

Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on Tuesday 21st August 2007 at 7.30pm.

1. Public Forum: J. Graham, Chief Executive, WCC.

Welcome from the Chairman to Jim Graham.

Presentation from District Councillor Hazel Wright: Thank you to the Parish Council for the opportunity to meet with Jim Graham. Studley Improvement Plan (SIP) has been working together for 2 years. Arose from one resident complaining about lack of progress in the Village. If there was an improvement in litter picking and cleaner footways it would improve the environment. Some improvements made but incomplete. Stratford District Council have accepted and praised the Parish Plan. Social issues also accepted. Advantage West Midlands would help but need the support of Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council. European money will be available but dependent on priority of Local Authority. Studley is a main entrance to World Class Stratford. Asking Jim Graham for help to address inequalities. Would like help to stem local decline, to recognise Studley's needs so people would see a difference to their lives.

Would like to invite Jim Graham to walk around Studley.

- Resident asked for update on the state of Redditch tip, if we can expect anything proactive to happen. It seems that talks have stagnated. Jim Graham not aware that he would be answering specific questions but happy to go away and find out what the present situation is.
- County Cllr Mrs McCarthy explained that Worcestershire County Council require £90,000 per annum to use their tip. No money in this year's budget, but may be next year.
- Resident would officially like to request direct contact with WCC Officers to pursue aims. Since John Grant left no contact with Streetscene and Highways. Throughout meetings constantly told that there is no funding available. Problems with sunken gullies, kerbways, public rights of way. Can provide a dossier of photographs. Accepts that some roads have been re-surfaced but all done in a cheap manner. Due to lack of maintenance Studley cannot be considered as a gateway to Stratford.
- Response asked for as to WCC's intentions regarding the A435 as we are not having a bypass. Parts of the road are disintegrating especially at Sernal Ash. The Parish Council understood when the Highways Agency hand over the road it should be in good repair.
- When hand over takes place the road should be in good repair but historically this is not the case. Relations with Highways Agency are fraught but WCC will do their best.
- Parish Council has had several meetings concerning speed limits, traffic calming. The signs on A448 have never worked. We have asked for 20mph speed signs especially near to the schools. After these meetings we never hear anything again. We are aware of restrictions to the budget but it would be nice to know that some scheme is in place.
- WCC has a view to decentralise decision making to local level, to delegate responsibility not just to Officers but to District Councils and Parish Councils then prioritise monies to a local level. All Parish Councils express the same problems. Devolve sums of money to local level not to individual Parish Councils but to have clusters of Parish Councils to collaborate together. Jim Graham has seen the Parish Plan, is a great believer. Needs encouraging as makes a good framework.

Two tier government ends up with arguing over who will clear up. Waste of time and effort. Resources need to be pooled. It is public money for public services. A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, 1st October 2007 at Norton Lindsey Village Hall to form a Parish Council Focus Group to allow for greater exchange of information and discuss programme. At present set of procedures as to how money is allocated. Biggest source of rumbles.

Money spread so thinly that nothing gets achieved.

Public Sector benefits with Labour and Conservatives if Health and Education involved but Highways and Streetscene starved of funding.

October 17th Gordon Brown issuing state of public funding, all other public services will be starved of money below level of inflation. Difficult to do anything with 5% cap. Need to make decisions with elected members of priorities.

Two tier system is a waste of money. Tried to persuade Stratford to blur lines of responsibility. County Council sitting alongside District Council opportunity to bury some of the disagreements and work together.

Need to delegate more control locally to identify priorities in Village.

Bigger issues such as Policing, need to use local police more effectively.

Need to get agencies to work together, to form hubs in districts.

Will write with answers to individual issues.

Fire Service Review – rather prevent fires than have to tackle them.

Review to Members 6th September 2007. Advice given can't sustain present level. Aware of view of what happened in Cornwall. Can confirm in discussion with Hereford & Worcester. Already joint agreement in Studley. Less likely to have deal with West Midlands. Need to protect rural based service.

- Cllr McCarthy:

1. Devolving spending may take fighting from WCC to Parish Council level to fighting between Parish Councils. Could create ill feeling.
2. Tried getting boundaries together for Health Service but scrapped.
3. Must be remembered that Studley Fire Service is very efficient.

8 Reviews in last 20 years and nothing has changed.

Invite to Jim Graham from Cllr Mrs Wright to walk around the Village. Will make arrangements.

Thanks from the Chairman for coming this evening. Hopefully take things forward and Studley will improve.

PCSO Gareth Walton: came to return Shield and say goodbye as leaving Studley to join West Midlands Police. Another PCSO will be coming to Studley.

Parish Council wish him every success. Thanks for all the work done for the Village.

2. Chairman declared the meeting open

3. Present

Chairman P. Beaman, Vice Chair J. Bacon, W. McCarthy, E. Holder, J. Vale, Mrs S. Redman, Mrs M. Woodrow, G. Noke, C. Rickhards, Mrs M. Bell. County Councillor Mrs H. McCarthy, District Councillors Mrs H. Wright and M. Weddell.

J. Graham, Chief Executive WCC.

Residents T. Gennoe, M. Gill.

8 members of the public for presentation of Awards.

4. Apologies for Absence

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. Presentation of Annual Village Tidy Awards 2007

Welcome from the Chairman. A particularly challenging year making it very hard to judge. The Chairman presented the cups and certificates.

Congratulations to everyone, it's a real achievement.

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 157 Barley Mow Signs. Planning application now in process.

9. Items for Discussion

Min 113/06 Cllr McCarthy: Public Open Space. Letter received from Susan Steele, SDC – happy with management plan and heads of terms. Now up to Parish Council to agree lease. Legal and Surveyors fees included in lottery bid. Parish Council would add to existing insurance.

Proposed Cllr McCarthy to accept terms of lease, seconded Cllr Beaman. Voting unanimous.

Well done and thanks from the Chair to Cllr McCarthy.

Friends Group to meet early September to start work.

Min 132 Skatepark: Cllr Holder has visited the skatepark both at night and in the early morning. No one there. Only one complaint since last meeting. Being used by families with cans of beer but not being mis-used. Could be alleviated by alcohol ban. Not much litter.

Police view is that they would prefer a bund but by Crooks Lane fence so as not to restrict view of camera. Major problem apart from anti-social behaviour is the noise. A bund would stop some of the noise and with a hedge on top would solve eye sore problem.

Need to be careful of knee'jerk reaction. If a fence is put around how do we control opening and closing? Feel that it would give wrong impression with another facility with a security fence.

Enough problems trying to make the Village look better.

Could be a novelty factor and usage could tail off.

Maybe could install bund during the winter. Fence will not stop the noise.

Agreed to monitor the situation. SDC to check noise level.

Should look very carefully at having a bund but only on Crooks Lane side. Clerk to get quote for bund. Ask SDC to monitor camera after 12.00 am and report on a weekly basis to see what activity is.

Min 149 WALC Draft Protocol for Greater Involvement of Parish Councils

in Service Delivery. Comments required from Councillors.

Liked the idea of greater consultation with Parish Council on contracts etc. No further comments. Support.

Min 154 Meeting of Chairman's Ball Committee, Grants & Office Committee arranged for Tuesday, 4th September 2007 at 6.45pm prior to Parish Council meeting.

Min 155 Request received from resident for dog fouling bin on footpath AL198. Clerk to monitor situation and see what areas require a bin.

Min 156 Cllr Mrs Bell: Flooding on St Chads Road & A435
Flooding to St Chads – Severn Trent have been out to look at drain and agreed that a bigger pipe is needed. Clerk to put on pressure.
A435 – colleague who lives near Royal Oak taken DVD by Coughton. Willing to do DVD of traffic problems but what would Parish Council like highlighted. Need to listen to traffic reports and wait for motorway closure, wait until children back at school traffic between 8.30am – 9.30am, problem of HGV's going faster than 40mph and pedestrians getting soaked when it rains.

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

07/02153/FUL Enterprise Inns PLC, The Swan Inn, 24 High Street, Studley.
Installation of new timber decked external drinking area.
Objection for the following planning reasons:
1. Taking up too much of the car park causing Highway Safety problems.
2. Noise pollution to local residents.
3. Delivery vehicles cannot deliver and will cause obstruction.

11. Planning Decisions Received

07/00699/TPO Arboricultural Works 6 Morgan Close, Studley.
- T1 lime, T2 birch: 10% selective crown reduction back to suitable growth points to rebalance crowns.
Remove deadwood.
Permission with conditions 6th August 2007

07/01179/FUL Mr S M Hussein, 14 Marble Alley, Studley.
Change of use from commercial premises (Use Class B1) to hot food takeaway (Use Class A5) including the provision of an external extractor flue.
Refused 6th August 2007
Summary of reasons:
1. Proposed change of use would not provide a facility or service which is required and would reduce the proportion of class A1 uses in a defined centre. This would undermine the shopping function of this important local centre.
The proposal is contrary to the objectives of

Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres to promote the vitality and viability of town centres in Main Rural Centres such as Studley.

2. Marble Alley is narrow in nature and has very limited on-street parking.
3. The proposed extract flue by virtue of its size and prominent location on the side of gable wall of the building at first floor level would have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the building.

12. District and County Council Reports

District Council Report

Apologies that no report available.

County Council Report

Apologies that no report available.

13. Correspondence

SDC

Min 157 Contribution to CCTV Service – SDC looking at financial situation of CCTV and require update concerning future contribution to the service. Benefit to the Village and the Parish Council will continue with the present funding of £6000p.a.

Min 158 Incident on Redditch Road where person assaulted. Could consideration be given to installation of extra lighting as CCTV footage of the incident was very poor due to lack of street lights. Clerk to arrange meeting with Bob Yarwood to look at lighting in the evening. Write and suggest that they improve the camera to a day and night camera. Look at next year's budget.

WCC

Min 159 Local Transport Progress Report 2006/07 submitted to Department of Transport. Report sets out what has been achieved by WCC and its partners during the first year (2006/07) of the second Local Transport Plan period (2006-2011). Report can be viewed on Website www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ltp

Min 160 Advice from Animal Health Officer following recent Foot and Mouth Outbreak. All livestock markets and gatherings have been cancelled for indefinite period. Countryside remains open and rights of way not affected.

Other

Min 161 Invitation to Grant Making Forum 18th September 2007 at Birmingham University – cost £175.00.

Min 162 Highways Agency re maintenance work on A46 from 28th August 2007 until early November. Explanation leaflet available in Parish Office.

Correspondence for Circulation

None.

14. Committee Reports

Minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th August 2007 at

6.45pm circulated to all Councillors.

15. Delegates Reports

Studley Sports & Social Club - report from Cllr Mrs Redman that the new steward is settling in.

16. Approve Accounts for Payment

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

29 – Mrs D E Mitchell £1234.52. 30 – Mrs S Perks £464.36. 31 – Inland Revenue £649.55. 32 – Severn Trent £291.68. 33 – SDC Election Charges £100.00. 34 – Altodigital Uk Ltd £34.59. 35 – F Winters £100.00. 36 – R H Hunt £172.00. 37 - Petty Cash £150.00.

38 – Bromsgrove & Redditch Trophies £37.50.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 4th September 2007

Meeting Closed 9.05pm

