. POLICE REPORT

- a. **Response** from Inspector Chapman.
A letter from Inspector Chapman acknowledging the lack of monthly reports, but also confirming that it is the Police intention to provide either an Officer in person or a written report at each monthly meeting. This was received and noted without further comment.
- b. **Written** report from P.C. David Allen, apologises for the lack of reports in the previous two months. This report was received and noted.

Statistics

Period 12/11/09 – 6/12/09

Burglary dwelling	0
Burglary other	1
Criminal Damage	6
Theft from motor vehicle	5
Theft of motor vehicle	0
Anti Social Behaviour	5

Thefts from motor vehicles include 2 sat nav's, one of which had been left on show, a theft of a handbag although placed under a seat it could still have been visible, and money left in view. The police urge that no valuables are left in the car or if they have to be, then keep them well out of sight.

The ASB figures include only two incidents of youths causing nuisance, the others relate to 2 parking incidents and a domestic related incident.

The figures over the last 12 months show just how hard the team at Codsall, the PCSO's in particular have worked; they are told to avoid confrontation and whilst they do that, they still get involved and help out in other ways. Without their efforts and the CCTV team, Codsall would be a far worse place and the figures would reflect this.

Youths causing a nuisance and the dropping of litter has much improved, or there have been fewer reports.

More officers are now trained on the new speed laser device; the problem streets will be targeted more often to encourage responsible driving through the village.

Parking continues to be a concern, the new attendant is making every effort to cover this area on a regular basis, and has issued notices for parking offences.

The “Parking to Perfection” scheme has been introduced at St Nicholas School, to encourage responsible parking.

Councillor Stovin advised that he had recently attended a Police Consultative Meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. Concern had been expressed at the meeting relating to the CCTV cameras and their effectiveness. Effectiveness and efficiency of the system was endorsed by the Police Authority and a number of crimes had been prevented as well as numerous incidents being resolved by the intervention of the monitoring officers, alerting the police to problems. These include anti social behaviour, attempted theft and burglary as well as drug dealing. Councillor Stovin also advised that the Police Consultative Meetings have discussed changing their structure and venues to encourage greater public participation. One of the suggestions is to include this with the regular Locality Forum Meetings.

Councillor Elizabeth Forster advised how unsettling it was particularly for elderly people, to have the gas and electricity meter readers knocking on their door on the dark winter evenings to read their respective meters. There could be security issues involved as well as a possibility of deception by the criminal fraternity.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Codsall Community Arts Festival

To receive details of Arts Festival 10th-27th March 2010 including Codsall Parish Council sponsored event ‘A Celebration of Dickens’ with Robert Powell on Saturday 20th March.

Received and noted.

b. Black Country Core Strategy

Publication of Core Strategy – Representations invited between 30th November to 15th January 2010.

Received and noted. Several Councillors advised that they would look at the document online to see if there was anything untoward, which could adversely affect Codsall and South Staffordshire.

Councillor Stovin supported by several other Councillors advised that the i54 Development had originally been agreed with access only from the M54 motor way, all of the publicity seen recently in the Express & Star indicated that the access is now to be made from Wobaston Road.

County Councillor Robert Marshall advised that Wolverhampton City Council is pushing for a revised access off Wobaston Road, but Staffordshire County Council and South Staffordshire Council have not agreed to this revision. It is believed that funds are no longer available through Advantage West Midlands for the proposed road from the M54 and therefore a cheaper alternative is being sought.

Councillor Marshall believes that a compromise solution may be a new entrance from the Stafford Road, but he stressed that no agreement has yet been made. It would appear that the significant publicity recently seen in the Express & Star could be posturing on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council for the new access off Wobaston Road.

- c. South Staffordshire Local Development Framework**
Village Design Guide – Supplementary Planning Document
Formally adopted 15th September 2009.
Now available for Public Inspection.

Received and noted.

- d. Staffordshire County Council – Highways**
Response re Winter Weather Contingency Arrangements

Received and noted. Whilst County Council have not implemented any of the Parish Councils requests for additional Grit Bins, apparently not matching criteria, members felt that they could do little more at the present time. Protest will be made if problems occur during the winter adverse weather.

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. A report on Council Finances for year to 30th November 2009** was received, approval recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. Schedule of payments to the 9th December 2009** was received, approval recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Owen following a detailed explanation of each item by the Clerk. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.
- c. Annual Subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks** at £190, (£187.00). Approval recommended by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Oatley and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- d. Broad Band set up** with Pipex at £14.50 per month plus set up costs of approx. £40.00, approval recommended by Councillor

Owen, seconded by Councillor Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report was received from County Councillor Robert Marshall.

The main issue under discussion is the Medium Term Financial Strategy and how to make the necessary savings, with many departments heading for an overspend in spite of many savings already being made.

Two policy advisory groups are in operation. One is examining sickness absence while the other is examining everything to do with renewable energy.

Whilst the Winter Weather Contingency response by Highways Department had not agreed to the extra grit bins requested by the Parish Council, Councillor Robert Marshall advised that precautionary salting and gritting was being reviewed in an attempt to save in the region of £300,000. If this were approved there is every likely hood that additional gritting bins will be provided on numerous locations throughout the whole of Staffordshire.

Councillor Marshall also advised that the site meeting to further assess the request from the Parish Council for sequential phased traffic lights on Histons Hill is still to be arranged and the Parish Council will be advised of the date in order that representatives can attend.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 14th September and 19th October and Annual Accounts for year ended 31st December 2008 and attaching reports, were received and noted.

The Clerk advised the meeting that following the letter advising of the non receipt of both the minutes and the accounts the Chairman Mrs Pam Allan had personally delivered the missing reports and annual accounts and offered the Management Committee's sincere apologies, this had purely been an oversight.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no written report this evening.

The District Councillors present, advised that District Councillors had agreed not to increase their allowances for the coming year but had agreed a reduction of approximately £200 per Councillor.

There has been a disparity on the recharging of grass cutting to various Parishes, this has now been rectified and all Parish Councils will have to pay for their grass cutting and land maintenance.

The travel Token arrangement is being reviewed with the possibility of restricting there issue to the 70+ age group. If this were introduced this would save approximately £80,000 per annum.

The Gypsy and Travellers sites proposals in South Staffordshire have been refused with the exception of one utility block being allowed on an existing site.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a. **Letter from Mrs L England re planting of a tree in Oaken Drive Field, together with the views from the Open Space Committee.**

Councillor Glyn Owen advised the meeting that the Open Spaces Committee had reviewed this request and in doing so made a recommendation for the adoption of a tree planting policy for Oaken Drive Field.

The Opens Spaces Committee proposed that:

“New tree planting only be allowed on a replacement basis for the foreseeable future”.

Councillor Owen also advised that the Open Spaces Committee having conducted a site meeting had recommended that Mrs England request be agreed subject to agreement by the District Council Arbicultural Officer and Conservation Officers and subject to various conditions relating to the type of tree, location, planting, fence guard etc. This recommendation is made on the basis that one large specific oak tree is dying and that a replacement on this basis can be agreed.

Approval of the recommendations from the Open Spaces Committee was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Owen and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

b. Letter of thanks from Mrs Marjorie Bramall for the Parish Councils support in naming the new road off Wilkes Road, after her late husband, Dennis Bramall, former Parish Council Chairman and District Councillor, was received and noted.

NEXT MEETING

13th January 2010