

# Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 7.30pm.

## 1. Public Forum: Helen Robinson

Litter, a great problem. Need larger bin by bus stop, The Grove. Parish Council add in a context with cup for Best Dressed Window competition that if frontage of shops not kept clear will not get an award. Pointed letter could be sent. Include on next agenda.

## 2. Chairman declared the meeting open

## 3. Present

Chairman P. Beaman, Vice Chair S. Phipps, Mrs M. Woodrow, E. Holder, W. McCarthy, Mrs H. Wersocki, J. Vale, M. Redman, J. Bacon.

## 4. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mrs A. Wade, Mrs S. Redman.

## 5. 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.*

Min 27 Studley Village Hall, Annual Rent Demand

Cllrs Beaman, Phipps – Personal Interest

## 6. Traffic situation around the Village – Peter Samwell, WCC

Welcome from the Chairman to Mr Samwell.

- As not getting Bypass need to look at traffic management within the Village.
- Background in highway maintenance. When detrunking occurs there will be an officer in charge of negotiations.
- A435 through Studley has particular problems.
- Points raised in our e mail have been discussed with other officers.
- Need guidance on how improvements can be achieved.
- Highway maintenance within the Village an issue with Toms Town Lane & Crooks Lane being particularly poor. A435 between Holt Road & Toms Town breaking up.

- Highway Maintenance – Policies
  - a) Funding & potential problems. More work could be carried out but funding an issue.
  - b) Priorities dealt with first. South of the County has had more surfacing money.  
 Budget each year for surfacing & pavement surfacing. Officers coming up with an annual list. The ones with the most defects go forward into work programme. Toms Town Lane was included last year but drainage improved and should be done in September. Cllr Mrs McCarthy stated that Crooks Lane was included in work programme but disappeared.  
 Mr Samwell will put Crooks Lane back and it should be done by the end of the year. Any delay would be after Christmas when weather better.
  - c) Other roads in the Village require work but the A435 is an 'A' Road and even if not a trunk road will be expected to take a reasonable amount of HGVs to gain access to industrial estates. Alcester has a 7T limit. The only hope we have is to stop lorries going through the Village. Studley has no industrial estate, Only other way is the A448 or south onto A46. Feel aggrieved that we have to put up with HGVs using industrial estates in other areas. Officers will discuss this with Highways when the road is detrunked but not sure what alternative lorries may have. Reduction of speed limit to 30mph from bottom of Gorcott Hill and then they will look for quicker routes. Traffic calming and chicanes will make it difficult.
- Inspector acknowledged Studley suffers. On that issue there may be a moral reason for the Highways to fund some traffic calming. Lot of work would need to be done. At present people park half way on the pavement. Police acknowledge as does not impede traffic. Parking bays outside properties on A435 would impede traffic. A441 at Astwood Bank have done this and no lorries use this route. Simple solution.
- Government studies show that traffic should be taken out of Studley but we have been let down completely. A448 and Sambourne suffer with traffic problems.
- Should be a reduction of speed limit in Village especially around schools to 20mph. Question asked what is the chance of this and also a weight limit on Station Road and High Street as lorries use this road as a cut through?
- Barley Mow Island is above Government Guidelines for pollution.
- There may be a possibility but where would the displaced vehicles go? It is in the County's interest to have all the interior roads in Studley to have weight restrictions imposed to prevent roads from breaking up. Structural damage to properties and pavements along A435.
- What is the process? Who makes decisions? Parish Council need to lobby WCC. Money is always an issue. Important to lobby Highways for traffic calming.
- Parish Council are at the stage where we aren't going to get anything done. Government could give money to WCC for Bypass. Need to concentrate on what is going to be done within the Village.
- Mr Samwell does not want to raise expectations and we may need to have demonstrations to try to illustrate the point.
- As a Village cannot sit here and expect nothing.
- The problem is always going to be here. 27,000 vehicles per day going through the Village and if we don't do something situation will only get worse.

- Mr Samwell has got a list of problems that need to be carried out to improve the road system in the Village.
- Question asked if a Parish Council representative could be included with talks with Highways?
- Solicitor was astounded at the detail of presentation at Inquiry and we do know what we are taking about as we are nearest to the problems.
- Contact to be found from Department of Transport. Need to campaign and make a fuss. Opportunity at the moment with discussions going on of funding from Dept. of Transport.

Thanks from Chairman to Mr Samwell for attending the meeting. Very much appreciated.

## **7. To Pass the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Accepted and signed as a true record of the last meeting.

## **8. Matters Arising (*for information only*)**

Min 173 Minerals Development Framework ) Questionnaires completed and

Min 383 Waste Development Framework ) forwarded to relevant bodies.

Min 19 Awards for All – acknowledgement of application.

## **9. Items for Discussion**

Min 20 Litter picking: gradual awareness. Volunteers needed for next event of litter picking. Estates are being litter picked. Businesses can be prosecuted. May need to write to businesses to keep their areas clear. Clerk to write to SDC and asked if they are checked. When rubbish is collected and thrown into truck, often it is not picked up when dropped, needs to be checked. Fly tipping has increased along Hardwick Lane & Clarkes Green. Clerk to write to SDC.

Min 21 Street furniture:

- Lack of litter bins at Rutters. Need to be replaced.
- Benches by school in New Road. Need to do a survey either to repair or get rid of.
- Area by Railway: needs to be look at with possibility of installing a bench.
- Bollards around the Village. Survey needs to be done. Also write to Tesco Express.
- Health Authority land needs to be looked at.
- Studley signs very dirty on entrance to Village.

Meeting of Amenities Committee to take place before Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006.

## **10. Planning Applications**

06/00718/FUL

Shirley Park Amusements, Land Rear Of, 11 Alcester Road, Studley.

Erection of 6 no. flats and widening of existing access.

**Objection for the following planning reasons:**

- 1. Over development of the site.**
- 2. Overbearing as 3 storey development and loss of privacy to neighbouring properties.**

**3. Totally out of place and not in keeping with the area.**

**4. Parking could be an issue.**

## **11. District and County Council Reports**

### **District Council Report given by District Cllr Beaman**

Copy handed to all Councillors.

Summary:

- Attended several West Area Planning Committee meetings including one for the relocation of Stratford Town Football Club.
- Since re-organisation of Overview & Scrutiny Committee Cllr Beaman now sits on Committee B, revised format should improve the work of the O & S within the Council as they promote non-political decision making.
- Attended Executive Meeting.
- Avian Flu: Information can be found on Emergency Planning Unit's website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/epu](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/epu)
- The Future of Local Government Debate: attended ODPM regional briefing. This is a time for potential change in the way local government delivers its services and more information will be provided in due course.
- Elections: Now passed the close of nominations for the elections in May. Now trialing improved security arrangements for postal voting, and the elections will be overseen by representatives of the Electoral Commission and Department for Constitutional Affairs. The relevant statutory order to allow this pilot has been put into effect by the Government.
- Housing Inspection: this service is due to be inspected by the Audit Commission later this year.
- Ethical Governance: Series of briefings for members and officers being held in connection with new codes of conduct for staff and new protocols for member/officer relationships.

*Reminder to Councillors that it is their duty to keep the Register of Interests and the list of hospitality received up to date? It could affect your ability to be a Councillor if you do not do so.*

### **County Council Report given by County Cllr Mrs McCarthy**

Copy handed to all Councillors.

Summary:

- Modernisation of the County Council officially began on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006. New Children, Families & Young People's Department has been established which incorporates Education, Social Services for Children & Young People & Youth Services. Now only 6 departments instead of 9.
- Priority of modernisation agenda is the Customer Service Centre & One-Stop Shops in conjunction with the District and Borough Councils.

Looking at priority areas for funding for next budget. Funding from Government (the largest part of Local Authority income) is now set for 3 years, so the very poor settlement for 2006/7 is echoed for 2007/8 and 2008/9. WCC remains on the grant floor at over £15 per head of population below the Shire County average – which equates this year to

- just over £8 million of lost funding. If Council Tax rise is again capped next year, or we need to keep the rise down to 5% or below, then no doubt all departments will yet again be asked to make 'efficiency savings'.
- The Studley cluster of schools (Studley RC, Studley infant, Studley High, Studley Junior and Coughton Primary) put in a bid for funding for an Extended Schools programme and achieved a grant of £25,000. It will probably be used to employ a Development Worker to arrange and run a programme. An Extended Schools programme has the potential to generate a range of positive outcomes for schools, their pupils and families and the wider community.

## **12. Correspondence**

### **SDC**

- Min 22 District Council Elections Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Confirmation of Nominations, W. McCarthy and Mrs H. Wright.

### **WCC**

- Min 23 SpeedAware – new road safety initiative to provide free assistance to communities in dealing with problems of speeding traffic. Leaflet provided for information and only one request per community can be submitted on a first come first served basis. Agreed to submit leaflet.

### **Other**

- Min 24 Meeting with John Rostill to be arranged after 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006 re proposed changes at the Alexandra Hospital. Dates to be suggested and Clerk to arrange meeting.
- Min 25 DEFRA – Guide to Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 - a parish council guide to environmental enforcement. It can be downloaded from website:  
[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/cnea](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/cnea)  
 Courses to be arranged for training which will be a requirement for anyone authorised by a Parish Council to issue fixed penalty notices on its behalf. Clerk to send for copy of free guide.
- Min 26 Town & Country Festival 2006 – keen to make members aware of the event and would like to know if could advertise in Parish Magazine, B80, Newsletter. Clerk to respond.
- Min 27 Annual rent demand from Village Hall proposal to increase rent to £3788.95. Refer to Office Committee.
- Min 28 Thomas Guise with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 will be a limited Company.

### **Correspondence for Circulation**

- Min 29 DEFRA Building Community Life
- Min 30 Standards Board for England Press Release 'Demeaning' Code leads to 15 month ban for council leader
- Min 31 Review of the Quality Scheme – NALC Consultation
- Min 32 Standards Board Bulletin

- Min 33 Viewpoint – Warwickshire Countryside Magazine
- Min 34 Purple Breakthrough Breast Cancer
- Min 35 WCC SpeedAware leaflet
- Min 36 In2 Sport Magazine

**13. Committee Reports**

None.

**14. Delegates Reports**

**Cllr Phipps on behalf of Studley in Bloom:** Would like to re-arrange the planters in the library area. Placement was agreed by Studley in Bloom. Nothing has yet been planted. Position in such a way to prevent riders rushing through. Need to make a formal application and plan.

**15. Approve Accounts for Payment**

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

**The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006**

**Meeting Closed at 8.52pm**