

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

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

Wednesday 10th June 2009 at 7.30pm. following Planning

PRESENT

Parish Councillors M Ewart (Chair), Mrs M Barrow, R Etheridge, Mrs E Forster, B Holland, Mrs C Millar, G Owen, D Walls, **District Councillors** Mrs C Campbell, R Marshall, **County Councillor** Mrs S Oatley,

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Kenyon, Michell, Stovin and Chapman

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

Mr Stephen Skinner passed forward a letter from Mrs Dodd of Moatbrook Lane relating to speeding vehicles using Moatbrook Lane, an access only road, with appropriate signage.

The letter addressed to County Council Highways, requests urgent attention to restrict traffic to Moatbrook Lane and also reduce the speed of access to this very narrow lane. Children and pedestrians regularly use this lane where there have been several near accidents over the years as well as recent events.

The meeting asked the Clerk to write to County Council Highways to endorse Mrs Dodds request.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2009 were received, approval recommended by Cllr Owen, seconded by Cllr Forster, unanimously approved by the meeting and immediately signed by the Chairman.

5. POLICE REPORT

No report received this evening

Councillor Oatley however advised of two recent car break-ins at Codsall Wood, over night.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Staffordshire Strategic Partnership

Invitation to 'Creating Environment for a Thriving Third Sector in Staffordshire.'

9.30 a.m. June 23rd Staffordshire County Showground Stafford.

The Chair asked Councillor Brian Holland to advise of the terminology of the Third Sector. Cllr Holland advised that this is current terminology for the Voluntary Sector. Cllr Holland went on to advise that following government directives both County Council and District Council had introduced schemes but with no Government funding these are limited.

Members are invited to attend if they are able.

b. South Staffordshire N.H.S

Patients choice – The Quality and Excellence Awards

Received and noted.

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **A report** on Council Finances for year to 31st May 2009 was received, approval recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- b. **The Schedule of** payments to 10th June 2009 was received with a full explanation of each item by the Clerk. Approval was recommended by Councillor Holland, seconded by Councillor Walls, and unanimously approved by the meeting.
- c. **The** Internal Auditors report for fiscal year 2008/09 advising that there was nothing adverse to report and that correct procedures were in place and being complied with, was received and noted.
- d. **To receive** and approve Draft accounts for year ended 31st March 2009 and approve the Annual Return and Annual Governance statement (for submission to the Audit Commission), authorising the Chairman of the meeting and the Responsible Financial Officer to immediately sign the documents.

The Clerk explained that there were two documents that needed approval and immediate signature by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer.

1. The Statement of Accounts for the annual Audit, the Clerk explained that these figures were identical to the figures produced and approved previously on the Income and Expenditure reports. Following scrutiny approval was recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Owen and unanimously approved by the meeting and immediately signed by The Chairman and The Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

2. The Annual Governance Statement also required formal approval. Following scrutiny approval was recommended by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting, and immediately signed by The Chairman and The Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

- e. **To formally** approve payment of £10,000 grant to Village Hall Mgt Comm. for car park resurfacing.
Approval recommended by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no formal written report this evening.

Councillor Oatley however advised that there had been no formal County Council meetings since March for her to report. However following the recent County Council elections where Councillor Oatley stood down as County Councillor for our area, Councillor Oatley advised that the new holder of the post from the 18th of June will be our own Councillor Robert Marshall.

Councillor Oatley was thanked for her hard work over the period of her stewardship and congratulations passed to Councillor Marshall in winning the seat at the recent election.

Councillor Oatley advised that the County Council has now become Conservative controlled for the first time in 28 years.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 18th May and attaching reports were received and noted.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report from District Councillors Robert Marshall was received. Cllr Marshall outlined that the leisure Centres are still performing well in spite of the recession. The target set for the year to April 2009 was income/Expenditure to be 84%. The final figure was 87.48%. Membership is also ahead of target.

Work is due to start on the refurbishment of Codsall swimming pool on 23rd June. The opening is anticipated as Mid September.

All four of the leisure centres have been busy registering people for the free swimming. The latest figures (June 1st) is about 1200 over 60's and 4800 under 16's making a total of 6000.

The new bike track at Kinver was opened on 27th of March and is proving to be a great success and (so far) the police say is helping reduce anti social behaviour.

The first LSP housing conference took place at the council offices on the 18th March.

For the seventh year running the number of people households who have been accepted as unintentionally homeless and in priority need by SSDC has gone down. The number of households prevented from becoming homeless by the council's proactive approach has increased for the third time.

A Rural Exception Site scheme to build 14 affordable homes in Swindon was approved. In the same scheme in the year April 08 to March 09 there were 102 affordable homes built in South Staffordshire which was the highest number of any district in Staffordshire.

The vacancy rate for the councils industrial units in the fourth quarter of the year was 11.6% and the average for the year was 9.6%. This is worse than our target of 8%. This will almost certainly worsen in the first quarter of this year as some leases at an end and some businesses have closed down.

A Dementia conference held at the Council Offices on 22nd July. It is entitled 'Dementia in a Rural Setting'. South Staffordshire has been assessed by the Audit Commission as one of the fastest ageing districts in England and by 2029 the percentage of over 50's will be 51%.

Councillor Don Walls asked who was responsible for the new traffic wardens. Cllr Walls was advised that this is under the control of District Council.

Councillor Walls responded by saying that whilst they have not been seen on a regular basis they have ticketed the various vehicles parking on the entrance to Fairfield Drive. Consequently the number of vehicles now parking there are on a regular basis has reduced to one, with that vehicle parking correctly on the vehicle highway and not on the pavement. Councillor Walls feels that the Traffic Warden/s should be applauded for doing their job.

Councillor Holland asked Councillor Marshall if he would explore with the District Council whether the request By Stafford Borough Council to build new homes in the Northern part of South Staffordshire, if approved by the Secretary of State, whether South Staffordshire Council could then request that all of the future housing requirements for South Staffordshire also be housed in this area . This would then circumvent the imposition of unwanted new housing on the various larger villages in South Staffordshire. Councillor Marshall promised to forward these views but doubted whether this would be acceptable to either the District Council or the Secretary of State.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

None

NEXT MEETING

8th July 2009