

## Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7.30pm.

### 1. Chairman declared the meeting open

### 2. Present

Chairman C. Rickhards, P. Beaman, J. Bacon, Mrs A. Wade, Mrs H. Wersocki, W. McCarthy, E. Holder, Mrs M. Woodrow, Mrs S. Redman.  
District Councillor M. Weddell.

### 3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from:

Cllr J. Vale – illness

Cllr D. Somner – illness

Cllr M. Redman – family 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.*

Cllr Beaman Item 15 Accounts – personal interest

### 5. Public Forum

Cllr Rickhards: reminder that the Chairman's Award Evening will take place on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Further details to be given at a later date.

Cllr Beaman: just before Christmas a lighting column in St Judes Avenue was damaged due to frost. Will be advising Parish Council shortly about concrete columns.

### 6. To Pass the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were received, approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 7. Matters Arising (for information only)

Min 314 Confirmation of grit bin order. The bins have now arrived and are in place. Thank you received from Mrs Duffin for granting the request for a bin.

Min 301 Planning Application No.10/01948/EXT 47 – 51 High Street, Studley: Enforcement meeting will advise in due course concerning the state of the site. Cllr Beaman had a meeting with the Planning Officer who

advised to support the extension then enforcement can be followed.  
Min 303 Henley & Studley Community Forum letter. Cllr Thirlwell agreed that the change of name is a good idea.

#### 8. Items for Discussion

None.

#### 9. Planning Applications for Consideration (Cllr Beaman refrained from voting)

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 10/02620/VARY | Aldi Stores Limited, 2 Birmingham Road, Studley.<br>Variation to condition 14 of Planning Permission 08/02716/FUL to change the hours of opening from between 09.00 to 20.00 Monday to Friday; 08.30 and 20.00 on Saturdays and 10.00 and 16.00 hours on Sunday to between 08.00 and 20.00 hours Monday to Saturday and 10.00 and 16.00 on Sundays.<br><b>No representation.</b> |
| 10/02672/FUL  | Mr John Masters, 1 Willow Way, Studley.<br>Erection of Porch.<br><b>No representation.</b>   |

#### 10. Planning Decisions Received

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 10/01406/FUL | Mr J Gibson, Land Off Hardwick Lane, Clarkes Green.<br>Stationing of a caravan as a temporary dwelling for three years to meet the needs of an equine livery business.<br><b>Planning Permission granted 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010.</b><br>Clerk to write and complain that additional information came to light after the Parish Council had objected to this Planning Application.<br>Information was needed for us to make an informed decision. Disappointed that a Parish Councillor attended the meeting in his own time which was needless. |
| 10/01991/FUL | Ms Sarah Bratton, 37 Gunners Lane, Studley.<br>Proposed two storey side extension with single storey lean-to roof over porch and garage.<br><b>Planning Permission granted 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010.</b>   |

## 11. District and County Council Reports

### District Council Report:

Cllr Weddell: Two Senior Managers will be leaving. There will be a Chief Executive and 6 Heads of Departments, of which 4 have been appointed. Savings will be made. The Cabinet will be reduced from 8 members to 6.

### County Council Report:

Cllr Rickhards: There will be budget meetings in the next few weeks to discuss the proposals.

## 12. Correspondence

### SDC

Min 322 Notification of Parish Precepts 2011. Application for precept to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011. Tax base calculated at £2080.87.

Min 323 Jumbo recyclers. Three areas have been identified by SDC, Alcester Road near the butchers, the green bench opposite the chip shop and by Tesco Express.

### WCC

None.

### Other

Min 324 WALC: Marie Dill, Communications Officer at NALC would like to hear the Council's views if we are willing to work within a cluster of local councils.

Clerk to write that in principle we are in favour and have no objection. Strengths can be gained in joining together.

Min 325 NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) requesting help in promoting Real Power for Communities Campaign concerning forthcoming Localism Bill. First step is to get the leaders of local community groups and local charities to sign up to campaign website: [www.RP4C.org.uk](http://www.RP4C.org.uk)

Concerns that communities who can provide volunteers will do well. Those who cannot will suffer. Things will go to areas that do not need it. Do not wish to sign up at present, could be counter productive.

Min 326 Refuse and recycling update concerning collections in bad weather. Residents can put out three bags for general collection and cardboard box or plastic container for recycling if collection is not made. Note to go in next newsletter reminding residents that they must be able to close the lid on their bin otherwise it cannot be lifted onto the refuse vehicle.

Clerk to write to Verdant and thank them for getting the refuse collected during the bad weather.

Min 327 NALC: Policy & Parliamentary Briefing – The Decentralisation and Localism Bill. Copy circulated to all Councillors. The Bill to go through

several stages in Parliament before it becomes an Act of Parliament.  
Min 328 Martin Vasey: re proposed new crossing opposite Tesco on the Alcester Road, copy of e mail sent to WCC received. At present WCC feel there is no justification or need for a new pedestrian crossing. Being looked at in conjunction with Air Quality Scheme.

### **Correspondence for Circulation**

Min 329 LCR Winter 2010  
Min 330 Macmillan Cancer Support Newsletter  
Min 331 Community Safety Briefing – Warks Police Restructure  
Min 332 Community Newsletter – SWAT  
Min 333 News Release – Fly Tipping is not a cheap option

### **13. Committee Reports**

Copy circulated to all Councillors.

#### **Minutes of the Allotment Association Meeting held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall**

#### **1. Present**

A. Smith, J. King, J. Bennett, Cllrs C. Rickhards, J. Vale, W. McCarthy, Mrs S. Redman, M. Redman, E. Holder,

Welcome to all from Cllr Rickhards.

#### **2. Memo of Understanding**

- Memo could be a conflict with the Constitution. No need for two documents when one would do. Maybe an idea to modify Allotment Agreement. Both should be reviewed.
- The Parish Council has not got a copy of the constitution to compare.
- Need to come to an understanding of who is responsible for what.
- Allotment Association has no fundamental issue with developing a better relationship with the Parish Council.
- Need to discuss any difficulties to enable the document to be signed.
- The Constitution came into force 6 years ago. Covers most points within the Memorandum. Allotment Association will assist the Parish Council rather than need to change the phraseology.
- Allotment Association felt the Parish Council were overbearing. Felt let down that Parish Council let people back in.
- Memo needs some amendments.
- At present Dunstall issue warning letters. Station Road does not. One secretary will do it another will not. They are volunteers whose primary aim is to garden. Things need to be more traceable especially the issue of warning letters

- Need a pro forma that can be given to the Parish Council and which could be audited on a regular basis.
- Until we can compare the two documents (the Constitution with the Memo of Understanding) cannot make any decisions.
- Need a small working party from the Allotment Association and the Parish Council to go through the documents. A. Smith, J. King, J. Bennett with Cllrs Bacon, McCarthy, Rickhards to form Committee. Meeting to take place early January. Clerk to liaise re dates.
- Adrian will e mail copy of Constitution to the Clerk.

### **3. Termination letters**

- More trouble on one site than the other. Not everyone does a good job.
- Not everyone who is a Plot Secretary is able to produce a letter. Possibility to have a pro forma to be passed to the Parish Council who will send out the letter. It would be managed by the Parish Council who have the advantage of being Administrators.
- Could be discussed further by the Committee.
- When a termination letter is sent the decision is made by the whole Parish Council.
- Prior to sending a termination letter the person should be given the opportunity to say to the Parish Council the 'true reason' for not working their plot. Needs to be fair and not discriminating.
- May need to inspect the plot after being notified by the Plot Secretary and see the situation.
- If people appeal against a termination could drive a wedge between the Allotment Association and the Parish Council.
- The Plot Secretary should be in attendance at any appeal.
- Everyone has a right to be heard.
- Query if termination would be for life. No reason why they can't apply again.
- It would be onerous to ask the Plot Secretary to attend meetings but no harm in inviting them.
- There needs to be a procedure in place so we are seen to be fair.

### **4. Rent Increase**

- Rent increase of £1.00 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 proposed due to high water costs. May be better if referred to as a water charge instead of rent increase. Could be called a levy.
- Not an exorbitant amount. To be discussed further by Committee.

### **5. Precept**

- Funding from precept has been approved.

#### **6. Representation from Parish Council at Allotment Association meetings**

- Do we really need two?
- Two representatives on SSSC and Youth Club Committees.
- Is this a problem if hopefully we are moving towards a partnership?
- Allotment Association would like to put on record how much the provision of allotment plots is valued by the Village community.

Sub Committee to also discuss pesticides and parking of vehicles overnight on the Allotments.

#### **14. Delegates Report**

##### **Report of Allotment Association meeting November 2010 given by Cllr McCarthy**

- Most discussion centred around the memorandum, the budget and the Christmas celebration.
- There was a feeling that the Parish Council was being too dictatorial about the memorandum and pushing it too much. Some members were of the opinion that the Parish Council should do all the monitoring of the allotments on a monthly basis. I did point out that what any local authority body needed in order to carry out a termination of agreement was written evidence, preferably with dates, which is always better than word of mouth or even one letter. Nevertheless the Association did agree to a meeting with some council members.
- On the matter of the precept they had put together a group of necessary works to be done, although there was no decision made on priority. Some members thought that the brambles along the northern boundary were a more effective deterrent than the metre high wire fence proposed. It is possible that they would prefer an allocated amount each year.
- I again stated that copies of any letters issued should be exchanged between the Association and the Council.
- The Christmas celebrations money raised by the Association would be used to maintain and enhance the 'Escape' plot.
- Matters also raised were a) the problem of footballs coming over from Entaco and a forced entrance for retrieval, b) there is a build-up of rubbish begun by a certain allotment holder and possibly added to by others, c) the number of extra sheds and greenhouses on some plots, and d) the vermin including rats seen on the new beds and also around the garages on Eldorado.

##### **Report of the Youth Club given by Cllr Holder**

- Youth Club organising a meal the last Wednesday in January – Food for Thought project. Invitations to be sent to the Parish Council and Community Groups. Will be using produce from local shops.

- Youth Club still being well attended, 20 -30 youths. In process of doing new programme for spring/summer.
- Job losses due to savings to be discussed at Cabinet meeting in February.
- Petition on WCC website objecting to closure of Youth Services. Cllr Holder will forward e mail with details to Clerk.
- Meeting to take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at Arden Court with Rob Townsend and Chairman of Management Committee to discuss closures.
- Management Committee meeting will be on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
- Cllr Mrs Wersocki: if buildings are to be closed, given 6 months to decide what they can be used for.

**Report of Nature Reserve given by Cllr McCarthy**

Probation Service Offenders booked to help at Nature Reserve. Postponed due to bad weather. Volunteers may do the work themselves.

**15. Approve Accounts for Payment**

Cllr Beaman left the room during this item.

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

726 – Mrs D E Mitchell £1384.67. 727 – Inland Revenue £732.05.

728 – BT £84.28. 729 – Alcester Silver Band £80.00.

730 – G Gardner £67.50. 731 – G S Adams £1849.43.

732 – P A Janes £320.00. 733 – Severn Trent Water £91.38.

Direct Debit – SDC Office Rates £125.00.

**The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**Meeting closed 8.28pm**

*Signed: Chairman .....*