

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall
on Wednesday 11th November 2009 at 7.30pm. following Planning**

Present

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Owen, 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 in response to the Chairman's reminder about 'Keep Codsall Clean' weekend on the 14th & 15th of November, Mr Skinner acknowledged he would be leading the campaign again this weekend, and would be very grateful for volunteers, Councillors Oatley, Marshall and Ewart confirmed that they would take part. Mr Skinner also advised of the reasoning for this campaign was not only to get out and clean up the Country Walk footpaths but more importantly to encourage village residents to volunteer and get involved in a community activity as well as getting to know the area and the many country walks around our village.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2009 were recommended for approval by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting and unanimously signed by the Chairman

5. POLICE REPORT

There was no police report received this evening.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

Staffordshire County Council

Histons Hill Traffic Lights – Phasing of Signals

To receive response from County Council and to consider a further response.

Members had seen the very delayed response from County Council's Highways stating that they could not consider phasing of the traffic lights without installing a filter lane and they have asked this to be considered in a future capital expenditure budget. In reality this could be many years down the line and members felt that the addition of a filter lane on these lights will be beneficial but acknowledged the difficulty and the substantial costs considering the disruption to the underground services. However it was again felt that a filter lane is unnecessary providing that the correct sequential phasing of the traffic lights is introduced.

This had been agreed with the engineers at the last site meeting approximately 10 months ago. The engineers at that time had hoped that it could at least be tried on a trial basis to see if improvements could be made to the unrealistic delays faced as a result of right turning traffic stopping the through flow of vehicles across this junction.

The Clerk was asked again to write to the Highways Authority stating the request for trial sequential phasing without the unnecessary and enormous expense that a filter lane would incur.

County Councillor Robert Marshall has also agreed to arrange a further site meeting with the Highway engineers and would ensure that representatives from the Parish Council and particularly the road safety committee are invited to attend.

i. South Staffordshire Council

- a.** Easter Sussed Childrens Activities 2010
Details regarding Easter activities are now advised.
To consider possibility of additional funding or to facilitate costs within the budget agreed for the Summer Scheme at the Parish Council Meeting on the 14th October.

It was unanimously agreed that it should be left to the Clerk to see if it were possible to agree a scheme for

Easter as well as Summer within the previously agreed budget figure of £1,200.

b. Inter Parish Games Presentation Evening

27th November, Perton Civic Centre Tickets £4 each.

Received and noted, with the Chairman reiterating that if anyone wished to attend for them to purchase their tickets quickly.

C. Consultation on Parish/District Liaison Meetings

Questionnaire on how to improve attendance and any further comments.

The Chairman encouraged members to complete the questionnaire and to return it to District Council.

The following comments came forward from members who have regularly attended and the Clerk will forward these to the District Council on behalf of the Parish Council, Members felt that Councillors from other Parishes were unable to attend as it is believed that many of these meetings clash with their own Parish Councils meetings. It is also believed that the timing of the meetings could be inappropriate and difficult for many particularly those travelling from the extremes of South Staffordshire. Comments was also made on agenda items and also the need for quality presentations at these meetings.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. A report on Council Finances for year to 31st October 2009, acceptance proposed by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.

b. Schedule of payments to 11th November 2009, the Clerk read out each item, acceptance proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Campbell and unanimously approved by the meeting.

c. To approve the purchase of 2 new computers at approx. cost of £1200 plus VAT

The Clerk advised the basic specification for these machines stressing that whilst a few pounds could be saved by purchasing

elsewhere, the Clerk was looking to purchase through South Staffordshire District Council whose supplier will give a full five year service and warranty agreement which is exceptional and will also have the back up of South Staffordshire Councils own technicians, approval recommended by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Millar and unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report from County Councillor Robert Marshall was received.

The decision to get to rid of seven of the Yellow busses has gone ahead, and will be removed from the fleet on 31st March. These buses were travelling out from Stafford to remote locations, travelling considerably further than the 'school run'. It will be more cost effective to make location arrangements.

The decision to proceed with the Tipping Street project has been agreed. The agreement had been previously signed and the costs to abort are too high.

A decision should be taken shortly on providing a young persons travel card. The cost will be approximately £400k p.a.

The Staffordshire Business Support Fund is now up and running.

An interim policy has been drafted on the County Councils Mineral Core Strategy. Overall mining in Staffordshire is likely to be reduced.

A full debate was held in the County Council Chamber on the future of Social Care in Staffordshire, it was agreed that the new direction being taken is the right way to go.

Numerous meetings are going on with all directorates trying to make savings without compromising service delivery.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 14th September were not received. The Clerk will write to the Village Hall Chairman to remind the committee that it is a term of the grant conditions that the minutes are regularly furnished to the Parish Council together with a copy of the annual accounts as soon as they have been approved.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report was received from Cllr Robert Marshall.

Codsall Leisure Centre reopened in October after refurbishment, early feedback is very positive and attendance figures are good.

The last regulatory meeting took place on the 3rd November. The main issue was the proposed gypsy/traveller sites in Wombourne, Featherstone and two sites in Brewood. All four sites were refused by the committee.

The Leisure department of the Community Services Directorate will be sending all parishes a pack labelled 'Your Community'. The pack will provide up to date information on items such as Sussed, Get Set Festivals, Grants, Coach Education, Inter Parish Games to mention but a few.

The Bilbrook Skate Park is near completion and the 'ribbon cutting ceremony' should be taking place on 28th November.

Cllr Oatley had taken part in 'Local Democracy Meetings' at Codsall Community High School. Pupils seemed very keen and well versed in the role of local councils.

Cllr Campbell advised that a very interesting 'Transport Initiative' had been presented by the District Council. Whilst it will not benefit Codsall there could be improvements for some rural locations if the system were to be adopted.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm