

# **CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

**Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,  
Station Road, Codsall**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 7.30pm. following Planning**

### **PRESENT**

**Councillors Mrs P Campbell (Chair)**

**Mrs M Barrow**

**R Etheridge**

**M Ewart**

**E Forster**

**B Holland**

**P Kenyon**

**R Marshall**

**J Michell**

**G Owen**

**L Stovin**

### **1. APOLOGIES**

**Apologies** were received from Cllrs Millar, Oatley, Walls and Chapman.

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

**None**

### **3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**Mrs Brenda** Watts a resident of Chapel Lane who had written to the District Council with a petition relating to the parking problems at Chapel Lane addressed the meeting.

Mrs Watts outlined in detail the parking problems occurring at the bottom end of Chapel Lane and particularly the difficulties being encountered by residents who on occasions are having their driveways blocked, but when they are not blocked they are having great difficulty in manoeuvring their vehicles in and out of their driveways due to the indiscriminate parking in the main by commuters using the Railway Station. The roadway is becoming difficult to negotiate from approximately 7a.m. with many of the cars not being removed until 7 p.m. There have been occasions where cars have been parked in the road way for several days. The congestion is such that Centra Heat who have vehicles coming in and out of their premises throughout the working day are having extreme difficulties, some of the larger delivery vehicles have been unable to drive to the bottom of Chapel

Lane and have had to reverse a considerable distance to turn round and exit Chapel Lane in the opposite direction.

Councillors Owen and Forster spoke from the Public Gallery as they are residents of Chapel Lane and both spoke of the difficulties mainly they believe caused as a result of the Station Car Park which is owned by the Public House being closed in the morning to preserve parking for the Public House customers. Councillor Owen advised that in real terms this problem has only arisen in the past couple of years as previously whilst the Public House had had difficulty a more flexible approach had been adopted.

Councillor Forster endorsed everything that had been said and added that with commuters often arriving late for their trains little or no consideration is being given to how the cars are being parked on the highway and this is exasperating the problem as the indiscriminate parking is not allowing traffic to pass easily down the lower end of Chapel Lane.

Difficulty is certainly being encountered by larger vehicles and there is a very serious concern for service vehicles including Fire and Ambulance Services.

#### **4. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th December were received and unanimously approved.

Matters arising Councillor Brian Holland advised that the Grant application for the Village Plan had been approved and the grant has now been received by the Clerk.

#### **5. POLICE REPORT**

**P.C. Allen** submitted a written report, and sent his apologies for not being able to attend.

##### **a. Police Report**

##### **Statistics**

<b>Burglary Dwelling</b>	<b>3</b>
This includes one that may or may not be questionable.	
<b>Burglary Other</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Theft of a motor vehicle</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Anti social Behaviour</b>	<b>25</b>

The incidents or reports of youths causing a nuisance are in the main no more than that and generally speaking occur at the weekend. Although there has been noticeable improvement over recent weeks the youths are still present and the police are still looking at possible ways to make a difference.

The Co-op have agreed to a procedure whereby the police take details of the youths who chose to ignore the advice and return to cause general nuisance at the main entrance; a letter is to be sent to parents pointing out the obvious and the fact that should their charge come again then the Coop will make their own contact and make it known that this practise will not be tolerated and that legal action will be considered in the event that their behaviour continues.

A list of repeat offenders is being compiled. The offenders have been informed that the police are awaiting instruction from the council and they will be referring to this list should the council wish to take action.

An operator at the cctv brought one youth to the attention of the police and the youth has now been dealt with for Public Nuisance and damage. The cctv operators have been reminded of the need to keep a close eye on the youths in the village and they are now more than ever informing us as to where they are, even if no trouble is being caused.

The speed laser gun has again be used with good effect.

The Police continue their efforts to improve the parking situation at St Nicholas School and are currently in discussion with Highways, who appear a little reluctant to consider a permit scheme.

Parking has improved since the distribution by the police of illegal parking leaflets.

## **6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

The wider discussion on County Finances is about the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The latest proposals put forward at the cabinet meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup> call for about 22.2 million worth of cuts/savings in the next financial year, 12.5 million in 09/10 and 20 million in 10/11. The Council have been helped enormously by the latest settlement because the amount the government grant that we receive will go up by 7.4% this year, 4.9% next year and 4.6% the year after. These figures compare with the shire county average over the next three years of 5.4%, 4.0% and 3.8%. There will be long discussion on the state of the County's finances in the Corporate Policy Scrutiny meeting on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

County Council's Social Care and Health department have been awarded 2 stars, (out of a possible 3). This is really good news and it represents a big effort from a big number of people.

It is believed that the Job Evaluation exercise is now showing an increased cost of an additional 9.5 million pounds.

## 7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **The report** on Council Finances for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 were received and approval proposed by Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Michell and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. **The schedule** of payments to the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were received, approval recommended by Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Michell and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- c. **The Council** Tax base Calculation 2008/09 was received from South Staffs Council and noted showing the Council Tax base for Codsall for that year at £3076.04.
- d. **The Budget / Precept** recommendations from the Finance Committee was presented to the meeting by the Clerk, with a full explanation of the calculations for the budget and the required precept.

The Clerks explanation was supported and endorsed by Councillor Marshall and Councillor Holland. Councillor Holland and Marshall explained whilst the percentage increase looked large, in real terms the increase was modest and taking into account the additional requests for grants from the community including the very necessary grant request for the extension to the graveyard.

After discussion and questioning by members Councillor Holland proposed that the budget be approved showing a precept requirement of £136421.50, seconded by Councillor Marshall and unanimously approved by the meeting.

## 8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**There was** no written report this evening, Councillor Michell advised that there had been difficulties with the recycling bin collection since Christmas but residents are being asked to leave their recycling collections out as the contractors are hoping to address the situation over the next few days.

Councillor Michell also advised that Tetra Packs can now also be added to the recycling collection.

Councillor Marshall advised that the District Council has just approved in outline the acceptance of Decriminalised Parking, which is likely to take effect in 2009. The details are to be worked out and the scheme advised and published during the coming months.

## 9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**No minutes** or reports have been received.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

To receive the following:

- a. The Letter from Mrs Watts and a copy of the petition presented to South Staffordshire Council, re the problems with Chapel Lane parking were received.

Members again discussed this issue which has been the subject of discussion on many occasions during the past few years, with members recounting the failure of Network Rail to pay any heed to even the Parish Council, residents or other bodies requests to address this problem.

There is inadequate parking at Codsall Railway Station mainly as a result of the sale of the car park to the public house and the failure of Network Rail to agree an adequate parking arrangement with the public house.

It was suggested that our M.P. Sir Patrick Cormack maybe able to have some impact and the Clerk will write to him accordingly.

- b. **South Staffordshire Council  
Childrens Activities 2008**

The request for support to 'Sussed Out and About 2008', had been carried over from the previous meeting.

Councillor Marshall outlined the scheme for young children and how the Parish Council could support activities in its area. In the absence of Councillor Oatley however who is endeavouring to obtain details of the County's scheme for the older children and youths it is unclear whether this scheme will be operating in the Codsall area for 2008. Councillor Marshall believed that it would but could not give a categorical assurance.

Members requested that the Clerk write to Mr Richard Coggins at Staffordshire County Council to ascertain which schemes will be operational in Codsall this year.

With the District Council requiring a response relating to 'Sussed Out and about'. Councillor Marshall having considered the Parish Council has made an allocation for approximately £1000 towards the Summer Activities, proposed that £540 is allocated to the District Councils 'Sussed Out and About 2008' scheme, this was seconded by Councillor Michell and unanimously approved by the meeting.

- c. **Notes of Bilbrook & Codsall Youth Action Group meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007.**

**Were received** and noted.

Councillor Forster who is a member of this committee commented on the progress now being made on the Youth Action Group and it is hoped that the projects that have been researched including the formation of a boxing club will come to fruition in the near future.

**d. Community Council of Staffordshire**

**i. 2008 Diary of Village Festivals and Events**

The Request for details was received by the meeting. The Clerk asked to be advised of accurate details of any events that are to occur in order that details maybe forwarded by the 18<sup>th</sup> of February.

**ii. Best Kept Village Competition 2008**

**Members** discussed the difficulties in joining this competition and the increased costs that could occur which was the reason for the withdrawal from this competition some years ago.

The Clerk commented that it would indeed nice for Codsall to be part of this competition but it would need substantial support from the community with virtually representatives from each road in the Parish being fully involved to stand any chance of success in this competition. Should members decide to enter the competition in the coming year then plans should be made over the coming months with the full involvement of the community.

Members agreed to give this further consideration at a latter stage.

**e. West Midlands Regional Assembly  
Phase Two Revision Draft Submission to Secretary of State**

At the Notice of Formal Consultation period commencing 7th January to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008, was received.

Councillor Stovin and other members said that they would look at the website and study the mission to see if any comments should be made on behalf of Codsall Parish Council.

**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

