

Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on Tuesday, 15th February 2011 at 7.30pm.

1. Chairman declared the meeting open

2. Present

Chairman C. Rickhards, Vice Chair J. Vale, W. McCarthy, Mrs M. Woodrow, D. Somner, E. Holder, Mrs A. Wade, J. Bacon, Mrs H. Wersocki, M. Redman. District Councillor M. Weddell, Mrs H. Wright.
2 members of the public.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from:
Cllr P. Beaman – illness
Cllr Mrs S. Redman – 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.
Cllr Mrs Wersocki – Min 372 (c) personal interest

5. Public Forum

Mr Nixon resident from Green Lane: photographs handed to all Councillors of the former Griffin Public House, Green Lane.
Along with other residents frustrated at the condition of The Griffin. Planning application submitted 2½ years ago was withdrawn. Building is a blight on the area, it is a dumping ground and two areas are structurally unsound. It is a complete embarrassment and has de-valued their homes. Looking to the Parish Council for help.
SDC have picked up some rubbish. Health and Safety concerns as building fronts highway. There has been dialogue since 2008 between SDC and residents so they are aware of the problem.
Proposed Cllr Rickhards that Item 12 Correspondence Min 388 be brought forward so that this can be discussed as the first item of the meeting.

12. Correspondence

Other

Min 388 Studley Village Gateway. Letter received from resident that it is a lovely

plan to organise a sculpture on the Barley Mow Roundabout but what about the entrance to Studley on the Redditch Road. Requesting information of any plans and asking to address the situation especially The Griffin.

Cllr Rickhards: Clear understanding that Section 79 of the Building Act 1984 Act empowers local authorities to do something. Totally agree with Mr Nixon and SDC should be made aware. ACT has already been used in Redditch.

Proposed Cllr Rickhards to contact SDC Enforcement and Environmental Health to invoke two sections of the Act and to press them to do something, seconded Cllr Bacon. Voting unanimous.

Cllr Rickhards will contact Highways. Clerk to liaise with Mr Nixon.

5. Public Forum Continued:

Cllr Mrs Wright: Youth Service meal. Were instructed to invite Parish Councillors on Wednesday, 23rd February 2011. Nothing has been heard. Cllr Mrs Wright will chase up and proper invitations should be received.

Cllr Rickhards: Reminder of Awards Evening on Saturday, 26th February 2011 and for Councillors to take raffle prizes to Parish Office.

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 338 Confirmation that the Independent Play Area Inspection took place on Monday, 7th February 2011. Report will be received in due course.

8. Items for Discussion

Min 371 Cllr McCarthy: Brickyard Lane Recreation Ground

Looked at changing rooms and cleaned up around the area. Dog walkers come through the side gates to Kiln Close and there were a lot of dog fouling bags thrown into the compound. Needs fencing at the top to prevent people coming through. Scrape has been dug out with help of Young Offenders.

Area was fenced about 2 years ago but to no avail. Problem as dogs are not allowed and although signage has been put up it is ignored.

RESOLVED Clerk to check on signage from St Chads and Brickyard Lane end, to alert the Dog Warden and to put an article in the next newsletter reminding residents that dogs are not allowed in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Vale to check the fencing.

Min 372 Grant Applications:

- a) Stratford on Avon Citizens Advice Bureau – funding request for £500.00 to be used towards payment of premises in the Village Hall for outreach facility open one morning per week.

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 satisfies the requirements of that section, the Council approves the payment of the sum of £500.00 in respect of the Stratford on Avon Citizens Advice Bureau.

b) Studley Youth Theatre launch at Studley High School – funding request for £500.00. To be invited to Parish Council meeting for more information.

c) Studley Tennis Club – funding requested for £1000.00 to replace 2 tennis courts with new surfaces, fencing and gates. Cllr Mrs Wersocki did not take part in this discussion and voting.

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 £900.00 in respect of Studley Tennis Club.

Request from Tennis Club if Parish Council are able to claim back VAT on their behalf if they give us the funds to pay for the resurfacing of their courts.

Clerk has received a response from HMRC but will seek further advice.

Min 373 Binder required for Minute Books to be stored in Archives

Proposed Cllr Holder that a binder be purchased at a cost of £310.00, seconded Cllr Mrs Wade. Voting unanimous.

Min 375 Allotment Association meeting and parking problems. Further dates requested. Cllrs Rickhards, Bacon and McCarthy to contact the Clerk.

9. Planning Applications for Consideration

10/02496/FUL

Mr P. Chambers, Eight Acre Field, Bromsgrove Road, Studley.

Retrospective permission sought for widening of existing vehicular access, laying of hardstanding, erection of stables and 2 no. shipping containers for storage.

Objection for the following planning reasons:

1. Access unsuitable on to the busy A448, dangerous location opposite the junction with Hamilton Drive.
2. Inappropriate development in the green belt – historically no track or yard ever existed. It was just a field.

3. Overdevelopment and urbanisation of a rural area, especially with a lorry park.
4. Change of use or Commercial Planning Application should be submitted with evidence of intention.

10. Planning Decisions Received

- 10/00914/FUL Mr V Dunlop, Roys Bikes, 94 Alcester Road, Studley.
Retention of two A1 Retail units with creation of 2 no. residential units on first and second floor. Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of 2 no. two storey dwelling houses to rear.
Planning permission granted 25th January 2011
- 10/02672/FUL Mr John Masters, 1 Willow Way, Studley.
Erection of porch.
Planning permission granted 31st January 2011
- 10/01948/EXT Mr P J Bubb, 47 – 51 High Street, Studley.
Application for extension of time to previously approved application ref:05/01682/FUL for alterations to 51 High Street, construction of 4 no. two-bed town houses and improvements to vehicular access.
Extension of Time approved 2nd February 2011

11. District and County Council Reports

District Council Report given by Cllr Mrs Wright

- The budget was approved by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be taken forward for approval at the Cabinet Meeting.
- Localism Bill – a plain English Guide is available.
- Change to Planning Rules and Guidance will not affect Parish Councils in the way thought. Will be in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Plan.
- Very important to update our Parish Plan. It will make a difference.

Cllr Weddell:

Decided at Overview & Scrutiny Committee not to take forward proposals to charge for green waste and car parks, but will be a charge for some environmental services. Still not sure how much money will be received from Government.

County Council Report given by Cllr Rickhards

- Budget voted on at Council meeting today. Proposals reported in November were voted through with minor adjustments.

- Youth Club potentially in danger of closing. Vote to put £0.9 million back into the service.
- Need to re-configure the Youth Service in collaboration with other groups.
- Total Place project may help Studley.
- Library – proposals went through. All 34 libraries are under review. 16 including Studley are under threat as not viable based on percentage footfall.
- Consultation will take place between March and June. No details of what will happen to the buildings. Cllr Mrs Wright has requested square footage of buildings.

Clerk to write to WCC asking for information on square footage, staffing costs, building costs and overhead costs of running library and to demand a public meeting.

To be discussed further at next meeting.

12. Correspondence

SDC

None.

WCC

Min 376 Library & Information Service – Facing the Challenge. Service needs to find £2 million savings from their annual budget of £7.4 million. Proposal that 16 libraries, of which Studley is one, are unsustainable in their current form. Consultation of the libraries will run from March – June. WALC has been notified and WCC will be working with them to ensure Town & Parish Councils have the opportunity to contribute to the consultation. Item for next agenda as previously discussed.

Min 377 Provision of Positive Activities for Young People. Event being held on Tuesday, 22nd March 2011 between 9.30am and 3.30pm in Studley Village Hall, where we can find out what progress has been made so far on Studley Place Based Budgeting. Places need to be booked by Tuesday, 8th March 2011. Cllrs Bacon, Rickhards, Holder and Mrs Wade to attend.

Min 378 Variation 13 Stratford District Consolidated Road Traffic Orders. Proposed Orders and Plans together with WCC's Statement of Reason for proposing the Order can be inspected at Studley Library. Notices have also been posted at the various locations on the streets affected. Objections to be received by 25th February 2011 to Chris Latham.

Other

Min 379 Clarity Solutions increase of copy costs on Minolta printer by 3.5% on 1st March 2011. Noted.

Min 380 Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge – initiated to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London 2012 Olympics. The aim is to protect

- 2012 outdoor recreational sites. Any Council can participate by nominating a recreational site to be included in the programme. Available funds of £1 million for improvement. Clerk to nominate Brickyard Lane and Crooks Lane Recreation Grounds.
- Min 381 SLCC Worcester Branch request for participation. Sent to us in error as we are a member of the Warwickshire Branch.
- Min 382 WALC: Expand your Skills, Become a Trainer. Train the Trainer Day Offer. Anyone interested in attending to contact the Clerk. Responses by Friday, 18th February 2011.
- Min 383 Notification of Appeal Decision Planning Application No.10/01617/FUL site at Hardwick Barn, Hardwick Lane, Clarkes Green. Appeal dismissed.
- Min 384 Notification of Appeal Decision Planning Application No.10/01687/FUL site at 49 Bromsgrove Road, Studley. Appeal dismissed.
- Min 385 NALC: Policy Consultation – The Public Forest Estate. Copy circulated to all Councillors. Response required by 12th April 2011. To be discussed at next meeting.
- Min 386 NALC: Employment Briefing – The Abolition of the Default Retirement Age with effect from 1st October 2011 with phasing- in beginning April. Copy circulated to all Councillors.
- Min 387 Escape: Thank you to the Council for our donation to the Escape Grow, Cook and Eat Project.
- Min 388 Studley Village Gateway. Already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Correspondence for Circulation

- Min 389 NALC E Bulletin
- Min 390 rsn online
- Min 391 Working for your Community – Why Not Become a Parish/Town Councillor
- Min 392 SLCC Communications – 2011 and beyond
- Min 393 Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning
- Min 394 SLCC Annual Meeting 10th February 2011
- Min 395 Warwickshire Police Community Newsletter February 2011

13. Committee Reports

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 1st February 2011 at 6.30pm

1. Present

Cllrs C. Rickhards, J. Vale, P. Beaman, W. McCarthy, J. Bacon, E. Holder.

2. Apologies

None.

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Beaman – personal interest.

4. Amenities

a) Street Lighting:

Following inspection three lamps identified that need attention not covered by the contract.

Manor Road – new lantern required cost £270.00 + Vat

Station Road – new fitting required cost £353.00 + Vat

Village Hall/Youth Club – replacement fitting required cost £353.00 + VAT

Proposed Cllr Rickhards the repairs be carried out at the cost stated, seconded Cllr Holder. Voting 5 for, Cllr Beaman abstained from voting.

b) Lighting Point 15 St Judes Avenue

Proposed Cllr Rickhards that a new sleeve be fitted due to damage caused by frost at a cost of £535.00 + VAT, seconded Cllr Bacon.

Voting 5 for, Cllr Beaman abstained from voting.

Query from resident into re positioning of this light. Informed that he would have to contact Parish Council and, if approved, would have to pay.

c) Proposed survey of all concrete lighting columns for the installation of sleeves. Some of the columns are 60 – 70 years old. Suggest in-depth survey to see if repairs need to be carried out and sleeves fitted.

Look at the precept for next year to replace the sleeves on a rolling programme. There should conceivably be about 10% of the lights that need new sleeves and they can be prioritised.

Proposed Cllr Holder that a programme as prescribed is carried out in the next financial year, seconded Cllr McCarthy. Voting 5 for, Cllr Beaman abstained from voting.

5. WCC Street Lighting Energy Savings Suggestions

By changing the photocell (at an approximate cost of £50 per photocell including installation) the lights in some areas could be turned off at midnight making a saving to cost and energy. There are 275 lights in total and there are some roads where every other light could be turned off. If we agree to do this it could be done when maintenance is carried out. Problem is which lights to turn off. Lighting cannot be reduced where there is CCTV. 275 lights in total, if we take out about 25 in High Street/Station Road/Pool Road at 350watts per lamp per night this would save 4p. Floodlights in the recreation ground can be disconnected as this will not affect many people. When the survey is carried out we can see what savings can be made. If complaints are made it is easy to change.

Agreed to look at energy saving when survey is carried out.

Copy circulated to all Councillors.

14. Delegates Reports

Youth Club Report given by Cllr Holder

Club still going strong. Saturday Consultation Day was very disappointing as not many residents turned up and there were only a few youngsters. Lot of negative attitudes from the staff. Wanting support but no ideas came forward.

Bulky Waste Collection: well used, 20 tonne of rubbish taken from Studley. Redditch resident turned away and also a van containing rubble. Cllr Holder will monitor next collection.

15. Approve Accounts for Payment

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

749 – Mrs D E Mitchell. 750 – Mrs S Perks.

751 – Inland Revenue £694.12. 752 – Johnsons Coaches £180.00.

753 – G S Adams £490.00. 754 – Severn Trent Water £671.50.

755 – Studley Leisure Centre £186.40. 756 – WALC £185.00.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 1st March 2011

Meeting closed 9.40pm

Signed: Chairman