

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall
on Wednesday 9th April 2008 at 7.30pm. following Planning

Present:

Councillors Mrs P Campbell (Chair)
Mrs V Chapman
R Etheridge
M Ewart
Mrs E Forster
B Holland
R Marshall
Mrs C Millar
Mrs S Oatley
G Owen
D Walls

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Barrow, Stovin, Kenyon and Michell

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 'Keep Codsall Clean' weekend had gone extremely well, twenty volunteers on Saturday and sixteen volunteers on Sunday. The lanes and footpaths surrounding Codsall are now clear of all litter. Mr Skinner thanked the Parish Council for its support and contribution and also to Cllr Glyn Owen who sponsored the event through his business Pet Stop.

Mr Skinner was thanked by the meeting for his efforts in organising and leading this event.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2008 were received and unanimously approved and immediately signed by the Chairman.

5. POLICE REPORT

a. **There was** no Police Report submitted this evening.

County Councillor Sonia Oatley mentioned that she had attended a meeting with the Chairman of the Police Authority and flagged up the difficulties that our local Police Officers were experiencing due to the long term absence of one of our Police Constables through illness. This was having an adverse effect on the area and placing considerable pressure on the remaining Constable and P.C.S.O's.

The Chief Constable's initiative to reduce paperwork and bureaucracy should see more policemen on the beat from next month, with Codsall's and Bilbrook's, Sargent, two Police Constables and two P.C.S.O.'s being more visible, subject to duty rosters.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Parish Plan

Councillor Holland briefly outlined the successful first inaugural meeting and how keen and conscientious all of the attendees had been. The subsequent meeting with Key Partners has taken place and these Partners are producing background information to assist with the next stage towards the Parish Plan.

Notes from Parish Plan Meeting of 3rd April 2008

Following discussion it was agreed to ask various key partners to produce the necessary background information and an action plan, for each Aim and Objective, with further discussion and agreement before presentation to the general public.

Aims and Objectives

- **To improve the village environment.** To be lead by James Bailey Staffordshire County Council Highways, supported by Cllr Paul Kenyon and Peter Serieys – Clerk to the Council.
- To reduce crime and disorder** To be lead by Inspector Pat Shannaghan supported by Cllr Matt Ewart.
- **To improve the health and safety of our Community.** To be lead by Ms Tilly Flanagan supported by Cllr Christine Millar
- **To support and build a vibrant voluntary sector** To be lead by Ms Sam Stayt supported by Mr Stephen Skinner (resident)
- **To retain the character of the Parish and preserve the Community Spirit** To be lead by Ms Kelly Harris S. Staffs Council. Supported by Cllr Brian Holland

A brief discussion took place on how to present the initial Plan and receive constructive feed back from residents.

A 'Planning for Real' approach will be considered, suitably adapted.

The next meeting was agreed for 10 a.m. Friday 2nd May.

b. Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country

Members had not been able to attend any of the exhibitions in the Black Country. In the absence of Councillor Stovin, it was considered appropriate to hold this item over to the next Planning Meeting to agree a considered response.

The Clerk was asked to contact Councillor Stovin to ask him if he would prepare a response for discussion at the next Planning Meeting on the 23rd April.

c. Closure of Codsall Wood Post Office

Cllr Holland and Cllr Oatley had spoken to The Post Mistress at Codsall Wood to determine whether a strong objection should be raised by the Parish Council to the closure.

The Post Mistress advised that it would be difficult to defend the closure of the Post Office.

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **To receive** a report on Council Finances for year to 31st March 2008.
- b. **To receive** and approve schedule of payments to 9th April 2008.
- c. **To receive** and approve Insurance Renewal with Allianz Cornhill at £3564.99, (3418.40) 4.2% increase.
- d. **To receive** and approve Preliminary Income Expenditure Account to 31st March 2008.
- e. **To approve** annual subscription to Community Council of Staffordshire at £20 (£20).
- f. **To approve** annual subscription to Local Council Review at £13.50 (£13.50).

Cllr Holland proposed approval for all of these items a – f, seconded by Cllr Ewart and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report from County Councillor Sonja Oatley was received by the meeting.

The Government is set to reduce the number of Post Offices significantly. The first batch of closures is about 10%.

The number of closures in South Staffordshire is about 5% - 2 out of 38. The two closures are Seisdon/Trynull and Codsall Wood.

The National Union of Teachers has voted for a one-day strike on 24th April in protest at the national pay deal.

The three unions have been balloted on the Job Evaluation proposals and each union accepted them. It must be pointed out, of the total workforce of the County Council, only 10% of the workforce voted in favour. The estimated cost is still about £95 million – excluding schools.

The decision on County Farms is to aim to keep 75 farms in operation. Details have emerged that some rentals on the County farms have not increased in nine years, but despite this, the average rental the county receives per acre, is second only in the UK to the county of Cheshire.

Chief Fire Officer Alan Doig has retired after 22 years service, at a Celebration of Success dinner, a Government MP, the Head of the Fire Service for the UK and many others paid tribute to Alan for his outstanding contribution. Alan has been succeeded by his Deputy Chief Officer/Deputy Chief Executive, Peter Dartford.

The Codsall and Bilbrook Boxing Club is well under way to being established in partnership with District Council, the High School, the Police and the Youth Service.

Commencing on May 2nd, the Boxing Club are planning to hold two weekly sessions at the Leisure Centre on a Friday evening, from 7pm to 8pm for 8 to 12 years olds and for 12 year olds and over from 8pm to 9pm. They are awaiting confirmation of a celebrity World Boxing Champion to open the event.

The opening of the Alzheimer's Café on March 22nd was a great success. The café will be open on the fourth Tuesday of the month between 12 and 2pm, for service users and their carers at the Codsall Village Hall.

Cllr Forster advised the meeting that a Cadet of the 2078 Boscobel Air Training Core, had been selected to be the Lord Lieutenant Cadet of the year and this is not only a credit to the individual Cadet but also to the Squadron. The meeting agreed to write and congratulate the Cadet on achieving this award.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. To receive** the minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 17th March were received and noted.

b. Request for assistance with cost of car park repair. Cllr Holland proposed that this should be declined and that the repair costs could be covered from the increased Parish Council grant, seconded by Councillor Ewart and unanimously approved by the meeting.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no written report this evening, but Cllr Campbell mentioned that the District Council have agreed to introduce a "Strategy for Climate Change" and will advise future meeting of the details, as they are known.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a. Campaign to Protect Rural England

Request for support (last year £50), was unanimously approved by the meeting.

b. South Staffordshire Council

Agenda – Parish/District Liaison Group Meeting – Thursday 22nd May 2008. Cllr Forster, Campbell, Etheridge, Millar, Oatley, Holland and Ewart, will endeavour to attend.

NEXT MEETING

14th May 2008.