



	Sowdley Green Residents Association Resident from Village Square Guides Sea Scouts Coach & Horses Hartley Arms Spar Turners Garage Paper shop Wendy Millard (Split Endz) Junior Youth Club Senior Youth Club Carnival Committee First Responders Sport and Recreation Ground Wheaton Aston Wanderers Cricket team Little Bears Playgroup Village Hall Management Committee Beeches Day Nursery Church Boys and Girls Brigades
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<b>081215</b>	<b>2009 Meeting Dates</b>
	The Clerk has submitted the dates to the district council and has made the relevant bookings.

**1. Clerk's Holiday**

The Clerk has requested a week's holiday in 2009.

**2. Deadline for reports, invoices and agenda items for February meeting**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009

The report was accepted

**090105**

**To Receive Police Report and Consider Policing Matters**

Inspector Mark Jones gave the following report which was accepted:

**Incidents Reported to Police in the Parish between 21/11/08 to 21/12/08.**

Burglary Dwellings	0
Burglary Other	2
Lapley & Wheaton Aston Recreation Club, barrel of beer and crates of soft drinks stolen.	
Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicles	1
Criminal Damage	2
2x Damage to Christmas tree, village square	
Anti-Social Behaviour	5
1x Village Square, Wheaton Aston	
Road Traffic Collisions	3

**Other items for attention.**

- **Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour are still not being reported to police on every occasion.**

Cllr Wright asked about the break in at the recreation ground. Insp. Jones offered to get information and report back at the next meeting.

Inspector Jones was asked about whether photos of crimes in process were legal. Inspector Jones reported that they are admissible as evidence but that care is needed to avoid confrontation at the time of taking the photos.

## **090106**

### **To Receive Report from District Councillor**

Cllr. Wright reported that the district council have managed to keep the council tax increase down to 3%. The benefits department have reported an increase in the number of applications of 20% in the last 3 months. Tax collection is better than it was last year. Income from business rates is down as businesses aren't doing very well. Planning applications are down. Cllr. Wright also reported that the take up of benefits by residents in South Staffordshire is low and that the district would be approaching parish councils to help encourage people to make sure that they are taking up benefits that they are entitled to. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the clerk should place an article in the next newsletter giving details of a helpline number that residents can call to find out what benefits they're entitled to.

## **090107**

### **To Consider Planning Matters**

a) The following planning applications were considered:

1. 08/01183/FUL Aqueduct House, Watling Street, Stretton, ST19 9QX  
Erection of an external fire escape

The council had no objection

2. 08/01229/COU – Leabank House, The Cobbles, Wheaton Aston  
Change of use to doctor's surgery and pharmacy

The council had no objection and, in fact, support the application.

b) The following planning decisions were received

08/01017/LBC – Park House, Park Lane, Lapley  
Replacement of 14 windows on ground and first floors – Granted

08/01034/FUL – Mileford Cottage, Wenlock Bank, Lapley  
Conversion and extension of existing detached garage to form annexe – Refused

08/01092/FUL – Aqueduct Lodge, Watling Street, Stretton  
Provision of additional covered day-space within courtyard – Granted

## **090108**

## To Receive Financial Statement to 31 Nov 08

The council accepted the following financial statement.

Expenditure	Budget 2008/2009	Exp to 31.11.08	Committed Expenditure to 31.12.08	Balance
Clerk's Salary, E. NI & Pension	9600.00	7014.49	1244.52	1340.99
Administration	10150.00	8278.51	968.28	903.21
Parish Council Office Rent	2300.00	1150.00	0.00	1150.00
Village Hall Refurbishment	2550.00	472.00	0.00	2078.00
Villages Maintenance	17000.00	13404.69	1481.00	2114.31
Public Footpath Work	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Fingerpost Refurbishment	787.50	200.00	0.00	587.50
Play Areas & Equipment	1000.00	84.00	0.00	916.00
Villages Improvements	2000.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00
Play Scheme	4050.00	4039.07	0.00	10.93
Capital Expenditure	550.00	523.05	254.47	-227.52
Christmas Decorations	3300.00	211.63	1236.54	1851.83
Donations	3020.00	2400.00	0.00	620.00
Brewood & Dist Voluntary Car Scheme	1000.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00
WA Junior Youth Club	2150.00	1180.13	0.00	969.87
SCC Youth Grant b/fwd	4582.18	0.00	0.00	4582.18
<b>TOTAL excluding VAT</b>	<b>64539.68</b>	<b>39957.57</b>	<b>5184.81</b>	<b>19397.30</b>

Income	Budget 2008/2009	Inc to 31.11.08	Remaining expected income
Precept 2008/09	45379.00	45379.00	0.00
Grant - SCC for B&W post work	787.50	780.00	0.00
PAYE Online filing grant	100.00	100.00	0.00
Interest	1000.00	349.48	650.52
SCC footpath grant	0.00	0.00	0.00
EON	0.00	1.46	0.00
South Staffordshire Council Play Equipment Grant	0.00	6795.48	0.00
Donation for Marian Kennedy	0.00	25.00	0.00
Summer Play Scheme Income	0.00	1523.93	0.00
Flicks in the Sticks income	0.00	931.80	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>47266.50</b>	<b>55886.15</b>	<b>650.52</b>

Bank Balances at 30.11.08	£
Lloyds TSB Treasurer's Account	7071.86
Lloyds TSB Business 30 Day Notice Account	30644.02
Nationwide Community Facilities Account	34057.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>71773.15</b>

£7000 to be transferred from 30 Day Notice Account to Treasurer's Account in Jan 2009

Money Held for Third Parties	
SCC Youth Grant	4582.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>4582.18</b>

Ear Marked Reserves	
b/fwd Village Hall refurbishment 07/08	550.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>550.00</b>

Total Funds Available	
Total of Bank Balances at 31.10.08	71773.15
Money Held for Third parties	4582.18
Ear Marked Reserves	550.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>66640.97</b>

SCC Youth Grant	
Grant	33500
Less expenditure 06/07	307.32
Less expenditure 07/08	28610.5
<b>Balance b/fwd 08/09</b>	<b>4582.18</b>

## 090109

### To Consider Staffordshire County Council Highways Matters

The Clerk reported on a phone conversation she had with a resident of Long Street who had had her hedge trimmed back by Highways' Community Gang. She felt upset that someone had complained about their hedge as it is always well maintained. She asked the parish council to consider the following issues;

Parking outside the garage

Parking on pavements

Traffic calming on the entrance to the village

Chickens on the road (Long Street)

The council discussed the issues, highways have looked at the entrance to the village by the Hartley Arms and as there haven't been any accidents they will not be altering the road or bringing in any restrictions.

With regard to the chickens – taller wire has been put up and this was felt to be satisfactory.

Parking on pavements has been reported to the police.

Starkeys Lane – A complaint was made to the Chairman about sat navs sending traffic down Starkeys Lane and a request received to put a traffic restriction on the lane (30mph). Council felt this was not appropriate.

The following highways problems were raised:

Big pot hole on Church Lane towards Lapley near the pool.

Pot hole on High Street opposite entrance to Sowdley.

Pot hole has been repaired but has re-appeared. From Stretton between two Lapley turnings

Road by sub station still flooding and by Mileford Cottage.

## 090110

### To Consider Matters of Parish Maintenance

a) Survey of Parish Council Trees

At the December meeting Mr. Monckton and Cllr. Wright agreed to inspect the trees in the parish with regard to health and safety. Not been able to arrange a get together yet. They will endeavour to do so before next meeting.

b) Primrose Bank Play Area

South Staffordshire Council had quoted £30 per weekly inspection of the play area, however the Clerk reported that a local resident had offered to volunteer to inspect the play equipment. The council accepted the kind offer of Mr. Darrant to voluntarily inspect the play equipment. The Clerk was instructed to show Mr. Darrant around the equipment on his first inspection and provide him with a copy of the RoSPA report so that he is aware of existing issues.

It was agreed that Primrose Bank Area should become a regular item agenda.

c) Marston Road Field

The Clerk reported that she has received a very apologetic email from the manager of Wheaton Aston Wanderers. The contract hasn't been signed yet as the team hasn't met for sometime due to waterlogged or frozen pitches. However he has promised to get the contracts signed and invoice paid as a matter of urgency.

Other issues:

A kissing gate was put in on the footpath between Brooks' Land and Swift's land near Old School Court. Stone was put around the gate near the footpath. Could stone be put in around the gate as well? Rob Cox to be contacted re: stone.

The Clerk reported that Mrs. Doyle, Churchwarden, had asked if the rear churchyard could be mowed rather than strimmed in future. Council agreed that as long as there is nothing on the ground to affect the machine this shouldn't be a problem.

Generally, there needs to be a better specification on maintenance work as there is a lot of money being spent on maintenance and residents aren't happy with the quality of work. A review of the standard of work being done is needed.

### **090111**

#### **To Consider the Removal of an Abandoned Car from the Village Hall Car Park**

The Clerk reported that a car had been abandoned on the village hall car park and had been vandalised. She has contacted the police who are unable to help as it is on private property. The DVLA have advised that she should send a completed V888 form and £5 fee to request the owners details and write to the owner asking them to remove the car.

Inspector Jones offered to take the matter up and will report back to the clerk.

### **090112**

#### **To Adopt a Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act**

The council adopted the ICO's model publication scheme as prepared by the Clerk (copy attached) Council to review in March 2009 following info collected from other parish councils.

### **090113**

#### **To receive reports from representatives to other meetings**

Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr Wright) – no meeting had taken place but phone calls had been received about the lack of Christmas tree and the chairman has received details of training required for staff.

The need for a new cooker was raised. Cllr. Wright said that if groups requested a new cooker officially they would apply for funding for one. Mrs. Wildman offered to discuss the matter with Old People's Welfare.

Old People's Welfare (Mrs. Wildman) – The group were disappointed about the Christmas tree, Their Christmas party went well.

Lapley & WA Recreation Ground (Mr. Noblett) – Pitched roof: Quotes are in place and they will now seek planning permission and apply for grant aid. Structural checks in the building are needed and timescale is May/June to have it finished. The club is breaking even and a financial report will be given in March.

First Responders (Mr. Barnsley) have always relied on Mike to put in a small application for grant/donation. Now that he has left, they will organise someone else to do that.

### **090114**

## **To Receive Correspondence**

The council noted the list of mail received, emails received and the following correspondence:

Mr. Ford – Email regarding empty properties on Long Street

A phone call had also been received from E&S regarding empty properties. The clerk reported that the shop owners are abroad and that unless there is a health risk such as broken glass or rats the council's hands are tied.

## **090115**

### **Any Other Brief Matters of Report**

Mrs. Wildman reported that – Flicks in the Sticks' next film would be "The Duchess" on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.

## **090116**

### **To Approve Payment of Accounts**

The attached list of accounts was approved.

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Several members of the public attended. The following matters were raised:

### **Inspector Mark Jones**

Points raised: Inspector Mark Jones introduced himself explaining that he has taken over from Inspector Dave Gains. He has 7½ years experience in the police force mainly in Handsworth in Birmingham. He came to Staffordshire in 2003 and Chase Division in 2005.

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Jones.

### **St. Mary's Church**

Points raised: Renovation and planting is planned for the grounds of the church over the next 12 months. The negative impact of vandalism, damage and arson affects the village centre. A resident requested support to prevent the efforts of the youths causing problems and that the police and Parish Council make more of an effort to tackle the problems. The Chairman said that it is an ongoing problem. The parish council and the police are working to reduce problems.

### **Lights**

Points raised: The minutes from a previous meeting stated that a diffuser had been requested for the lights at the youth centre. It was in fact a deflector that was requested. The Clerk is to contact Youth Services again about the matter.

The clerk was also requested to put a piece in the next newsletter asking residents to check the angle of their security lights to ensure that they are not set off too easily.

### **Incinerator**

Points raised: Residents have concerns and have been writing to county councillors. Cllr. Wright reported that the district council and county council approved the application. It did come to the parish council. Concerns can be made still but they are not likely to have any impact. There is another one planned for the A5 near Telford which may have more effect.

One resident felt that the incinerator is not in keeping with the waste hierarchy and that the literature was misleading. They also felt that the size of the plant is of concern.

The chairman reported that as the parish council's responses had already gone, the member of the public should contact the county council themselves as there was still time for individuals to make representations.

Cllr Wright confirmed that it is only black bin waste that goes into the incinerator and reported that a cooked waste experiment is going on in Cheslyn Hay. The amount of waste is minimal but the experiment is going ahead.

### **Lack of police presence**

Points raised: Residents are concerned about the lack of police presence. Cllr. Wright, on behalf of police consultative authority stated that the government has restricted the amount of funding available for police. There are only 12 police officers for the whole area. A resident complained that people have tried to report problems and are told that police aren't available. The public must do more but there is a high level of dissatisfaction with the police. Cllr. Wright says that the police's hands are tied by central government and that it is a national problem.

The Chairman said that a major problem is that people aren't reporting crime and therefore resources aren't allocated accordingly. The problem with anti-social behavior is a national one.

Mr. Timson felt that residents' concerns are valid and that action doesn't seem to be taken against people that are causing the problems. People need to be prepared to give evidence.

Inspector Jones reported that PC Smith was on annual leave and that the PCSO was on day shifts. Two distraction burglaries were currently taking place and so all officers are dealing with that and had had to leave their areas.

## Accounts paid during the month

£36.00 South Staffordshire Council – CRB Check for Debra Bate (£17.50) approved at the last meeting only covered the administration costs) Cheque for £36.00 signed by Peter Timson & Barbara Cox.

<b>Accounts for Payment</b>		<b>£ including VAT</b>
Debra Bate	December Salary	595.29
Debra Bate	December Expenses	143.00
Post Office Ltd	December PAYE	86.74
South Staffordshire Council Superannuation Fund	December Pension Payment	128.76
SPCA	AGM Buffet – S. Gould	10.00
ESPO	Invoice 8641604 – Paper & stationery items	52.65
Cash	Litter pickers £91.68 + £28.80 (£100-£71.20 left from December)	120.48
St. John's Church	Cutting & strimming of grass at Stretton Churchyard April –Nov 2008	450.00
Ricoh UK Ltd	Copier charges 01-08-08 to 31-10-08	45.00
BT	Internet Services 01-12-08 to 28-02-09	113.46
South Staffordshire Council	Grounds maintenance Jul/Aug/Sept 08	415.89

<b>Purchases Requested</b>		<b>£ including VAT</b>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

Signed..... Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009