

Cannock Wood Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Village Hall Buds Road,
Cannock Wood on Thursday 21st January, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr's: Mrs P. Chapman, Mrs P. Ansell, Mr J. Healey, Mr I. Bamford. Mr G. Powis,
Mrs M. Allen

In Attendance:

Mr D. M. Arm - Parish Clerk
Mrs. S. Samuels - Parishioner
Inspector Ellerton & PC Luke Norman – Staffordshire Police

Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Mrs Samuels if she would like to address the Council.

Mrs Samuels said that she had come to the meeting to update the Council following the visit by residents to the meeting in September. Mrs Samuels stated that after leaving the meeting she felt quite flat as she realised that the Speedwatch scheme was probably a non starter as it would involve a huge fund raising effort. She felt that it may be better to collect data and look for alternative ways to move things forward and on reflection, Speedwatch wasn't probably suited to the area. Cllr's agreed that Cumberledge Hill would not be an easy area in which to run a scheme but agreed that something needed to be done in the area and across the Village in general.

Cllr's discussed the situation with Mrs Samuels and felt that the speed limit within the Village needed reinforcing. It was obvious that some drivers drove how they wanted to, irrespective of speed limits and surroundings. Cllr Powis stated that it was not just cars that broke the speed limit in the Village, he had been to Cannock on Public Transport and noted how fast the bus was being driven. Cllr's felt it may be possible to get signs erected asking drivers to respect the Village and reduce their speed through the Village. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways about this issue. The Clerk reported that the Vehicle count and speed check indicators should be being removed over the next week and information should be available after that. Mrs Samuels asked if she could also see the information when it became available. Cllr's could not see any problem with that. The Chairman assured Mrs Samuels that they would continue to pursue this issue and pass information back to Mrs Samuels.

Inspector Ellerton told Cllr's that the Police were organising a series of mobile surgeries in the area. They would be held twice a month and were being held in Castle Ring car park. The idea of the surgeries was to meet the local community giving people a greater chance of discussing issues with their local officers. Cllr's felt this was a good idea but felt that Castle Ring car park could present problems with some of the elderly residents on the other side of the Village. Inspector Ellerton said it may be possible to use other areas of the Village in future but the surgeries were aimed to allow all people, including those at work all day to get to them.

PC Norman explained what local initiatives had taken place over the last few months. These included knocking on doors in Bradwell Lane and High Meadow asking if any problems existed. The Police had been following up complaints about Motor Cyclists on Cannock Wood Industrial Estate. Scrambling bikes had been seized and in some cases were crushed if they were being ridden on the roads. There had also been complaints about a Quad biker using Castle Ring where a local resident took photographs but the number plate was not visible. PC Norman said that if Cllr's were aware of issues, they should contact him.

Mrs Samuels and the Police left the meeting at 8.25 pm.

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mawle.

2. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting held on Thursday 19th November 2009.

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

Proposed: Cllr Healey, Seconded: Cllr Bamford.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

4. Planning

4.1 Applications for Consideration.

CH/09/0393 – 84 Hayfield Hill – Replace 4 car garage with L shaped garage block. Resubmission of part of CH/09/0330.

The Council had no objections to this proposal.

4.2 Applications approved/rejected by Cannock Chase District Council.

There had been one approval and one rejection received from Cannock Chase District Council.

CH/09/0312 – 24 Gilwell Road. – Conservatory to side of property.

Permission Refused.

CH/09/0330 – 84 Hayfield Hill – Replace existing chicken pens with stable block and replacement of exiting garage with new garage.

Permission Granted.

5. Finance.

The Clerk handed out details of the bank accounts. There was £4,407.57 in the current account and there was £2,443.91 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.

Proposed: Cllr Ansell, Seconded: Cllr Allen.

6. Grant Applications.

The Clerk had received two grant applications from St Giles Hospice and Christ Church Gentleshaw. Cllr's discussed both applications and after debate agreed to award the following:

Christ Church Gentleshaw - £250

St Giles Hospice - £150

Proposed: Cllr Healey, Seconded: Cllr Ansell.

7. Electricity Supply.

Cllr's reported there had been brief interruptions to supplies over the Christmas period.

8. Water Pressure.

No problems reported.

9. Dog Fouling.

Cllr Healey reported there had been a slight problem in Slang Lane but he would be monitoring the situation.

10. Correspondence.

See Appendix A.

All noted by Cllr's.

11. Road Safety within the Village.

Cllr Bamford had spoken with Mr Salmons of Holly Hill Road who had concerns about the lack of a grit bin on the bend and at the bottom end of Holly Hill. Cllr Bamford had spoken with the Clerk who had forward on emails to Cllr Bamford detailing actions taken by the Council to try to get additional bins. Cllr Bamford expressed concerns about the survey criteria markings that the Council had received from Highways and this was discussed. After debate, Cllr Bamford agreed to look at the criteria in relation to Holly Hill Road area where Mr Salmons lives and then forward the information to the Clerk who would send it to Highways to ask for a re-assessment.

12. Quality Council Status.

Nothing further to report.

13. Parish Council Web Page.

The Council Web Page was still receiving many hits, both local and from around the world which has subsequently had led to extra bookings for the Village Hall as people have said they had seen the hall on the Council Web Page. Cllr Powis would advertise the Police Surgeries on there.

14. Community Speed Watch scheme.

This had been discussed under Public Participation.

15. Low Carbon Communities.

Cllr Allen stated that she could not identify a possible date as yet for a Village meeting where a Low Carbon Communities presentation could be given.

16. Items for discussion/Future agendas.

Cllr Allen had thought about approaching Tamworth and Lichfield College to see if they would consider running an evening First Aid course in the Village Hall and wondered what Cllr's thought of the idea. Cllr's thought it would be a good idea, given the rural locality of the Village to have more First Aiders in the Village. Cllr Allen said she would approach the College to see if the idea was feasible.

17. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 18th February 2010.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date

Derek Arm
Clerk to the Council.