

Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on Tuesday, 15th June 2010 at 7.30pm.

1. Chairman declared the meeting open

2. Present

Chairman C. Rickhards, P. Beaman, Mrs A. Wade, E. Holder, W. McCarthy, J. Bacon.

District Councillors Mrs H. Wright, M. Weddell.

2 members of the public.

Carol Roberts, Empty Homes Officer, SDC.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from:

Cllrs Mrs M. Woodrow, Mrs S. Redman, M. Redman, J. Vale, Mrs H. Wersocki

- absent due to holiday

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 Wade – Min 96 Personal Interest

Cllr Beaman - Item 16 Accounts, Personal Interest

5. Public Forum

Cllr Mrs Wright: Paul Lankester has been invited to visit Studley. Thinking that it should not be to come to a Parish Council meeting but as there will be a lot of fundamental changes occurring in SDC would the Parish Councillors be interested in meeting with the Chief Executive perhaps one evening?

Cllr Mrs Wright will organise.

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 57 Tanworth in Arden Parish Council Enforcement Group has arranged a meeting on Wednesday, 23rd June 2010 at Earlswood Village Hall at 7.00pm to try and devise a plausible approach to attempt to get a better response from Stratford District Council to Enforcement. Cllrs Beaman,

Holder and Mrs Wade to attend.

8. Items for Discussion

- Min 92 Cllr Beaman: Changing Rooms, Brickyard Lane Recreation Ground. Meeting to be arranged between Cllr Beaman and Peter Janes to get quotes for repair work.
- Min 93 Cllr Rickhards: Residents' Parking, High Street. Two cases recently brought to his attention. One of a resident having difficulty parking on the High Street and the other outside a commercial premise on Marble Alley.
Traffic Officer is in the process of looking at parking both on the High Street and on the Redditch Road. Studies have been carried out but times have changed and parking permits will not happen. Parking times have been changed to compensate.
Question asked if public parking on the Co-op site has been resolved? The Manager of the Co-op does allow businesses to park there all day. Clerk to check what planning conditions were laid down when the Co-op Planning Application was approved. Tamasin Swan, SDC to be contacted.
- Min 94 Annual Village Tidy Award – Judging. Councillors asked to bring nominations to next meeting.
- Min 95 Cllr Beaman: Grass cutting around the Village carried out by our own Contractor is superb but the area cut by SDC and WCC is not finished or tidied up. Problem may be to get out of contract.
They are not fulfilling their contract as nothing has been done for six weeks. Frontage on Park Avenue is appalling.
Option given to Parish Councils to have a warden to monitor grass cutting was not taken up as general consensus was that it not their job to do this. Clerk to check contract expiry date with SDC
Cllr Beaman: Had someone look at the gate and railings on the Millennium Green. Studley in Bloom are willing to take over the area but need permission of the Trustees. Perhaps they could become Trustees as well. Clerk to contact the two existing Trustees.

The Chairman suspended Items for Discussion and welcomed Carol Roberts to the meeting.

9. Presentation by Carol Roberts, Empty Homes Officer, SDC

Thank you from Carol Roberts for allowing her to come to the meeting. Notes and leaflets handed to all Councillors.

- Looks at how empty properties, those unoccupied for 6 months or more, can be brought back into use to create housing for people in housing need. Does not include 2nd homes.

- Information comes from Council Tax Data. 600-800 empty homes in Stratford, 600 long term and 200 in transit (for sale).
 - Number of hot spot areas being targeted including Studley which had 46 empty homes last year and 59 this year.
 - 75% response rate from owners and 28% in active engagement. Three have been offered grants.
 - If a property is untidy or an eyesore can meet with owners and provide information on solutions to bring them back into use.
 - If owner is in a care home this would be exempt. Would not look at properties for at least six months following a death.
 - Now have two tenants for three years in apartments at Bell Lane.
 - Criteria for properties is that they are close to amenities such as shops, schools, public transport, usually in Village Centres.
 - Tenants must have a local connection and be registered on the Home Choice list. They need to bid and then selection is made.
 - Will endeavour to work with owners but some are uncooperative so can look at enforcement procedures but this is a last resort. Multi ownership can cause a problem. Order can be put in place if a property is classed as a nuisance or causes problems for the Community. Always try to offer an amicable solution.
 - Agents can be used if owners cannot be traced.
 - Information often comes from Council Tax records which can sometimes be incorrect. Critical to receive information and always happy to hear from people about empty properties.
 - Often a high concentration of empty homes in larger Villages like Studley but there is a higher percentage in Stratford Town.
- Thank you from the Chairman to Carol Roberts for her presentation.

8. Items for Discussion Continued

Min 96 Cllr Mrs Wade: Infant School Sign. Reply received from WCC Traffic Projects Group that the existing sign is in the appropriate location so could not consider relocating it. At present the sign is twisted so will ask John Brown to investigate and take appropriate action.

Cllr Mrs Wade telephoned Katrina Pedlar who was not aware that the school was at the end of an unadopted road and that it is difficult to find.

Cllr Mrs Wade suggested that 'School Zone' could be painted on the road but was informed that WCC did not do this. There is no money available this year but possibility of Councils bidding for discretionary funding for projects next year.

Cllr Mrs Wade pointed out that the school is not a private building but owned by WCC and therefore is a public building.

'School Zone' would be cheap and efficient.

Cllr Rickhards contacted John Brown who is looking to see if the sign can be made bigger but question of cost.

Thank you from the Chairman to Cllr Mrs Wade for all her efforts.

Min 97 Cllr Mrs Wade monitored the bulky waste collection on 5th June 2010. Was very impressed with the Contractors from Verdant who were on time, courteous and very helpful. They were grateful to have someone from the Parish Council there whose presence did deter some white vans. Signs need to be put up again. It is a wonderful service, good value for money.

Cllr Bacon also attended and the site was cleared up by 12 noon.

Agrees that it is a good idea to have a rota system with someone to monitor the collection.

It is a problem to tell which people are trades persons as could be confrontational if challenged. Most residents appreciate the system, need to stop the trades people and not punish the residents by losing the service.

Item for discussion on next agenda. Clerk to put notice in newsletter that vehicle number plate recognition by CCTV is in force in this area.

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

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| 10/00957/FUL | Mr Ricki Rooke, 60B Station Road, Studley.
Construction of tiled lean-to canopy roof on front elevation.
No representation. |
| 10/01016/FUL | Mr Hewitt and Mr Perks, Land Adjacent To, 6 Orchard Way, Studley.
Construction of two-storey detached dwelling.
No representation. |
| 10/01069/FUL | Mr Ken Moore, 63 Green Lane, Studley.
Replacement dwelling.
No representation. |

11. Planning Decisions Received

None.

12. District and County Council Reports

District Council Report given by Cllrs Mrs Wright & P. Beaman

Copy handed to all Councillors.

1. Papers SDC received from the Coalition Government:

- a) Intention to abolish the existing planning framework.
 - b) Emergency arrangements for unauthorised planning developments.
 - c) Opening the transparency of expenditure in Councils.
 - d) Local Governments contribution to 6.2 billion efficiencies in 2010/11.
(Reductions to be made in the current year)
 - e) Freeze on Council Tax for financial year 2010.
2. Joining of Senior Management with Warwick District Council:
The work on the business case has begun to assess the feasibility of joining up the Senior Management of Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council.
3. Peer Review:
Work on the Peer Review will take place on 20-23 July. This is part of the Transformation Programme and will assess the Council's ability to assess change.
Part of the Programme is also to consider the level of service the Council wishes to provide in service areas.
4. SDC Committee Structure
A new Committee Structure is now in place.
The first meeting of the newly formed Overview and Scrutiny Committee has taken place. It was agreed to set up a sub-committee to look at the service that Orbit was delivering to the tenants. If any Parish Councillor has an interest in social housing they should let one of the District Councillors know.
5. SDC Planning Meetings:
The start of Planning Meetings has been moved to 6.15pm. A response to the points made at Studley Parish Council.

A 'State of District' meeting is being held on 2nd July 2010 at 10.00am – 1.00pm at Stratford Town Hall which could be worthwhile attending.

County Council Report given by Cllr C. Rickhards

- Reiterate that Fire & Rescue Plan will be debated on 20th July 2010 at full County Council meeting. Document will be published 12th July 2010. Plan will probably be amended.
- Capping of WCC alone next year will have an impact of 1%. Could impact on Highways and Education.
- Attended Committee meeting re PCSO's in schools. Cllr Richard Hobbs is looking to extend the scheme. Cllr Rickhards to raise issue with High School.

13. Correspondence

SDC

- Min 98 Following request for Planning Training suggestion that we approach WALC who use Nelson Training for courses which in the past have been effective. Cllr Mrs Wright to follow up with SDC.
- Min 99 Following request by Parish Council to provide details of outstanding enforcement cases, SDC advised that due to limited resources and work loads, a limited update of current enforcement cases will be provided on request, but only for those enforcement cases brought to the attention of the Enforcement Section by the Parish Council.

WCC

- Min 100 Copy of Draft Rights of Way & Recreational Highway Strategy – Warwickshire's Second Rights of Way Improvement Plan received. Consultation period runs until 27th August 2010. Can be downloaded from: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rowip
Cllr Bacon to look at document and report back.

Other

- Min 101 WALC has upgraded its website and legal topic and notes now available 24 hours a day. Parish Council has own password and site is accessed on www.walc.org.uk
- Min 102 Lord-Lieutenant of Warwick is trying to increase awareness of the Queen's Ward for Voluntary Service, as there were no winners from the Warwickshire Group in this year's Award. Copy of guidance notes received for the Award. No deadline for receipt of nominations which are considered at any point within three years but nominations for next year should be submitted by end of September.
Clerk to write that it is a daunting process which should be simplified.
- Min 103 Donation of £50 received from Mappleborough Green Parish Council towards running costs of Friday Shopper Coach.
- Min 104 Warwickshire Police & Police Authority are currently reviewing the delivery of policing services within the County. Facing significant financial challenges and updating Parish Councils on how they intend to reduce cost of policing in Warwickshire. Briefing note received explaining initiative known as Warwickshire Police 150plus Programme which identifies opportunities for significant change and savings.
Copy handed to all Councillors.
- Min 105 E mail received from Jo-anne and Peter Tedd about problems of sewage on the Birmingham Road following flash flood. Situation was horrendous. Severn Trent were reluctant to attend to his property and feels it is not his responsibility to chase up people when the problem comes from Aldi and the Barley Mow. Also concerned about speeding lorries that throw-up water over the houses.

Clerk already responded that sewage problem was reported to all the relevant agencies. Will contact Environmental Health, SDC to see what measures are being taken to improve the situation.

Correspondence for Circulation

Min 106 Community Landfill Grants

Min 107 Letter for information re Planning Application 09/00869/FUL Change of use for stationing of caravans for residential purposes with ancillary works (hardstanding and septic tank), Land adjacent to Gospel Oak Lane, Pathlow

14. Committee Reports

None.

15. Delegates Reports

Report on Youth Club given by Cllr Holder

Youth Club is still going well with 20 – 30 youngsters on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Numbers at after-school club dropped slightly due to good weather. Funding has been granted for repairs to front of building. Management Committee meeting to take place on Monday at 7.00pm. Food for Thought Project has started. About 12 girls have now joined the Club which is encouraging. Graffiti wall is a success. Ongoing project of mural in the Youth Club, when finished Parish Councillors will be invited to view.

16. Approve Accounts for Payment

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

617 – Mrs D E Mitchell £1422.46. 618 – Mrs S Perks £603.22.

619 – Inland Revenue £731.85. 620 – G. Gardner £67.50.

621 – G S Adams £479.79. 622 – Johnsons Coaches £180.00.

623 – Verdant £417.13. 624 – BT £80.48. 625 – P A Janes £215.00.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 6th July 2010

Meeting closed 9.10pm

Signed: Chairman