

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting held in the Parish Chambers,
Station Road, Codsall
on Wednesday 14th January 2009 at 7.30pm. following Planning

PRESENT

District Councillors J Michell (Chair), Mrs P Campbell and R Marshall.

County Councillor Mrs S Oatley.

Parish Councillors Mrs M Barrow, Mrs V Chapman, R Etheridge, M Ewart, Mrs E Forster, P Kenyon, Mrs C Millar, G Owen, L Stovin and D Walls.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies from Councillor B Holland.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Limited to 2 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes overall.

None

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2008 were received, unanimously approved and immediately signed by the Chairman.

5. POLICE REPORT

A written report on policing was received this evening.

Statistics

Criminal Damage	3
Anti-Social Behaviour	0
Theft of motor Vehicle	3
Theft from Motor Vehicle	7
Burglary Dwelling	4
Burglary other	1

Criminal Damage

The incidents reported involved youths some believed to be local.

Anti Social Behaviour

The above figure, which is extremely pleasing, reflects the hard work undertaken to tackle what certainly became a local priority. We are

continuing to provide high visibility patrols in all pertinent hot spot areas with good effect.

It is also pertinent to highlight that a lot of work has been undertaken in the local area involving Police and local Parish Councillors in engaging the local community. This is aided in providing us with the information required to pursue and develop local initiatives, which in turn help with reducing anti social behaviour.

Theft from Motor Vehicle

This figure is disappointing; it is worth pointing out that some of the reported incidents have involved the theft of property that was clearly left on view, such as laptops, cash and wallets. We encourage individuals to be vigilant in removing property from view at all times.

What they see is what they get.

Theft of Motor Vehicle

Two of the three reported thefts resulted in the vehicles concerned being recovered quickly, at the time of compiling this report there is no indication as to who may be responsible, high visibility mobile patrols continue to aid in disrupting offenders at pertinent times within the locality.

Community Speed Watch

Data still continues to arrive highlighting the dedication and hard work undertaken by our local volunteers. This is a very good initiative and aids in reducing and monitoring speed within the local community.

Councillor Robert Marshall advised that Inspector Pat Shannaghan was taking a new appointment at the end of the month and it is believed that the new Inspector will be Mark Chapman. The meeting asked the Clerk to write to Inspector Shannaghan to thank him for his support during his time in Wombourne and wish him well in his new role.

6. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Communities and Local Government

Consultation on 'Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity'.

Members received this document, but did not feel that it was appropriate to respond.

b. BTCV Staffordshire

Offer – 'Buy one get one free'

This was received and noted.

c. Trail Blazers

Promotion of work with young offenders.

This was received and noted.

Councillor Chapman advised that she had undertaken work some years ago with young offenders and would make contact to see if she could again offer her services. The Chairman asked if she would kindly report back to the meeting if she considers it appropriate for the Parish Council to become involved.

d. South Staffordshire Council

- i. Parish/District Liaison Group - Next Meeting 25th February 6.30p.m. S. Staffs Council offices. Representatives required.

Councillors Etheridge, Oatley and Chapman advised they would attend and apologise in advance for not attending Parish Council Planning Meeting which takes place on that evening.

- ii. Sussed Childrens Activities – Easter & Summer 2009

Councillor Etheridge proposed that the Clerk be given authority to liaise with the District Council to organise as many events as is feasible within the £1000 budget allocated to these events, including the cost of hire of the Village Hall. Proposal seconded by Cllr Oatley and unanimously approved by the meeting.

e. Community Council of Staffordshire

- i. Diary of Village events & Festivals 2009
Was received and noted.
- ii. Best Kept Village Competition 2009
The meeting agreed that it would not be appropriate to enter without large community support, which is not forthcoming at the present time.

f. Staffordshire Strategic Partnership

LAA Indicator N17 'An Environment for a Thriving Third Sector, The Staffordshire Local Compact. (Draft VI)

Received and noted.

7. ACCOUNTS

- a. **The report** on Council Finances for year to 31st December 2008

Approval proposed by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Cllr Oatley and unanimously approved by the meeting.

- b. **The schedule** of payments to 14th January 2008 was received with each item being explained by the Clerk, approval recommended by Cllr Etheridge, seconded by Cllr Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.

c. **To receive** and approve Budget/Precept 2009/10 recommendations from Finance Committee. The Chairman advised the meeting that the Finance Committee had carefully perused and discussed the budget prepared by the Clerk. The Clerk in preparing the budget had been very conscious of the current economic climate and tailored the budget to show no increase, but to the detriment of the budget for village improvements. The budget however did allow for upto £10,000 to be made available as a grant to the Village Hall Management Committee to allow the resurfacing of the car park. Finance Committee recommendation did however request that the Village Hall seek further funding from elsewhere to reduce the grant from the Parish Council to consequently allow improvements elsewhere in the village.

Approval of the Budget /Precept at £136,422 was recommended by Councillor Etheridge, seconded by Councillor Walls and unanimously approved by the meeting.

Councillor Oatley asked that the record show the meetings appreciation to the Clerk for the time spent in preparing this budget.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report was presented from County Councillor Sonja Oatley.

The budget debate will take place on 12th of February where the rise in council tax is likely to be 3.5%.

A long report on how the Council is performing against its many targets was discussed at the Corporate Policy Committee. It is a 'mixed bag' with some good and a few bad results so far, but there are a lot of targets where there are still no results in for the first quarter.

A meeting with the ATC last week is on track for completion in early March. The opening is hoped to be in May in partnership with Sir Patrick Cormack M.P. and others.

Rodbaston College has joined with Cannock College, Tamworth Collage and Lichfield to become the College of South Staffordshire. Consultation has been undertaken to place two wind turbines in the north of the property, near the motorway in the college grounds. Planning permission has not yet been applied for.

9. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of V.H.M.C. meeting of the 17th November & 17th December 2008 and attaching reports were received and noted.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report was received from District Councillor Robert Marshall.

Staffordshire District Council is doing well in delivering affordable housing. They have an annual target of 75 homes and in the nine months up to 31st December have completed 74.

There will be a South Staffordshire Housing Conference at the Council offices on the 18th March. There will be various workshops associated with affordable housing.

The leisure centres in Codsall and Penkridge have both been assessed in December to see if they are still achieving the standard pass 'Quest'. Codsall increased its score from 61% to 70%, (60% is the passmark). Penkridge scored 72%. Also there have been 'mystery visits' by inspectors at both Wombourne and Cheslyn Hay. Both had very good feedback.

The leisure centres are still performing very well in spite of the economic climate. The income as a percentage of operating cost is 87.5% which is up from 86.9% for the same period last year (April to November).

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Codsall Parents & Carers Support Group

Advice of closure of this support group after many years was received and noted, with regret.

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

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11th February 2009

