

Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on Tuesday 20th June 2006 at 7.30pm.

1. Public Forum

None.

2. Chairman declared the meeting open

3. Present

Chairman P. Beaman, Mrs A Wade, W. McCarthy, E. Holder, J. Vale, Mrs H. Wersocki, Mrs M. Woodrow, Mrs S. Redman.

Apologies for late arrival M. Redman.

County Councillor Mrs H. McCarthy, Lee White, WCC, Nick Dauncey, WCC, Robert Weeks, SDC, Nick Ellison SDC, Melina Bell.

4. Apologies for Absence

Vice Chair S. Phipps, Cllr J. Bacon, District Councillor Mrs H. Wright.

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.

None.

6. Multi Agency Presentation

Parish Council has been concerned for some time that as there will be no Bypass we

need to do something about the traffic problems in the Village and to improve the environment.

There will be a separate meeting in July to discuss the air quality.

- Legal challenge was unsuccessful. Issue of detrunking of A435 an ongoing process, it will occur but do not know when.
- Discussions taking place with colleagues at Worcestershire to acquire land at Mappleborough Green owned by English Partnerships. Too early to speculate but distinct possibility that there may be added improvements.
- Major issue is signage from M42. Ongoing debate. Key issue is not to be signed as a through route to the Cotswolds. Changing signs as a matter of course. Local schemes depend on funding. Studley is not the only detrunking issue in Warwickshire.
- Parish Council feel that Highways Agency should pay for extra crossings, signing. Discussions active. If Parish Council has specific issues these will be passed on. Cllr Mrs McCarthy has been keeping Roger Poole informed.

At present A435 is shown as a lorry route and this should be changed the moment the road is detrunked. Should not be a strategic route, needs to be

- reviewed. Not only North to South route but a two-way thing, also South to North.
- Satellite Navigation now playing more of a role. Devices would send lorries along A435. Question asked if there is any influence on the people who devise these systems? Contact can be made with mapping people once the road has been detrunked. System will then focus on Motorway/Trunk Roads.
- Weight restrictions could be considered. Area Committee members have to decide. Not ruled out, assessment would need to be made.
- Officers handed copy of Parish Council minutes of Traffic Sub Committee containing 'wish list'. Parish Council would like gateways and chicanes to prevent lorries entering the Village. Need to flag up with Officers for Area Committee meeting in January,
- Government Guidelines – Highways Agency need to follow safety issues before handing over to WCC. Why should WCC have to pay for all these improvements before handover. In some areas road surface is breaking up on A435. Assessment made by Engineers. Part of package of ongoing maintenance.
- Halcrow Fox report listed many things that were required. Problem is that this was based on assumptions and since then there have been many changes such as traffic growth and design standards. Many things in report not now applicable.
- Traffic measures at Astwood Bank have made it very difficult for traffic to get through such as parking on the road. Double yellow lines speed up the traffic but parking bays slow down the traffic. Studley would like the same amount of obstruction. If parking bays are a safety issue, then need to strike a balance to slow down the traffic and divert it away from the Village.
- Slowing down the traffic may exacerbate the air quality problem.
- Barford bypass has been 22 years coming to fruition. All schemes now prioritised and have gone back to Central Government. In theory lots of money available for West Midlands but being used for schemes in Birmingham – no money left in the pot!
- If we can't have a Bypass, we do not want a mini Bypass but need to get the traffic out of the Village by other means.
- Issue is two fold:
 1. Reduce speed and improve safety junctions
 2. Reduce volume – displace traffic by signage
- Difficult to know where displaced traffic will go. Feel we have been 'stuffed'. In County's road plan since 1967.
- When road detrunked will need to meet regulations. Design manuals say roads and bridges must be maintained for 44T lorries.
- Government committed to looking at road pricing schemes but could be 20 years away.
- Three solutions:
 1. Displace traffic i.e. Motorways, Trunk Roads.
 2. Driver education, less car trips, very difficult.
 3. More draconian - weight limits, blocking routes.

If WCC went down that route it would be unsustainable in national picture.

Why unsustainable? It would be illegal. Not block routes but include more chicanes, islands making it more difficult for traffic.

- Redditch was built with no way out to the South.
- Cllr Cronin: not enthused. Three alternatives but feel we are likely to be 'stuffed' again by WCC and how are we going to get rid of 26,000 HGV's daily coming through Village. Very anxious that nothing positive will happen.
- Money issues: need to get money from Highways Agency, need to spend £5 million on Studley. (This amount is the budget for whole of Warwickshire). Any money from Highways Agency will be spent solely on A435.
- Question asked where can we put on pressure to help?
- Funding: Capital Projects, some money spent on transport, some on road improvements, minor works/issues, half of the money is spent on road maintenance.
- Expansion of Birmingham and Coventry Airports could have impact on A435. 35% of traffic through Warwickshire is travelling to the airport. Problem for the whole County.
- Sambourne who blocked bypass are now having serious traffic problems.
- Air quality problems caused by congestion, SDC would like to speed up traffic through Studley to relieve air quality.
- Government to produce Action Plan and could be passed over to WCC to incorporate into Transport Action Plan. Keen to start as soon as possible but different people want different things.

Thanks from the Chairman to everyone for attending. Parish Council would like comments on what is achievable in short term and long term. 'Wish list' taken away to present to Officers at WCC and Highways Agency. Key question – money. What are priorities and what can be afforded?

Very little money in the southern area of the County. Refuge for A448 now back in 5 year plan.

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*)

None.

9. Items for Discussion

Min 74 Charter 88. No comments.

Min 87 The Accounts for 2005/06 are approved as well utilisation of Earmarked Reserves of £3124 (Arts Group) used for allotment fencing and £1903 (Street Lighting) used for November – March charges.

Proposed Cllr W. McCarthy that the accounts for 2005/06 be accepted and signed, seconded Cllr E. Holder. Voting unanimous.

Thanks from the Chairman to the Clerk for presenting very clear accounts which are easy to understand.

10. Planning Applications

(Cllr Beaman refrained from Voting)

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|--------------|---|
| 06/01419/FUL | Mr S N Farr, 37A Bromsgrove Road, Studley.
Single storey side & front garage & bedroom extension.
Copy of a letter sent by Mr Farr to SDC concerning Covenant read out by Clerk.
Comment: Covenant to be looked at by Officers. |
| 06/01553/FUL | Mr & Mrs Shuter, 1 Holt Road, Studley.
Single storey porch on the front of the house & a single storey shaded room on the side of the house.
No representations. |
| 06/01500/FUL | Mr & Mrs Nash, 1D Knottesford Close, Studley.
Replace existing garage with new and extend to rear on ground floor. A new kitchen dining space.
No representations. |

11. District and County Council Reports

District Council Report given by Cllr P. Beaman.

Copy handed to all Councillors.

Summary:

- Special Council meeting on Monday, 12th June 2006 to adopt the Local Plan Review, Housing Strategy and Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- Avon Area Community Committee was the first committee in the present cycle to consider the State of the District report. All other Area Community Committees will consider the report and make their views known, as well as the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- Last week the Prime Minister, Chancellor and various others spoke at the National School of Government's 21st Century Public Services – Putting People First Conference. The speeches can be found at <http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/psrc2006/Presentations.asp>
- Healthy Eating and Food Safety. Working in partnership with Stratford upon Avon College Performing Arts department and South Warwickshire Dietetic Service the Council (through Nancy Singleton) has been proactive in delivering key healthy eating and food safety messages to primary and pre school children in our district through theatre in education. By the end of the week, 47 schools were visited in five days reaching in the region of 10,000 children.

A success for Studley with the refusal by the West Planning Committee for the development at the rear of the old Police House site. This will go to appeal but, taking into account the decision of the Co-op site and the Police House site, hopefully the message will get through that we need quality homes not more flats.

- Following recent problems with the car-boot sale, the Officers are investigating ways to deal with them and are actively looking into enforcement issues on the Co-op site and the site fencing on Bell Lane.

County Council Report given by Cllr Mrs H. McCarthy.

Copy handed to all Councillors.

Summary:

- Transport for post-16 students: transport to school and transport for post-16 students costs the County an enormous amount of money. Unlike money for education which comes as a grant from the Government directly to schools with a little to County for other aspects of education, no money comes directly for transport. Transport for pre-16 students: this costs a great deal more than post-16 travel. Having been looked at by a small group, some suggestions for savings have been adopted by the Cabinet. Warwickshire have often been paying for children outside the County to travel to County schools. As regards travel to denominational schools on religious grounds, the matter of proof of denominational allegiance is to be looked at again.
- As part of this year's budget, every department was required to make savings and economies.
- An overall saving of £220,000 is now required from the post-16 transport budget from the current financial year.
- The Cabinet ask the Task and Finish group to reconvene as a matter of urgency to consider options available to achieve the savings required.
- Fire & Rescue Service Circular 13 – 2006 was issued on 22nd March 2006. The ODPM initiated a formal consultation on detailed proposals for local authority companies to run the Regional Control Centres (RCC). The deadline for consultation response to be received by ODPM was 14th June 2006. A draft consultation response has now been written on behalf of Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Authority.
- Cabinet met on 25th May 2006 and considered the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy which set out the policy context for a Climate Change Strategy for Warwickshire and provided an overview of the Strategy and a draft Strategy for consideration.
- Attended a 2 day conference on Pensions, particularly Local Authority Pensions. Every member of the Pensions Investment Board has to receive training (Myner Report).
- Attended celebration of Healthy Schools. One pupil from the High School received an award for her proposed logo.
- Bright Kids, a privately run nursery in Studley was nominated for one of the categories in the recent Childcare Awards. Although they did not win on this occasion they have won their particular class for the last 3 years running.
- Someone from Age Concern recently addressed the Mental Health Panel Meeting which was very interesting and thought provoking.

12. Correspondence

SDC

- Min 88 Proposed SDC Food Hygiene Inspection Results (Score on the Doors) Rating Scheme to provide user friendly way to access the information about where to eat in the District. Encourages food businesses to improve standards leading to greater food safety. To encourage food businesses achieving high standards to be publicly recognised and rewarded. Comments required by 17th July 2006. To be looked at by Chairman.

WCC

- Min 89 Bus Service Improvements – Annual Parish Council consultation to seek the views of the users. Responses required by 30th July.
- Min 90 Lorry Route Map. Meeting to be arranged with Mark Porter to discuss the issues of concern to both Studley & Mappleborough Green. Joint meeting date to be decided.

Other

- Min 91 Studley Car Boot Sale – traffic problems. Village grid locked on Sunday, 5th June 2006 from 5.00am until 12 noon. Photographs sent to Enforcement. Clerk to write to Mrs Quinney.
- Min 92 Worcestershire County Council Notice of Pre-Submission Preferred Options Report Waste Core Strategy – workshop being held at Ladybird Pub, Bromsgrove at 9.00am on 21st June 2006. Comments can also be submitted by completing questionnaire on www.worcestershire.gov.uk/strategicplanning by 14th July 2006.
- Min 93 Cancellation of meeting at last minute by John Rostill, Chief Executive, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. Very disappointing. Clerk to arrange another date.
- Min 94 Alcester Town Council Liaison Group meeting Wednesday, 5th July 2006 at 7.30pm at Globe House. Clerk to attend.
- Min 95 Redditch B C – Adoption of Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3 and Receipt of Statement of Community Involvement Inspector's Report which will be considered at full Council on 26th June 2006.

Correspondence for Circulation

- Min 96 PIE Report Newsletter
- Min 97 Warwickshire Trading Standards "The Bogus Bugle"

13. Committee Reports

Annual Parish Council Inspection Tuesday, 13th June 2006

Copy of Report handed to all Councillors.

Everything seems to be in good condition. Thanks to the Clerk for her diligent work.

Proposed Cllr Beaman that the report be accepted, seconded Cllr W. McCarthy. Voting unanimous.

14. Delegates Reports

Christmas Lights Fundraising – Cllr Mrs Wade

Response from letters sent to schools, £100 received from the Catholic School, £100 promised from High School. The Infant and Junior Schools will be holding non uniformed days in September.

Two children to be invited to choose a light for their school. No response at all from businesses.

Action Studley arranging a quiz for September.

15. Approve Accounts for Payment

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

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 4th July 2006

Meeting Closed 9.00pm