

# CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes

Council Meeting to be held in the Parish Chambers,  
Station Road, Codsall  
on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7.30pm. following Planning

### PRESENT

Cllrs Mrs P Campbell (Chair)  
Mrs M Barrow  
M Ewart  
Mrs E Forster  
B Holland  
P Kenyon  
J Michell  
Mrs C Millar  
Mrs S Oatley  
G Owen  
D Walls

### 1. APOLOGIES

**Apologies** received from Councillors Chapman, Etheridge, Marshall and Stovin.

Cllr Walls apologised in advance for leaving at 8.30pm.

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

**None**

### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Mr Stephen Skinner** commenting on the recent problems and discussions on Chapel Lane parking relating to the Station Public House car park closure. Mr Skinner advised that he had spoken to the Landlord at the pub and made various suggestions, which the Landlord had promised to consider. Mr Skinner wondered if the Parish Council could write to the Brewery. The Parish Clerk advised that the Parish Council had already written to the Brewery and had received an undertaking by the Chairman and Chief Executive Mr Holden, that he too would talk to the Landlord. This is a Tenanted Public House and therefore the Brewery could not force the issue but they too would ask the Landlord to seek an amicable solution.

Mr Skinner also commented on the discussion at the previous months meeting relating to community involvement for any future entrance to the Best Kept Village competition and wondered if this could not be started by an annual tidy up of all of the outlying country footpaths in the Parish. This was supported by Councillors and the Chairman asked Mr Skinner if he would be prepared too organise and lead a suitable scheme. Mr Skinner readily agreed but it was universally recognised it was probably too late to do anything this year, before the start of the growing season. Nevertheless Mr Skinner would start the

ball rolling, with the aid of Councillors, Ewart, Oatley, Walls, Owen, Michell, Barrow and Kenyon.

#### 4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were received, unanimously approved and immediately signed by the Chairman.

#### 5. POLICE REPORT

##### a. To receive a report on policing

For the Period 10<sup>th</sup> January – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008

##### Statistics

<b>Criminal damage</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Anti social behaviour</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Theft from a motor vehicle</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Burglary Dwelling</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Burglary other</b>	<b>1</b>

The majority of the Ant-Social behaviour in the village has occurred on a Friday night where local youths and youth from outside the area are congregating in the village. These youths are being closely monitored by the CCTV operators and any offence is reported to the Police Officer on duty.

An operation has also been running where all officers available have been utilised, including Police Officers, P.C.S.O.'s and Special Constables to combat anti-social behaviour. Alcohol and tobacco have been seized during this operation, parents have been spoken to and appropriate action has been taken.

This operation will continue as necessary.

The Speed Laser Gun has been utilised to good effect recently. The police are monitoring several roads in Codsall and tickets have been issued for speeding and other offences such as non-wearing of seatbelts.

Staffordshire Police are happy to announce the installation of the Police Watch Boxes in and around various locations in Codsall. These highly visible bright yellow wooden boxes are a way for the general public to highlight concerns or issues to the Police. The public can leave local officers a written note in the box giving their contact details if the wish. Contact details of local offices are also displayed by the box if anyone would wish to talk to them direct. The boxes are regularly emptied by the local P.C.S.O.'s.

Councillor Barrow advised that she had witnessed what she believed to be the sale of alcohol to the underaged in the village. Cllr Barrow believed that the young check out personnel were being intimidated and wondered of the Parish Council could write to

the store concerned to bring this to the Managers attention. This was agreed.

Another Councillor also believed that groups of young people outside the stores were intimidating customers entering the stores to get them to buy cigarettes for them; this will also be raised in the letter by the Parish Council.

- b. **The Notice** of the Street Meeting at 6.30pm on the 19th February in Church Road, was received by the meeting. The Police hope that there will be a good attendance from the public to allow them to air their views. The Police also request that as many Parish Councillors attend as possible. Councillor Ewart, Millar and Kenyon indicated that they would endeavour to attend.

## 6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

Consultation with residents of Carter Avenue regarding Bilbrook House took place last Wednesday evening.

A three phase development is proposed.

Phase one bringing together Social Care Enablement Teams, Primary Care Trust staff, PCT Intermediate Care Teams and the District Nursing Teams together.

Phase two, 10 to 15 beds for rehabilitation, emergency short-term respite care or to receive patients, discharged from hospital, who are not ready to return to their homes. They will be supported by their own GP. Anticipated that stay will be 6 weeks only until they are ready to go home.

Phase three, other rooms in the building could be used for a variety of purposes. Some activities that could be supported and developed are, a drop in social facility for local people, luncheon clubs, care groups, health promotion activities and voluntary groups.

All three proposals met with a positive response from neighbours.

A further meeting has been held with regards to the Boxing Club, trainers are in position, accommodation secured until September with the option of a longer contract. Consultation is ongoing with young people in the two villages. All five partners are working steadily to promote this facility for our young people.

Council Tax set by County Council is likely be set at 4%.

## 7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **The** report on Council Finances for year to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 was received, acceptance proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and unanimously approved by the meeting.

- b. **The** schedule of payments to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were received with a full explanation from the Clerk, approval proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Barrow and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- c. **The** payment of election 2007 recharge at £3741.05, was received and consideration given to an increase of a similar sum to the precept request. This invoice had not been received in the seven months following the election and had not been allowed for within the budget.

After discussion it was proposed that no increase should be made to the precept request and that we should carefully look at the budget to ensure that we stay within our overall budgeted figure. Proposed by Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Oatley and unanimously approved by the meeting.

- d. **The** Annual review of Parish Council's 'Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment'.

The meeting reviewed the document, asking the Clerk whether he considered any amendments were necessary. The Clerk advised that some minor amendments were made in the previous year and he did not believe that any further adjustments were necessary at the present time, and there were no amendments to legislation that he was aware that would necessitate any further change at the moment. Councillor Michel proposed that the regulations should continue without amendment, seconded by Councillor Forster and unanimously approved by the meeting.

- 8. **Audit Commission** – Appointment of new External Auditor. The advise from the Audit Commission of the appointment of new external auditor Ms Jackie Bellard, for the next five years, commencing with the accounts for 2007/8 was received and noted by the meeting.

## 9. **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Paul Kenyon** the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee gave a brief report in support of the minutes already circulated. Cllr Kenyon advised that the committee had already met twice, and several members had walked the Wheelfield, Lone Singer, and Moatbrook Nature Reserve and that he and Councillor Forster had walked Codsall House Field and Oaken Drive Field.

The Committee agreed that the remedial work highlighted by The Clerk for Codsall House Field, Oaken Drive Field and the Boundaries on Oaken Lane and Station Road were necessary and prudent.

The competitive quotes received showed a cost of approximately £2835.00 and had been approved by the committee.

Councillor Kenyon proposed that the meeting give full approval to this work, this was seconded by Councillor Holland and unanimously approved by the meeting.

Councillor Kenyon also requested that the meeting consider the removal of the conifers in and around the Singing Lady which are making the area very dark and unwelcoming. The Clerk had pointed out previously these trees had been recommended for removal by

South Staffs Councils Horticulturalist specialist. It is believed that this will make a big impact to the regeneration of the site, which is the focal point of the village.

The meeting unanimously agreed that The Clerk should obtain competitive quotes for the removal of the trees, for consideration by the committee and full council.

#### **10. CHILDRENS PLAY AREA – CODSALL VILLAGE HALL**

**The** Annual Inspection report was received. The Clerk advised that the only notation was the replanted hedge where Severn Trent had removed the hedge for laying of pipes and that the temporary fence had been weakened by vandalism. The Parish Council foreman already has the strengthening to this section of fencing in hand.

#### **11. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**A written** report was received from District Councillors.

The Scrutiny Panel Environmental Services has recommended to the Deputy Leader that policies be introduced in the following categories:

Minors who commit offences by dropping litter in the street and elsewhere; penalties are yet to be decided.

Fixed Penalty Notices to householders where rubbish has been removed from the premises by a third party and has been dumped illegally.

Formal links to be made with neighbouring authorities outside of Staffordshire to ensure that South Staffordshire Council has a consistent, joined up approach to managing issues throughout the district.

Publicity on enforcement to be increased by utilising resources already available, including the 'South Staffordshire Review' and the website. To also forge links with other organisations to ensure similar press releases are coordinated for maximum impact.

A 'tell a neighbour' scheme to be promoted, which will address issues such as noise pollution from alarms whilst the key holder is away on holiday. The scheme should actively promote telling a neighbour of an alternative key holder should the alarm be set off.

Funding for the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) will be maintained which will result in a total for spend for the year of £241k.

The Council Tax set by the District Council will rise by 3%.

Councillor Holland commented on the forthcoming decriminalised parking and other powers passing from the Police to the Local Authority. At the present time the general public knows how to contact the police to report various incidents but nothing as yet has been publicised on who the public will contact when the Local Authority takes over the powers.

Councillor Holland requested that District Councillors raise this issue with the District Council to ensure that adequate lines of communication are available and that the public are advised.

**12. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 the attaching reports were received and noted.

**13. The Wheel Field**

a. **The Request from the Village Hall Management Committee to use the Car Parking for the Leap Year Firework Display on 29<sup>th</sup> February was received and discussed. Many members commented that at this time of the year the field can be wet and boggy. Councillor Holland recommended that approval be given to the request subject to the Village Hall Management Committee being responsible for the reinstatement of any damage caused to the field.**

b. Request from 1<sup>st</sup> Bilbrook Codsall Scout Group to use for Car Parking for the Annual Carnival on 7<sup>th</sup> June and the request for sponsorship. The members again agreed the use of the field for the car park subject to reinstatement should any damage incur.

The Clerk advised that a £200 donation had been given in recent years. £200 was proposed by Cllr Kenyon, seconded by Cllr Oatley and unanimously approved by the meeting.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

To receive the following letters

a. **Staffordshire County Council**

i. **Local Bus Service Review – Initial Consultation** members agreed that they were not sufficiently aware of the bus services available to pass comment on this document. Several members however did express how difficult it was, in particular for the elderly and people without access to motor vehicles, to get from Bilbrook to Codsall for weekly shopping. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to ask for consideration to be given for a circular route to be included in the bus routes to cover; Birches Road, Duck Lane, Bilbrook Road, Elliotts Lane and Lane Green Road to give access to both Birches Bridge and Codsall Village Centre.

ii. **‘Communities First’ incorporating Staffordshire Watchdog Scheme.** This was received and noted.

iii. **Community Paths initiative – Bids for 2008/09**

The Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee Cllr Paul Kenyon advised that he would like to review the paths in our

area and if appropriate come up with a scheme to try and take advantage of this initiative this year.

**b. South Staffordshire Council**

**i. Parish/District Liaison Group Meeting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30 p.m.** South Staffordshire Council.

This notice was received with councillors Campbell, Forster, Millar and Michell advising that they would endeavour to attend.

**ii. Locality Model**

Invitation to Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> March at S Staffs Council 6.30pm.

Councillors Campbell, Michell, Oatley, Barrow and Forster advised that they would attend.

**iii. South Staffs Housing Market Assessment 2007**

Was received and noted. Surprise was expressed at many of the figures in this document as they do not appear to relate to the experience and knowledge of the majority of Parish Councillors.

**c. Wolverhampton Airport Action Group  
Concern relating to the WMRSS phase 2 Revision response.**

The request from the Wolverhampton Airport Action Group to the Parish Council to support the action Group in its concern to the wording of the Phase 2 Revision was received.

It would appear that all of the concerns raised by Parish Councils, residents and District Council and the various amendments subsequently agreed have now been ignored.

The Parish Council has agreed to write and raise the Parish Councils objections in support of the Action Group.

**d. Staffordshire Parish Councils Association**

**i. Various Notices including training modules:**

Budgets and Annual Returns	21 <sup>st</sup> Feb, Stafford 7pm to 9pm
Project Management	20 <sup>th</sup> March, Stafford 7pm to 9pm
Organising Consultations	2 <sup>nd</sup> April, Stafford 7pm to 9pm

Were received and noted.

**ii. Climate Change**

The Request to organise Local Focus Groups was received and noted.

**e. The Donna Louise Trust**

Annual Donation request was received, but as in previous years, the Council declined to make a donation, agreeing to continue with its policy of only supporting local organisations.

**f. South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership**

Face to Face Event – 11am. to 1pm. 22<sup>nd</sup> February at S.Staffs Council Offices.

The Opportunity for Public to meet Community Partnership Team was received and noted.

**g. Communities and Local Government**

**Consultation in orders and regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England**, was received, members did not consider it appropriate to make any comments.

**h. Codsall & Bilbrook Twining Association**

Consideration for a gift to present to the Major of St Pryvé St Mesmin at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations was briefly considered.

Councillor Matt Ewart has contact with a Crystal Glass manufacturer and members agreed that Council Ewart, liaising with The Clerk, should explore a suitable gift for approval at the next Parish Council Meeting

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**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

**NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008**