

# Studley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Studley Village Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 6pm.

## 1. Chairman declared the meeting open.

### **Present**

Chairman Cllr P Beaman, Cllr J Bacon, Cllr A Smith, Cllr C Summers, Cllr E Holder, Cllr Mrs M Woodrow, Cllr Mrs J Beard, Cllr Mrs M Rickhards, Cllr Mrs S Crofts & Cllr Mrs K Somner-Brown

### **In attendance**

Clerk Mrs L Gailey, Asst Clerk Mrs L Stanton, Ross Crawford Paul – Redditch Standard

## 2. Apologies for Absence.-

Cllrs Mrs S Redman (Personal) & B Dixon

**Proposed Cllr P Beaman, seconded Cllr A Smith, voting unanimous to accept the apologies**

## 3. 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.*

None

## 4. Min 56: Freedom of Information Request

**To agree the response to the FOI request made to Cllrs Mrs IJ Beard, Mrs K Somner-Brown, B Dixon and C Summers by Mr J Ingram regarding the petition against the proposed changes to the rules appertaining to the operation of Studley Cemetery. The following are the questions posed together with the answers.**

**Q.** What was the petition, collecting signatures for or against, specifically the wording used to set out the reason for the petition?

**A. Studley Parish Council burial authority have recently changed the rules on what is allowed on graves and will remove any non-compliant items such as solar lights, glass items, ceramic vases, scarves and flags, windmills and any item that requires a spike to secure it in the ground. Many residents of Studley are angered and upset about this and feel that these changes are wrong. Therefore we must get as many signatures as possible to show the Parish Council how strong the feeling is against these new rules. We the undersigned demand a reversal of the rules changes affecting Studley Parish Cemetery. Which state the non-compliant items will be removed.**

**Q.** How many Studley residents who participated were listed on the Electoral Role and therefore eligible to sign the petition?

**A. 418 residents signed the petition.**

**Q.** How many signatures were valid, ie: supported with a Studley address and contact details?

**A. 454 residents signatures were valid.**

**Q.** How many signatures collected were invalid according to the rules of petitioning council?

**A. 149 Signatures were invalid.**

**Q.** Based on the latest electoral role, what percentage of the village supported the objectives of the petition?

**A.** 9.9% of the village supported the objectives of the petition.

**Q.** When will Council make the audited details of this document public?

**A.** The information requested in respect of the FOI will be documented in the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> Augusts 2015 which will be approved at the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The minutes will be available on the Parish Council website and for members of the public following approval.

**Proposed Cllr Beaman, seconded Cllr Summers, voting 8 in favour and 2 against to respond to the Freedom of Information request raised by Mr J Ingram as per the agreed draft letter.**

**Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015**

**Meeting closed: 6.12pm**