

Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on 20 Nov 2012 at 7:30 pm.

1. Chairman declared the meeting open.

2. Present

Chairman Cllr P Beaman, Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs S Redman, Cllrs A Smith, M Redman, E Holder, Mrs M Woodrow & Mrs A Wade, Ms M Tandy, J Ingram, J Bacon, J King

In attendance

Parish Clerk, Mrs L Gailey, Assistant Clerk, Mrs L Stanton, 14 members of the public.
Studley First Responders -Mr Kevin Skidmore & Mr Martin Barry &
1 member of press, Miss Connie Osborne.

3. Apologies for Absence

Cllr C Rickhards

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 7 August 2012 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.

Item 5 (e) - Village Hall – Cllr Mrs A Wade

Item 15 – Payment of accounts- Cllr P Beaman

5. Public Forum

- a) Studley First Responders- Martin Barry reported that the First Responders have responded to 1500 call outs so far this year. The First Responders thanked Studley Parish Council for the funding of 3 stab vest jackets. The jackets will be very useful as there have been 3 incidents where the responders were threatened with knives when responding to calls. The ambulance services are only funding fuel for completed jobs by the Studley First Responders. The First Responders have to fund the fuel for their vehicle out of their own pockets. The First Responders will be organising fund raising activities to boost their funds.
- b) Studley Royal British Legion- Mr Gordon Noke Acting Secretary thanked Studley Parish Council, and particularly the admin staff for all the work they did to enable the Remembrance Parade to take place. Mr Noke informed the Council that he will be drawing up a blue print plan for next year's parade. Plans will be shown to the Council for their input. Mrs C Dyer requested a supply of service sheets for next year's parade which she would be happy to distribute. Cllr P Beaman requested that a thank you letter to be sent to Warwickshire Police thanking them for their presence on the day
- c) Mr B Dixon of 24 Castle Road attended meeting to hear what Parish Council had done about the administrative error regarding burial plot mis-allocation.
The Chairman read out a statement from the Parish Council regarding the incident:-

Studley Parish Council very much regrets that errors which occurred at the time a burial plot was pre-purchased, prior to the current administration, that led to the subsequent misallocation of the plot. The Parish Council appreciate that this error has caused distress and upset to the families involved and have apologised both publicly and in writing. In addition the opportunity to attend a personal meeting with Council leaders has been offered to the families concerned and that offer is still open.

In order to ensure that there is no repetition of these errors, the council has conducted a robust and thorough review of the burial plot allocation system. A formal written procedure has been introduced and is available on the Parish Council website. Elements of the system have been computerised and check lists incorporated, to be signed off at every stage.

The Parish Council would once again express its regret for the distress caused to the families involved and wishes to thank them for their patience and forbearance during the investigation.

Mr Dixon was not satisfied with the statement and requested that a full explanation should be given to all present at the meeting on the findings. Mr Dixon was not happy that the Parish Council had sent a Press Release to the Redditch Standard before contacting the families concerned. The Chairman informed Mr Dixon that letters were sent out to the families concerned inviting them to a private meeting with members of the Studley Parish Council prior to the press release being issued. The families concerned have declined to discuss the matter privately with members of the Parish Council. The Chairman reiterated that the offer remains open for the families involved to discuss the matter in a private meeting. Mr Dixon felt strongly that the actions the Parish Council have taken are not acceptable. The Chairman read out a further statement reiterating that the Parish Council would not further discuss this matter in the Public Forum:-

The Parish Council feel that the wider issues have been resolved and will make no further comment other than in a personal meeting with the families involved.

If anyone with pre booked burial plots would like reassurance from the Parish Council regarding their plot they are invited to make an appointment with the Parish Clerk or her assistant on 01527 853204 or by email clerk@studleyparishcouncil.org.uk.

Mr Dixon, Mr & Mrs Beard and other members of the public continued to try and pursue the matter.

Cllr Mrs A Wade was upset with the way members of the public were behaving and their refusal to discuss the matter in a civil manner. She considered that the remarks being made were of a personal nature and were wholly inappropriate and decided she had no option but to leave the meeting.

In view of the sequence of events, the Chairman was then forced to close the Public Forum item in the agenda at 8pm as it was impossible for the Council to carry on transacting Council business.

The majority of members of the public left the meeting. The press, 1 member of the public and District Councillor Mrs H Wright remained. Mr Dixon re- entered the meeting stating that if he and the others attending the meeting to discuss burial plot issues had been told to leave then so should the remaining public and press. The remaining member of the public and Cllr Mrs H Wright left.

At 8.15pm Proposed Cllr King, seconded Cllr Mrs S Redman, voting unanimous that the Meeting be reconvened.

Cllr P Beaman informed Council that he had contacted the Chief Executive of Stratford District Council (SDC) regarding the matter of misallocation of burial plots. The Chief Executive informed him that Mr Dixon had contacted the Chairman of SDC on the same matter and that Mr Dixon had been informed that SDC cannot get involved in the matter and advised that he contact the ombudsman if he is not satisfied with the outcome of the findings.

The Chairman Cllr P Beaman suspended standing order whilst talking to press.

The Chairman reported that the Council felt the wider issues had been resolved. The prepared statement that had been sent to the press had not been printed in full. A discussion took place with the reporter present on how best to obtain a fully printed statement, to include;

1. The original error that caused the misallocation of burial plots was not made by the present administration.
2. That the offer to the families involved to discuss the matter in a private meeting is and will remain open.
3. No decisions can be made during 'Public Forum' therefore this issue cannot be resolved in this way. A decision was made by the Chairman, supported by all Councillors that unless new information was presented no further discussion about the burial ground procedures would be allowed under this agenda item.

6. Co-option to the Parish Council -

Proposed: Cllr P Beaman, seconded, Cllr Mrs S Redman. Voting unanimous that Ms Mary Tandy be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

Ms Mary Tandy gave her Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Parish Councillor.
Cllr Beaman welcomed Ms Tandy to the Parish Council.

7. Matters Arising (for information only)

Min 98: Update on the status of Parish Plan-. Parish Plan has been distributed to all household in Studley.

8. Item for Discussion

Min 166: Dispensation budget/precept setting,

Proposed : Cllr P Beaman, Seconded Cllr E Holder, Voting unanimous that Councillors who have signed the dispensation form have dispensation to vote on budget/precept or recorded interests for 4 years from date of signing or until the next election.

Min 167: Precept for Allotment.- Cllr A Smith requested in General Purposes sub-committee meeting that provision be made in Precept for 2013/14 for repairs to be carried out on driveway at Dunstall Allotments.

Min 164: Band & Town Crier for Christmas Fayre-

Cllr A Smith raised the possibility of having a band for Christmas Fayre. Clerk responded that there are no funds to cover the cost. There will be a choir from St Mary's RC School singing at the Fayre on the 7th December. Cllr A Smith suggested that a Town Crier would bring some occasion to the fayre.

Resolved that Assistant Clerk to research the cost of hiring a town crier.

Min 168: Green Belt Network – Cllr P Beaman informed Council that a committee comprising of District, Town and Parish Councillors has been set up around the area to apply pressure on the present government to ensure green belt areas are kept in present form. Cllr P Beaman has been elected as the Vice Chairman of the Green Belt Network. Cllr P Beaman would like to represent Studley Parish Council on the Committee. The Green Belt Network may request £100.00 funding in the future from the Parish Council towards running costs.

Proposed: Cllr J King, Seconded Cllr A Smith, voting unanimous for Cllr P Beaman to represent Studley Parish Council on the Green Belt Network.

Min 169: Proposal re local artists displaying work in Studley Village Hall. –
The proposal will be referred to the Village Hall Management Committee.

9. Planning Application For Consideration

12/02458/TPO : Mr John Laver- Treefix - 6 Morgan Close, Studley, B80 7PB.

Cllr P Beaman will speak at planning meeting at Stratford District Council as a District Councillor.

10. Planning Decisions Received

None

11. Notification of Planning Committee Meeting

12/02030/FUL- Proposed change of use of part of first floor gym to residential (2x 1- bed and 2x2 bed apartments) and external alterations.

Committee planning meeting will take place at SDC on 21 November 2012.

Any comments to be submitted to SDC by said date.

12. a) County Council Report- Cllr C Rickhards

- The vacated fire station is being “cared for” by a “guardian” appointed by an Ad Hoc company.
- Property Services may seek advice from Cllr Rickhards for the usage of the building in the community.
- The Chief Fire Officer, Graeme Smith will be retiring.
- Cllr Hobbs, the Portfolio holder for Community Safety will not be standing in the forthcoming elections.
- Old Library will serve as an early years learning training centre for Bright Kids Nurseries subject to planning permission.
- Cllr Rickhards thinks the Centre will be a valuable addition to the social facilities in the village, particularly as the Centre will be working in tandem with the Children’s Centre; the link will hopefully help in the development of the intervention services at the Studley Centre.
- Cllr Rickhards has been serving on a Task and Finish Group on the County relationship with Academies. The Task group have been developing protocols with the academies on how the authority can ensure school improvement when the Task & Finish Group will not have the right to do so. Similar problems are being considered on questions of Vulnerable Children and Admissions.
- Cllr Rickhards is also on another committee that has made some recommendations on the problems of the Post 16 Transport.
- Cllr Rickhards was present when the Schools Forum voted on a School Funding formula which gave more weight to “deprivation” factors than some other options on offer. Cllr Rickhards has expressed his concerns over adequate funding for SEN

- Cllr Rickhard would like to remind all Councillors that there would be a Transport seminar in January. Cllrs to submit any suggestion for the area to Cllr Rickhards for the meeting.
- There will be more plan road closures on the Alcester Road and Castle Road for resurfacing. Parish Council will receive notification in due course.

b) District Councillor Report- Cllr Mrs H Wright

- Draft Core Strategy- An extra meeting at Stratford District Council was held on 19th November to discuss major planning applications at the District Council. The discussion was about the planning problems the district is facing and what has gone wrong. The failure to complete the Councils Core Planning Strategy, coupled with comments from a planning inspector means the Council is in a much weaker position to oppose unwanted planning applications from developers.
- The only commitment from the meeting was that a time table would be in place by Christmas (the original timetable strategy was for adoption in 2009) and a possible reorganisation of the planning department.
- The Council has been rated “worst Council in the country” for planning delays. Delays in hearing planning applications can mean that developers have the right to appeal to the government planning inspector without the District Council Planning Committee having considered it first.
- This could be a recipe for disaster because in addition the government has announced that it is considering allowing developers to by-pass the planning departments of poorly performing Councils. It lays down speed of decision making as one of the criteria for defining a poorly performing Council.
- These factors can have an impact on Studley and produce a legacy of issues for decades.
- Boundary Review Commissions- the Local Boundary Commission in response to the Stratford District Council request to consider possible changes to ward boundaries and the required number of Councillors have held their first meeting.
- The purpose of the meeting was to explain their role and lay out a time table. Consultation with the Council will start in Jan/Feb 2013 and recommendation will be made in April 2014. Finally a recommendation will be made to Parliament.
- The aim of the review is to ensure that each Councillor represent approximately the same number of electors.

13. Correspondences

Min 179: SDC & WCC- None

Min 180: NALC

- a) Policy Briefing-** Precept Update
- b) Policy Consultation-** Improving Local Government Transparency
- c) Legal Topic Note-** LTN 79 – Staff pensions
- d) Legal Topic Note-** LTN80- Members conduct and the registration and disclosure of interest.

Other

Min 181:Bloor Homes- Copy letter (Bloor Homes to Sambourne Parish Council) received regarding proposed development at Green Lane and Brickyard Lane.

14. For Circulation

Min 181: The Clerk Magazine

Min 182: Clerk & Council Direct

Min 183: Warwickshire Housing Association-Annual Report

15. Delegate Reports

Cllr E Holder informed Council that Rob McCluskey--- is looking to start a Junior Youth Club. Also looking to open the Youth Centre kitchen for Breakfast Club for children on the way to School.

16. Approved Accounts for Payment

Proposed: Cllr E Holder, Seconded Cllr Mrs S Redman, Voting 9 and I abstention that the schedule of cheques for payment be approved.

Payments sheet 6 November 2012

20.11.12	Warks Training Partnership	130	£105.00
20.11.12	DR Lee	131	£40.00
20.11.12	Royal British Legion	132	£25.00
20.11.12	Glasdon Manufacturing Ltd	133	£1922.41
20.11.12	Mr R Pickstone	134	£ 482.00
20.11.12	ASAP Printing	135	£679.12
20.11.12	GS Adams	136	£551.65
20.11.12	Excel Ltd	137	£37.12
20.11.12	Salary	138	£1097.06
20.11.12	Salary	139	£785.89
20.11.12	PAYE & NI	140	£614.18

**The next Council meeting is scheduled for 4th December, Tuesday 2012 .
Meeting Closed 9:05pm**