

Cannock Wood Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Village Hall Buds Road,
Cannock Wood on Thursday 15th January 2009, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr's: Mrs P. Chapman, Mrs M. Allen, Mrs P. Ansell, Mr I. Bamford

In Attendance:

Mr D. M. Arm - Parish Clerk

Public Participation

There were no Parishioners comments or questions.

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Cllr's Powis, Mawle and Healey.

2. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting held on Thursday 20th November 2008.

The minutes of the meeting were read and accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Allen, Seconded: Cllr Ansell.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr Ansell reported she had not established if the barrier at Castle Ring Car park was being opened and closed by local residents but as no further complaints had been received, Cllr's should monitor the situation.

4. Planning

4.1 Applications for Consideration.

No applications had been received.

4.2 Applications approved/rejected by Cannock Chase District Council.

There had been three approvals received from Cannock Chase District Council. One application had been withdrawn.

CH/08/0439 – 84 Hayfield Hill – Replacement storage building for Antique business and storage of agricultural machinery.

Permission Granted, Amended copy.

CH/08/0496 – Treecot Buds Road – Bedroom in roof space and dormer to front

Permission Granted.

CH/08/0532 – Rhodo Cottage Cumberledge Hill – Siting of wooden stables incorporating hay and food store

Permission Granted

CH/08/0490 – Gentleshaw Radio Mast – Installation of 3 additional dishes
Application withdrawn.

5. Finance.

The Clerk handed out details of the bank accounts. There was £4,897.59 in the current account and there was £2,416.76 in the 3 Month Premium Account.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mr D. M. Arm – Clerks Salary

Mr D. M. Arm – Clerks Expenses.

Community Council of Staffordshire £12 – BKV entry fee

Proposed: Cllr Bamford, Seconded: Cllr Ansell.

Precept 2009/10 - The Clerk gave Cllr's an overview of the current financial situation for the Council. Cllr's discussed the situation and what expenditure they may have in the new financial year. After debate it was proposed and agreed that the Precept for 2009/10 be left at the current level of £8,240.

Proposed: Cllr Ansell, Seconded: Cllr Allen.

The Clerk informed Cllr's that he had received notification from NALC that the Casual User Mileage rate had increased to 58.7p per mile. He asked Cllr's to consider adopting this rate. After debate it was proposed and agreed to adopt this rate.

Proposed: Cllr Bamford, Seconded: Cllr Ansell

6. Grant Applications.

One grant application had been received from Cannock Chase Advice centre. After discussion it was agreed not to support this application.

7. Electricity Supply.

Cllr's reported that there had been a couple of interruptions of late. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

8. Water Pressure.

Nothing to report.

9. Dog Fouling.

Cllr Allen reported that she had noticed dog fouling on the field and on footpaths in Chestall Road. Cllr's agreed to monitor the situation and if they could identify the dog and owner the information should be passed on to the District Council.

10. Correspondence.

See Appendix A.

All noted by Cllr's.

11. Road Safety within the Village.

Cllr's reported that the new road markings had still not been put in place at the junction of Chestall Road/Holly Hill Road. If nothing had happened by the March meeting of the Council, the situation would be escalated.

Cllr Bamford expressed concerns over the number of Grit Bins and where they were placed in the Village. During the recent heavy snow falls, a Paramedic Ambulance was responding to a 999 call for a person in the Village. The Ambulance turned off Cumberledge Hill into Holly Hill Road and due to the snow and ice got stuck.

Another Ambulance had to respond to the 999 call. Fortunately the person who had been taken ill was alright after treatment at hospital but Cllr Bamford said this situation was not acceptable and unless the situation was resolved could be the

difference between life and death. Cllr's agreed with Cllr Bamford and it was agreed the Clerk should write to Staffs C. C. Highways requesting two additional Grit Bins be sited in Holly Hill Road, preferably close to "The Croft" and "Park Lodge". Cllr Chapman also pointed out that the Grit Bin in Chapel Lane was sited by the Methodist Chapel which was no good at all. In the recent icy conditions, cars that came down Chapel Lane and tried to stop at the junction, had skidded into Cumberledge Hill. If the bin was sited at the junction of the two roads, grit could have been put down to stop this happening. It was agreed the Clerk should also raise this issue with Highways.

12. Quality Council Status.

Nothing further to report.

13. Parish Council Web Page.

Cllr Allen reported that a skeleton web page had been produced thus far but as yet it was not online. Hopefully it may go live next month.

14. Community Speed Watch scheme.

Nothing further to report.

15. Best Kept Village 2009.

Cllr Allen informed Cllr's that she was meeting with Mr John Perry from the Community Council of Staffordshire to discuss things. She asked Cllr's if they felt it was a good idea to enter the BKV competition. Cllr's felt that it would be a good idea to enter again as it had been a while since the Village had been in the competition. Hopefully more people would support the application by volunteering their help in keeping the Village tidy. Cllr Allen agreed to deal with the application.

16. Village Newsletter.

Cllr Allen informed Cllr's that help would be needed to put a newsletter together. There would need to be a Treasurer and someone who could do the artwork as she could not do everything. Information had been put in the local newspaper and she would report back at the next meeting on any response.

17. Public Footpaths and Rights of Way.

The Clerk informed Cllr's that he had contacted Staffs C. C. for an up to date map showing Public Footpaths and Rights of way on it and had been told a revised version was going to be made this year. The Clerk showed Cllr's the copy of the old map that he held. After discussion it was decided to wait for the map to come from Staffs C. C. and decide a way forward from there.

18. Clerks Salary Review.

The Clerk presented details of the agreed NALC payments for Clerks. Cllr's discussed the information and after debate agreed that the Clerks salary should increase in line with the NALC recommendations.

Proposed: Cllr Bamford, Seconded: Cllr Ansell

19. Adoption of the new Freedom of Information Act.

The Clerk presented information to Cllr's on the new Freedom of Information Act. He explained to Cllr's what the Act would mean to the Council and that it should be

adopted with effect from 1st January 2009. As the Council had not met in December, the Council should adopt the Act at this meeting with the proposed date as agreed in the recommendations. Cllr's discussed the information and it was proposed and agreed that the act be adopted with effect from 1st January 2009.

Proposed: Cllr Ansell, Seconded: Cllr Bamford

20. Items for discussion/Future agenda's.

Cllr Ansell informed Cllr's that she had been informed that the Ranger Service had set some dates for scrub removal on Castle Ring. They were 30th January and the 6th February. The dates had been published and it was hoped some local people would get involved.

Cllr Ansell informed Cllr's that at a recent SPCA meeting they had discussed Area Committee's with District/Area Rep's. It was hoped that setting up such Committee's would make them wider representative bodies. Cllr's felt this was a good idea but some concerns were expressed about the previous Area Committee which was wound up through lack of support. Cllr Ansell agreed to keep Cllr's informed on any developments.

21. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 19th February 2009.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date

Derek Arm
Clerk to the Council.