

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall
on Wednesday 10th September 2008 at 7.30pm. following Planning

PRESENT

District Councillors J Michell (Chair), P Campbell, **County Councillor** Sonja Oatley,
Parish Councillors Mrs M Barrow, Mrs E Forster, Mrs C Millar, D Walls,
G Owen and R Etheridge.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Ewart, Holland, Kenyon, Marshall, Stovin and Chapman.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any 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 Speed Watch Team was now in action and they have been out on two separate occasions recently, checking vehicle speeds on Birches Road and Wolverhampton Road. Ideally the team could do with at least two additional volunteers to allow more effective coverage and frequency in Codsall and Bilbrook.

A retired Police Inspector, briefly spoke to the meeting, and said whilst he applauded the Speed Watch efforts, unfortunately as explained by Mr Skinner for Health and Safety reasons they cannot operate in low visibility or in the evenings and it does seem to be predominately in the evenings where very excessive speeds is being seen on many of our roads including Birches Road and Wolverhampton Road, with accompanying excessive noise. Mr Webb was disappointed that the Police do not appear to be taking any action in this respect and asked if the Parish Council could advise of the manpower currently being made available by the Police for Codsall and Bilbrook.

The retired Police Inspector was advised that Codsall and Bilbrook currently have two Police Constables and two PCSO's. One Police Constable has unfortunately been off duty for approximately seven months, with no cover being available, leaving the remaining Police Constable and the two PCSO's to cover the extra workload.

Councillors Sonja Oatley advised the meeting that she had spoken to Inspector Shannaghan recently expressing her and the Parish Councils concern relating to the reduced cover, during this long term absence,

but has been told that the Police simply do not have the resources to provide for this sickness cover.

Councillor Oatley together with others advised that they would raise this issue again with the Police Consultative meeting which is to take place on Thursday the 11th September.

4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2008, were received and unanimously approved and immediately signed by the Chairman

5. **POLICE REPORT**

A written report was received this evening.

Statistics

Burglary (dwellings)	2
Burglary (other)	4
Theft of a motor vehicle	0
Theft from a motor vehicle	2
Criminal Damage	6
Anti Social behaviour	30

Burglary other

This included Classic Hair Design that has been targeted twice in this reporting period. Items taken include a flat screen television and various hair dressing products. Enquiries are on going.

Theft from Motor Vehicle

Of the two incidents reported one was theft of a sat nav, that was taken from a parked vehicle with the window slightly open. The police urge that the public ensure that they lock and secure their vehicles when left unattended.

Criminal Damage

One incident reported was damage to a phone box situated by Codsall High School. The offenders were caught shortly after the offence and have been charged accordingly.

Anti Social Behaviour

Due to the placement of a dedicated Anti Social officer had increased high visibility patrols we are pleased to announce that the incidents reported have reduced to a total of 30 covering July and August. Working together with other agencies Anti Social contracts have been signed by a number of youths who in the past have caused problems and this should see a decrease in the problems we have previously encountered. Not all the anti social behaviour incidents are nuisance youths; the number of incidents relating to nuisance youths is only 5 within this two month period.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Codsall Parish Council – Strategy

To approve and adopt 'Strategy Document' and appoint councillors or committees to implement the aims.

Following a lengthy discussion acceptance of the Strategy Document was proposed by Councillor Campbell, Seconded by Councillor Oatley and unanimously approved by the meeting.

Members agreed to consider the appointment of Councillors or Committees to further the aims of the Strategy Document at a later date.

b. Climate Change

To consider government document and agree Parish Council Action.

The formation of a Parish Council Committee to lead a 'Community Action Team' maybe appropriate.

A lengthy discussion took place and despite the suggestions and recommendations made within the document members were unsure if it was appropriate for the Parish Council to lead this discussion.

Councillor Campbell advised that an Officer had been appointed by the District Council to further the Climate Change objectives. In view of the uncertainty of members the Clerk advised the meeting that he would invite the duly appointed District Council Officer to attend the next Parish Council meeting (if possible), to advise members on the way the Parish Council should proceed.

c. Staffordshire Parish Councils Association

i. Request for nominations to fill 4 vacancies on Executive Committee.

No nominations were recommended

ii. Notice of AGM – 15th November 2008 and request for 'Items for Debate'.

The following recommendations were made which will need to be supported by another Parish Council before discussion will take place at the A.G.M namely:

Climate Change

That consideration be given to producing a Parish Councils guide on action that can be taken by small and large Parish Council's to encourage residents to improve the environment without encouraging commercial exploitation.

Planning Regulatory Committee

That consideration be given to recommend amendments to S.Staffs Council Constitution to make referral of 'Controversial Planning Applications' to the Regulatory Committee more democratic.

d. South Staffordshire Council Open Space Audit

To receive Open Space Audit for Codsall Parish, the Clerk advised members that he had circulated by way of disc, a copy of the Open Space Audit for Codsall Parish carried out for the District Council covering the whole of South Staffordshire.

The Clerk urged members to look carefully at the information for Codsall Parish, which showed that the maintenance of the Open Spaces maintained by the Parish Council, have more than reached the desired standards but there are undoubtedly some areas where further improvements can be made.

The Clerk further advised that he had just received the full consultation document which will be presented at the next main meeting and this document does highlight that some of the Open Spaces and amenity areas maintained by the District Council in Codsall Parish could be improved.

The Consultation Document will be circulated to all members shortly.

e. South Staffordshire Council Local Development Framework

Core Strategy – Consultation Paper August 2008.

This document was received and the Chairman asked members to study the document carefully and if appropriate to complete and return the questionnaire individually to South Staffordshire Council. If there were any matters of grave concern would members please bring them to the notice of the Parish Council for further consideration.

f. South Staffs N.H.S.

Invitation to Primary Care trust AGM
Tuesday 30th September 5pm at Hatherton.

This notice was received and noted. No member is able to attend.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. **A report** on Council Finances for year to 31st August 2008.

The Clerk advised that two sets of figures had been shown including the reconciliation of the 31st July. Approval was recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Forster and unanimously approved by the meeting.

b. **The Payment** Schedule to the 10th September 2008 was received, with the Clerk giving an explanation of every item.

Approval was recommended by Councillor Etheridge, seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.

c. i. **The Audit** Commissions External Auditors Certificate with the repeated comment regarding Fidelity Insurance Cover was received by the meeting.

Members again briefly discussed the Fidelity Insurance Cover. Councillor Etheridge seconded by Councillor Oatley recommended approval of the receipt of the Auditors Certificate but again did not wish to increase the Fidelity Insurance cover.

This was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

ii. **The Parish** Council Accounts for year end 31st March 2008, was received.

Approval and signing of the document by The Chairman and The Clerk was recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Etheridge and unanimously approved by the meeting. The Chairman and The Clerk immediately signed the document.

iii. **The Audit** fee of £550 plus VAT was recommended for approval and payment by Councillor Oatley seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.

d. **Open Spaces – Moatbrook Nature Reserve**

The cost of remedial work and reinstatement of footpath at £950, approval was recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Etheridge and unanimously approved by the meeting.

e. **Christmas Events**

i. **The purchase**, erection and removal of Christmas Tree at £395 +VAT approval recommended by Councillor Etheridge seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.

ii. **The hire** of P.A. system for carol singing at £123.40 + VAT, approval recommended by Councillor Walls, seconded by Councillor Etheridge and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Sonja Oatley did not have a written report this evening but wished to advise members that there had been some flooding issues recently, again at Oaken Park, where sewage outflows had been caused by high rainfall and also on Suckling Green Lane where rear gardens had been flooded. Councillor Oatley had been present at meetings with Severn Trent and County Councils Engineers in an endeavour to solve this problem. Councillor Oatley will keep the Parish Council informed.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

a. The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 21st July 2008 and attaching reports were received and noted.

b. A request for grant assistance to resurface the Car Park and additional annual grant to support use of toilets and other facilities used by visitors to the play area and open space amenity.

Members briefly discussed this, but felt that this was an appropriate discussion document for the Finance Committee to consider prior to budget preparation and precept request for the New Financial Year. The Clerk will advise the Management Committee accordingly.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report from District Councillor Robert Marshall was received; the report outlined two pieces of local news affecting the Parish.

Firstly the Government are offering a total of up to £140 million over the next two years on a free-swimming programme. The first priority is to encourage the over 60's to swim more, South Staffs decided to take this offer at full Executive. The second priority is available for under 16 swimmers, South Staffs have expressed an interest – more details will follow shortly.

Secondly the Codsall Leisure Centre Improvements over spend settlement has finally been agreed at 39k for District and 25k for County.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a. South Staffordshire Council

Letter introducing Mark Jenkinson as Community Development Officer for this area was received and noted.

Mark has been invited to give a presentation at the Planning Meeting on the 24th September.

b. South Staffordshire Sports Council

Results of Inter Parish Games 2008 were received and noted.

c. Environment Agency

Focus Newsletter showing flood reduction work was received and noted.

d. Letter from Mr R. D.Tanner former Treasurer of the Codsall Allotments Committee, enclosing a cheque for £192.91 being the closing balance of Committees Bank Account was received and noted with grateful thanks. The funds will be allocated to Allotment improvements.

e. South Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership Locality 4 Forum

Cancellation of meeting on 3rd September and reschedule to Wednesday 19th November was received and noted.

f. Community Council of Staffordshire

Notice of A.G.M 25th September, 7.30 at Stowe-by-Chartley Invitation to attend and make nomination for Board Member was received and noted.

g. South Staffordshire Community and Voluntary Action

Notice of A.G.M, together with 2007/08 Annual Report, 7.30 p.m. Thursday 25th September, Trinity Methodist Church. Cllrs invitation to attend was received and noted, with Councillor Oatley and Forster advising that they will attend.

h. Staffordshire County Council

Outcome of Local Services Review (Public Transport!) T742 –South Staffordshire Area, was received and noted.

12. ANNUAL FOOTPATHS WALK

Sunday 19th October start 10.30 A.M. Parish Council Offices Codsall.

Ramblers have again agreed to lead the Annual Footpath Walk, but support from Councillors and residents are welcomed and encouraged.

The Chairman appealed to Councillors and residents to come and join the footpath walk on this Sunday, not only to have an enjoyable day but also to report on the condition of the various footpaths, with all of the survey forms being forwarded to the County Council for remedial action where appropriate.

13. ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Road Safety Action Committee Councillor Christine Millar asked members if they would kindly complete their survey forms within the next fortnight. Those members who hadn't yet had the opportunity will they kindly advise both Councillor Millar and the Clerk of the roads that they intend to review to avoid duplicity.

NEXT MEETING
8th October 2008

