

Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on Tuesday 7th October 2008 at 7.30pm.

1. Chairman declared the meeting open

2. Present

Chairman J. Bacon, Vice Chair Mrs S. Redman, P. Beaman, E. Holder, Mrs A. Wade, Mrs H. Wersocki, W. McCarthy, C. Rickhards, Mrs M. Woodrow, M. Redman, Mrs M. Bell.

District Councillor M. Weddell, County Councillor Mrs H. McCarthy.

Tanya Butchers & Sorelle Clements, WCC.

1 member of the public.

3. Apologies for Absence

Cllr J. Vale.

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 6 – non prejudicial

5. Public Forum

Cllr Holder: At AGM of the Youth Club, Cllr Holder re-elected as Chairman of the Management Committee, Cllr Mrs Wade elected as Vice Chair.

6. Tanya Butchers, Divisional Library Manager, South Warwickshire & Sorelle Clements, Library Networks & Access Manager

Copy of proposed new hours to be effective from 27th October 2008 already handed to each Councillor.

- Trial over the winter period. Past history of difficulty for residents to see when the library is open. Need consistency of opening hours. Not being used by the community from 5.30pm.
- Hope that by widening the access during the day will increase availability for older people and parents of young children.
- All three members of the library staff are leaving, so in the position to make changes. Able to recruit to the posts with new hours. Saturday mornings remain unchanged as well as 5.30pm closure to enable school children to use the library.
- Cllr Mrs Wade passed to everyone a copy of a statistical paper that was presented to Councillors at the Stratford on Avon Area Committee in 2006 when it was agreed that Studley 'was not getting their fair share of the cake'. Amazed that the hours remain the same as in 2005/06/07. £25 a week of her council tax goes to WCC who fund the library. Funds not fairly distributed.

No concessions have been made, not even given an extra hour. Very disappointed as feels very strongly that books are a valuable resource for children.

- Sorelle Clements involved with review of library network across the whole of the County. A six month project looking at hours and work being undertaken. Change of hours in Studley is possible because of the staff situation and not part of the review.
- Cllr Mrs Wersocki concerned that as a working mother could not get to the library before 5.30pm. Belongs to a book club who would use the library in the evenings. Will staff contracts be flexible?
- Library Assistants work to specified hours within the library service opening hours which are from 9.00am – 8.00pm. It is a standard contract and hours can be varied.
- Have consulted with County Cllr Mrs McCarthy.
- Library not being used in the evenings and decided to go with hours most commonly used. There has not been a full consultation.
- Studley is a 'C' group library, Alcester is group 'B'. Review will be looking at the nuclei of population. Studley was included in the Alcester area.
- No details of numbers. They vary between 5.30pm and 7.00pm. During the day compare favourably. Just swapping Friday afternoon to Friday morning. Not a 'done deal'. Maybe look at again in 6 months when review completed.
- Cllr Mrs Bell as a working parent feels alienated as not open in evenings. Figures are inaccurate as residents not using local library but others that are open. Library is such an asset and not everyone has internet access.
- Cllr Holder looking at factual information Studley has a much higher population. This will be looked at.
- Cllr Mrs McCarthy: It is difficult to take hours away from other communities but hopefully when more hours are available Studley will get them.
- Over the winter months possibly a reduction of people. During the evening youngsters can put people off.
- Cllr Rickhards: Could we have an assurance that in the review will take into account the historical assumption that Studley is served by Alcester Library.
- Can guarantee that across the County will be looking at where people go.
- Studley has a high number of residents over 60 yrs of age who would use the library more in the day. Statistics consistent.
- New hours are more consistent and easier for people to remember. In the review will be looking at how many people use libraries outside the County.
- Could do a questionnaire and put item in the next newsletter.

The Chairman thanked Tanya and Sorelle for coming to the meeting and for making themselves available in their own time. It is much appreciated

7. Matters Arising (*for information only*)

Min 19/06 Awards for All confirmation that necessary information has been received and file now closed.

8. Items for Discussion

Min 235 Dyers re grave digging. Problems arising with grave diggers from

different funeral services not always digging plots in the right place.

Proposed Cllr McCarthy that Dyers be responsible for digging all grave plots, seconded Cllr Holder. Voting unanimous.

Residents can still use any Funeral Directors to make arrangements.

- Min 198 Cllr McCarthy: Warwickshire Minerals Core Strategy Summary Document. Copy of geographical maps handed to all Councillors. Only concern is the extraction of sand and gravel in the Arrow to Avon Valley. Not able to put any sites forward. No areas around us. Do not need to do anything at present. Thank you from the Chair to Cllr McCarthy.

- Min 236 Cllr Beaman: Presentation of Awards Evening and Format. Need to look at when to hold the event and if keeping similar format as last year. Need to look at later than December, could look at late Spring. Village Hall is a good location. Some felt last year's event was expensive. Agreed to set up a sub-committee to look at options and venue. Cllrs Bacon, Beaman, Holder, Mrs Bell and Mrs Woodrow to form committee. To meet in two weeks with proposals.

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

- 08/02296/FUL Mr D Pomeroy, 23 Atcheson Close, Studley.
Erection of a conservatory.
General permitted development. Planning application not required.

- 08/02498/LBC Ms Nilu Kanani, Studley Castle.
Interior refurbishment works to facilitate additional guest rooms, and re-arrangement of public areas, to suit the current hotel market trends.
No representation.

10. Planning Decisions Received

- 08/01915/FUL Lloyds Homes Ltd., Land To The Rear Of 34 and 36 Node Hill, Studley.
Erection of 6 no dwellings, land to the rear of number 34 and number 36 Node Hill, Studley.
Permission with conditions 15th September 2008

11. Correspondence SDC

- Min 237 Training session for Code of Conduct for Alcester Area Tuesday, 4th November 2008 at 6.00pm in Studley Village Hall.
- Min 238 Confirmation that second precept payment paid directly into bank account.
- Min 239 Notification of withdrawal of planning application no.08/00726/FUL Aldi Stores Limited.

- Min 240 Introducing Home Choice Plus which differs from the current points system for people on housing waiting list. Applicants will be placed in a banding system gold, silver or bronze according to their housing need. The new system will replace the existing waiting list. SDC has written to all 3,600 current housing applicants asking them to complete a new form. Vacant properties will be advertised and applicants, if they are eligible, will be able to express an interest in the property by bidding on the phone, by text or using the internet. They will be able to place up to three bids in each weekly bidding cycle.
- Min 241 Car parking charges proposals for Pool Road car park. Information handed to all Councillors. Comments to Robert Walsh SDC. Concerns that if car park charged for then parents taking children to school will use the already congested streets. With the amount of terraced housing without car parking it should be free. The Parish Council leased the car park to SDC for a peppercorn rent and it should remain a free amenity to residents. To introduce charges will decimate businesses in Studley. Majority of people use the car park as an amenity to visit the Doctors, Library, Schools. Cost of installing ticket machines would far outweigh the charges. Very ill conceived idea that will kill market towns.
RESOLVED: Clerk to write thank you for the information but the Parish Council objects to all car parking charges.

WCC

- Min 242 Opening hours changes, Studley Library. Already discussed (item 6).
RESOLVED: Clerk to write that the Parish Council have strong feeling that extra library hours are required and they are disappointed that the changes were agreed with County Councillor Mrs McCarthy before being discussed with the Parish Council.
- Min 243 Notification of temporary closure of Green Lane, Studley for road works from Wednesday, 1st October 2008 for period of 5 days.
- Min 244 Minerals Development Framework, summary statement and request for sites. Document prepared requesting industry and landowners to put forward sites for inclusion in the Minerals Development Framework. Number of sites chosen will depend on requirement for the period plan for each mineral. Sites for consideration should be sent to WCC by 31st October 2008.

Other

- Min 245 NALC Freedom of Information Act – New Model Publication Scheme Copy handed to all Councillors. To be discussed at next meeting.
- Min 246 Letter received from Mrs Claire Hills concerned that there is no longer a School Crossing Patrol lady on Station Road/High Street and later in the year due to retirement there will not be one on the Alcester Road.
RESOLVED: Clerk to write to WCC to ascertain the current situation.
- Min 247 Worcestershire County Council Minerals & Waste Local Development Scheme 2008. Timetable for the preparation and adoption of the Scheme. The full document can be viewed on the strategic planning

- pages of the County Council's website www.worcestershire.gov.uk
- Min 248 Worcestershire County Council: Refreshed Issues & Options report. Questionnaire should be received by Worcestershire County Council between 29th September 2008 and 19th December 2008.
- Min 249 Green Issues thank you to all Parish Councils who responded to previous letter to join forum focusing on the proposed Middle Quinton Eco Town. Positive response but little interest from Parish Councils wishing to join the forum. Looking to ask if we wish to review our position.
RESOLVED: Clerk to write that Parish Council do not want to join the Parish Forum.
- Min 250 Request from Ann Beck for new street light along footpath from Willow Way. Cllr Beaman suggested lanterns to be changed.
RESOLVED: Clerk to contact WCC.
- Min 251 Confirmation that Studley received a Silver Award in the Heart of England in Bloom competition and thank you from Studley in Bloom to all the groups and agencies that have worked together to make Studley a nicer place to live and work.
RESOLVED: Clerk to write to thank Justin Sayers and Studley in Bloom for all their hard work.
- Min 252 Citations for Queen's Birthday Honours List required by 9th October 2008.
Proposed Cllr Rickhards that Cllr McCarthy be nominated to receive Queen's Birthday Honour, seconded Cllr Mrs Woodrow. Voting 10 for, 1 abstained.
RESOLVED: Clerk to write.
- Min 253 WALC: programme for Briefing Events to March 2009.
a) Briefing event for All Chairmen & Aspiring Chairmen at Harbury Village Hall Saturday 15th November 2008. £25.00 per delegate. Cllrs Bacon and Mrs Redman to attend.
b) Changes to The Town & Country Planning System Update Seminar at Dunchurch Village Hall near Rugby Saturday, 6th December 2008. £25.00 per delegate.
Councillors who are interested to contact the Clerk.
- Min 254 Parish Budget Benchmarking request from Tony Copeland on behalf of Wellesbourne Parish Council asking how other Parish Councils consider levels of future precept.
RESOLVED: Clerk to write.
- Min 255 Request from Elaine Bassinder for support and advice to create swimming club for young people. 'The Studley Stingrays' will be set up in the next few weeks.
RESOLVED that, in pursuance of the power conferred by section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfied the requirements of that section, the Council approves the payment of the sum of £100.00 in respect of The Studley Stingrays.

Correspondence for Circulation

- Min 256 Parish Plans Newsletter

- Min 257 NEWSFLASH – Young People’s Fund, Awards for Building Cultures, Launch of £500,000 Grant Fund for Communities affected by Quarrying
- Min 258 Funding *NEWS* Bulletin
- Min 259 Charitymatters Newsletter
- Min 260 Purple The Magazine of Breakthrough Breast Cancer
- Min 261 South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust Leaflet
- Min 262 Communities & Local Government – The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws – A Consultation
- Min 263 Town & Parish Standard Newsletter

12. Approve Accounts for Payment

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

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 21st October 2008

Meeting Closed 9.02pm

