

Cannock Wood Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Village Hall Buds Road,
Cannock Wood on Thursday 18th March 2010, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr's: Mrs P. Chapman, Mrs P. Ansell, Mr J. Healey, Mr D. Mawle, Mr I. Bamford

In Attendance:

Mr D. M. Arm - Parish Clerk
Mr & Mrs C. Salmons - Parishioners
Mr M. Keeling – Staffordshire Highways

Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Mr & Mrs Salmons if they would like to address the meeting. Mr Salmons explained that in the area of Holly Hill Road where he lives, there is no grit bin and during the bad weather he could not get out of his house because of the snow and ice on the road. He was advised by the Highways Department that the road would be manually gritted but that never happened. Cllr Bamford explained that he had looked at the grit bin assessment that the Parish Council had requested be undertaken for the area that Mr & Mrs Salmons lived in. He felt it should be re-assessed and that had been forwarded to Highways. Mr Keeling explained that grit levels during the bad weather had been critical and the priority was A and B Class roads. Grit stocks had run down to 2 days supply at one point. Teams had been out doing manual gritting in some areas. Grit bins had been used and when possible refilled however some bins that were empty were used by children as toys. Mr Keeling told Cllr's that he had reassessed the need for a grit bin in Holly Hill Road after receiving information from the Clerk that Cllr Bamford had complied and had decided to site a half size bin close to Fairview. Mr & Mrs Salmon felt this would be adequate for the area and thanked Mr Keeling. Mr & Mrs Salmon then left the meeting.

The Chairman asked Mr Keeling what his thoughts were on the result of the recent vehicle and speed count survey on the three main entry roads to the Village. Mr Keeling stated that Cumberledge Hill was within the expected parameters as was Buds Road. Hayfield Hill was a little high and it may be worth asking Police to pay particular attention to that area. Mr Keeling pointed out that they were average results and some cars could have been travelling at a far higher speed than the average speed result but the number of occasions this happens is masked in an average result. Mr Keeling had been into the Village a couple of times since having seen the results and felt that the speed signage on entry to the 30 mph restricted area was looking rather old and faded and he felt it would benefit the Village if they were replaced with the more modern square board signs where the 30 mph was on a yellow fluorescent background. Cllr's agreed this would be a huge improvement to the existing signs and welcomed the idea. Mr Keeling stated that the boards could also have a message on them, for example "Please drive carefully through our Village" and would email ideas to the Clerk to pass on to Cllr's for them to see. These signs could hopefully be erected within two months.

Cllr's asked what other ideas could be thought about to reduce the speed of vehicles in the Village. Some areas use speed humps but Cllr's felt this was not the best way to solve the problem. Mr Keeling agreed as the humps can present other problems. Mr Keeling told Cllr's that he was looking at introducing SID devices. He went on to explain that the SID devices were mobile units that were rotated around areas with a speeding problem. The units flashed up 30 mph when cars were breaking that limit as they approached them. The devices were usually left in place for two weeks at a time and he hoped to get Cannock Wood introduced into the programme for 2010/11. Mr Keeling had looked at possible sites on Cumberledge Hill and Hayfield Hill where they could be sited. Cllr's discussed these positions and felt they were probably the most sensible locations given the criteria for the devices to be located. Cllr's asked what timescales would be for getting the devices sited? Mr Keeling said that if he could get Cannock Wood accepted into the 2010/11 programme, it would probably be sometime during the summer before all works would be completed. Mr Keeling agreed to keep Cllr's informed of progress. Cllr's thanked Mr Keeling for attending the meeting and the proposed measures he was attempting to introduce. Mr Keeling then left the meeting.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to email Mrs S. Samuels informing her of what had been discussed at the meeting and what proposals had been put forward.

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Cllr's Allen and Powis

2. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting held on Thursday 18th February 2010.

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

Proposed: Cllr Ansell, Seconded: Cllr Chapman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

4. Planning

4.1 Applications for Consideration.

CH/10/0086 – The Rag, Ironstone Road – First floor side and rear extension for guest accommodation and single storey side extension to bar and entrance hall.

The Council had no objections to this proposal.

4.2 Applications approved/rejected by Cannock Chase District Council.

There had been no approvals or rejections received from Cannock Chase District Council.

5. Finance.

The Clerk handed out details of the bank accounts. There was £2,843.24 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 Mawle, Seconded: Cllr Bamford.

The Clerk gave the Council an overview of the financial position as the end of the financial year was approaching. The Council were in a good financial position but

Cllr's needed to be aware of the income against expenditure. With monies held in the Three Month Premium Account the Council had a healthy balance moving in to 2010/11 and could meet all its financial commitments for the new financial year. Cllr's thanked the Clerk for the information that he had presented.

6. Grant Applications.

Nothing to report.

7. Electricity Supply.

No problems reported.

8. Water Pressure.

No problems reported.

9. Dog Fouling.

Cllr's had not been made aware of any additional problems but would continue to monitor the situation. Cannock Council had trained four people in the Street Warden team as enforcement officers for both litter and dog fouling.

10. Correspondence.

See Appendix A.

All noted by Cllr's.

11. Road Safety within the Village.

All issues had been dealt with at the start of the meeting.

12. Quality Council Status.

Nothing further to report.

13. Parish Council Web Page.

Nothing further to report.

14. Community Speed Watch scheme.

Cllr's decided to remove this item from future agenda's as a scheme would probably not be best suited for the Village.

15. Low Carbon Communities.

Trevor Stokes had contacted the Clerk to say that there may be problems in attending the Village meeting on Friday 16th May. However, he would try to get some people to attend if at all possible.

16. Items for discussion/Future agendas.

Cllr Chapman reported that she had seen the Chase Post and was quite amazed to see front page headlines about a problem with horse fouling in the Cannock Wood. Cllr Chapman stated that nobody had contacted the Parish Council about the problem yet they attended a Community Forum meeting to raise the issue. Cllr Mawle explained that Tony Williams, Portfolio leader for environment had been contacted by a Village resident about the problem which had been raised at the forum. The problem appeared to be around the stables in Slang Lane and they were being contacted about the problem.

Cllr's had been made aware of a "new craze" that people were experiencing in the Cannock Chase area. The idea originated from the USA and was now being taken up in the United Kingdom. Mountain Bike riders were cycling at night using very strong lights which they attach to their heads. In some cases, bikes were coming off forest tracks on to roads and blinding car drivers. Cllr's agreed that this could be a problem and it was one that should be monitored in the Cannock Wood area.

17. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 15th April 2010.
Cllr's Powis and Allen offered their apologies for the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date

Derek Arm
Clerk to the Council.