

Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on 1st March 2011 at 7.30pm.

1. Chairman declared the meeting open

2. Present

Chairman C. Rickhards, Vice Chair J. Vale, Mrs A. Wade, E. Holder, M. Redman, Mrs S. Redman, W. McCarthy, Mrs M. Woodrow, Mrs H. Wersocki.
District Councillor M. Weddell.
1 member of the public.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from:
Cllr P. Beaman – personal commitment
Cllr J. Bacon – illness
Cllr D. Somner – work commitment

4. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare personal interests in any item on the agenda.
Members are reminded that the Code of Conduct which took effect from 8 March 2002 provides that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interest at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is prejudicial they should withdraw from the room and not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter.
None.

5. Public Forum

Cllr Mrs Redman: Two approaches from members of Credit Union concerning the Friday Shopper Coach. One an elderly lady and the other speaking on behalf of other users. Although service only used by a dozen people they are mostly infirmed and unable to use public transport. Suggestion to have bus once a month or once a fortnight.

Clerk has already written to all users explaining that due to costs the service was not viable and informing them of alternative services.

There will be a coffee morning in aid of MENCAP at the Co-op store on Thursday, 3rd March 2011. Everyone welcome.

Cllr Rickhards: £200.00 was raised at the Awards Evening on Saturday for Macmillan Cancer Relief. Thank you to all the Councillors who attended.

Cllr Holder: Date for the Community Meal at the Youth Club has been changed to Wednesday, 16th March 2011 due to the organiser's work commitment.

6. Presentation by Jennifer Rigby, New Century Theatre re Grant Application

- Runs a professional theatre company in Studley. Has put on performances both in the Village Hall and at the High School.
- Is now on the High School Trust and working with the school to give them the opportunity to gain funding.
- Has tried different projects and has lots of ideas. It has taken two years but now starting the Youth Theatre Group.
- Idea is to get children into the theatre offering the best quality at a price that everyone in the community can afford. There will be something for everyone.
- Workshop will be based on the same idea as Glee Club encouraging children who love to sing. There will be a Stage Management Course and they will photograph and log workshops and end of term productions.
- It will be a vibrant, energetic club for children from the age of 5 upwards. It is a good time to launch the club during the present depressing economic time.
- Has met with a cluster of Heads. Concerns from some parents that it is taking place in Studley but need to get rid of this attitude and encourage everyone.
- Reason for grant application is to buy technical equipment (portable lighting) to look professional and to take performances out to other venues and reach out to the community.
- There is a performance of Twelfth Night on 11th March 2011 at the High School. Leaflets circulated to all Councillors.
- Cost to join Group will be £30.00 for each half term.

Cllr Mrs Redman: Very impressed with Jennifer's enthusiasm when we are losing so many services. Perhaps can be advertised in Parish Newsletter.

Cllr Holder: will special needs children be included? Everyone will be welcome.

Cllr M. Redman: Village Festival will be in July, would they like to attend? Yes.

- Has joined the National Association of Youth Theatres and received a lot of information to get funding.
- Would like the kids to take responsibility. If they need something have to go out and get it.
- With the right equipment will be able to put on fantastic shows.

Thank you from Cllr Rickhards for presentation. Grant Application will be discussed at the next Grant Committee meeting.

7. Matters Arising (*for information only*)

Min 385 NALC: Policy Consultation – The Public Forest Estate. The Government has done a u turn and this item has now been withdrawn.

8. Items for Discussion

Min 376 Library: Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information Request
Reply received from WCC that request is currently being considered and if they are able to provide information then entitled to receive it within 20 working days. Not ordinarily a charge providing cost of dealing with request is less than £450.00. Will be informed if the cost is more than this amount.

A week ago Cllr Rickhards was given confidential information which is now in the public domain including costs and usage details of Studley and Alcester Libraries.

Studley Library

Opening hours per year 988
Costs £24,923 (£25 per hour)
Visits per year 21680
Visits per hour 21.94
Cost per visit £1.15
Total issues 29,151
Cost per issue £0.85

Alcester Library

Opening hours per year 2080
Costs £76,684 (£36.86 per hr)
Visits per year 49408
Visits per hour 23.75
Cost per visit £1.55
Total issues 71,521
Cost per issue £1.07

Studley is comparatively economical.

Cllr Weddell: need to find out the cost of business rates for the library building.

Copy of a letter received which was sent by Bidford on Avon Parish Council to David Carter, Strategic Director re Facing the Challenge – Changing Times for Warwickshire Library & Information Services read out by the Clerk.

- Three years ago the figures were pointed out to WCC by Cllr Mrs Wade and Mrs Wersocki comparing Stratford Town Library with Studley. The footfall for opening hours was very good but most Councillors had mis-read the document.
- Query as to whether there will be a public meeting? It is hoped that this time the consultation will be more thorough. The only thing that came out of the last consultation was a reduction in evening opening hours.
- WCC has to make cuts so we need to look at ways the community will be able to run the library. Maybe we need to plan

how to look after it ourselves with volunteers. Need to look at alternatives and how we can go forward.

- Before volunteering need to know the costs involved.
- Need to put up an argument to save the library but may need a two-way plan. Need to look at the cost of closing the library. The access road is half owned by the Parish Council and half owned by WCC. Need to look at the total package. There are often huge bills involved in maintaining an empty building. Need to look if it is within our capability to run a library.
- Cllr Rickhards is willing to front a sub committee.
- With services we are likely to lose in Studley such as the Youth Service and Elderly Care should we be looking at a strategy as a whole to see which services we would like to keep.
- If we don't fight for the library we will be considered as a pushover. We need to make a stand on everything. Important to keep on fighting.
- We need to look at the whole Village and what is being taken away. Decimating the community of the Village if we lose the Fire Service, Youth Service, Elderly Care and the Library.
- Clerk to write again to the Leader of the Council as he has not acknowledged or replied to our letter voicing our concerns. Also need to send a letter to WCC concerning our opposition to the library closure.
- Youth Club are in the process of doing a business plan to entice other agencies to use the building to save people having to travel to Stratford.
- Could raise a public meeting to get views and if other issues come out of the meeting these could then be investigated.
- Also form a sub committee to look at strategies for all possible closure in the Village. Need to be able to present something that can be used as an alternative.
- Suggestion to just look at the library first.

RESOLVED: 1. Organise a public meeting on the future of the library.
2. Form a sub committee – Cllrs Rickhards, Holder, Mrs Wade & Mrs Wersocki – to explore possibilities of running the library and organise a petition.
3. Clerk to write letter of opposition to WCC and to ask for a reply from the Leader of the Council.

Min 380 The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge – nomination form plus copy of the deed which will protect the land to make it a Queen Elizabeth II Field received. Several parts for process to be completed.

RESOLVED: Cllrs McCarthy, Vale and the Clerk to form committee to take forward.

Min 381 Fencing, Brickyard Lane Recreation Ground
25 yards of fencing is required. Need to stop dog owners using the area and to have a campaign against dog fouling.
RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange for a new sign 'No Dogs or Horses Allowed', plus a sign for the Public Open Space that dogs should be kept on a lead through the site. Cllrs McCarthy and M. Redman will patrol area to remind residents
Clerk to get quotes for fencing.

9. Planning Applications for Consideration

None.

10. Planning Decisions Received

10/02756/FUL Orbit Heart of England, 45 Watts Road, Studley.
Single storey rear extension.
Planning permission granted 16th February 2011

10/02794/FUL Mr M. Kelly, 28 Knottesford Close, Studley.
Proposed single storey extension to front.
Planning permission granted 18th February 2011

11. Correspondence

SDC

Min 396 Increase in dog on dog attacks across Stratford on Avon District.
Request from SDC to put information on Dog Control Orders and the Fouling of Land by Dogs in our newsletter. Hoping that by educating the public the number of dog attacks will be reduced.

Min 397 The Griffin Inn, Redditch Road. Letter from Robert Weeks, SDC that they will be having another look at the site to determine what if any formal action can be taken.

WCC

Min 398 Reminder that the next Henley/Studley Community Forum will take place on Wednesday, 23rd March 2011 in Studley Village Hall at 7.00 pm. Drop in surgery at 6.30pm.

Other

Min 399 WALC: Policy Consultation on the Community Right to Challenge and the Community Right to Buy. Copy circulated to all Councillors. Response required by 3rd May 2011. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Min 400 Request received from Stephen Marchant to attend Parish Council meeting to seek views on two projects each comprising small scale residential developments in Studley. Clerk has already informed

Mr Marchant that the Parish Council do not make comments until the application has been submitted as anything said could prejudice our decision when the application is received.

Proposed Cllr Mrs Wersocki that Mr Marchant be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss his project and to inform him that members of the public may be present, seconded Cllr Mrs Wade. Voting 6 for, 3 against.

- Min 401 WALC: In partnership with the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) and NALC a new suite of good practice guidance for local councils has been published 'Continuing Effective Engagement for Town and Parish Councils'. Clerk to check document.
- Min 402 WALC: Agenda for Stratford Area Committee for Parish & Town Councils and an invitation to a presentation on the future of the libraries within the District on Tuesday, 21st June 2011 6.30pm at Elizabeth House. Cllr Mrs Wade to attend.
- Min 403 Letter received from resident concerning allotment problem. Person involved has now apologised.
- Min 404 Community Meal, Youth Club – Change of date. Already discussed in Public Forum.
- Min 405 Invitation to the Allotments Regeneration Initiative (ARI) West Midlands Allotment Officers' Forum on Thursday, 9th June 2011 at Leominster. Pass to Allotment Committee.
- Min 406 Letter received from resident concerning rubbish in Bell Lane and the 'tatty' condition of the area. Asking if it can be tidied up. Also the Studley sign at the Village entrance in Redditch Road needs replacing or painting.
Clerk to contact SDC to see if this area can be made tidy. WCC has already been contacted regarding a replacement sign.

Correspondence for Circulation

- Min 407 WALC: Minutes of Stratford Area Parish & Town Council Liaison Meeting 1st February 2011
- Min 408 VASA Voluntary Action Parish Plans & Rural Outreach Newsletter No20
- Min 409 Minutes of Allotment Association Meeting 25th November 2010
- Min 410 Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LBAP Partnership Update February 2011

12. Approve Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr McCarthy that the schedule of cheques for payment be approved, seconded Cllr Mrs Woodrow. Voting unanimous.

- 757 – BT Internet Services £107.96. 758 – D Hemming £27.00.
759 – M Millinchip £80.00. 760 – Bromsgrove & Redditch Trophies £20.50.
761 – ASAP Printing £304.50. 762 – Studley Tennis Club £900.00.
763 – Stratford CAB £500.00. 764 – Plyvine Catering £1108.00.

765 – Verdant £426.00. 766 – P A Janes £395.00.
767 – McMillan Cancer Support £270.00. 768 – Clarity Copiers £117.29.
Direct Debit CIT Photocopier Rental £386.48.

**The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 15th March
2011**

Meeting closed 9.10pm

Signed: Chairman