

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 24 July 2012 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Roy Greenwood (in the Chair), David Astbury, John Glazzard, John Jones, Peter Mountford, Martin Roberts and Ken Whitehouse, Mrs Alison Armstrong (CWaC) and Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

12.46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Linda Carter, Paul Carter, Clive Lipscombe, Judith Thomas and Ward Councillor Graham Heatley.

12.47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

12.48 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – LITTLE STANNEY, CROUGHTON, STOAK, WERVIN, THORNTON-LE-MOORS, ELTON AND INCE PARISHES

The Parish Council welcomed Mrs Alison Armstrong, Local Strategic Partnership Director, CWaC to the meeting. Mrs Armstrong explained that the Community Governance Review was looking at parish arrangements that were already in place. Once this part of the review was completed attention would turn to the currently unparished areas. As part of the review questionnaires had been circulated to every household seeking views about the Parish Council and asking for suggestions about possible changes to composition, boundaries etc. A discussion followed and it was RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillor Astbury, together with the Clerk, should meet as a Working Group to formulate the Parish Council's initial response to the review, in time for a discussion by the next meeting of CWaC's Governance Committee on 12 September. Mrs Armstrong undertook to return to a future meeting should the Parish Council think this appropriate. The Parish Council thanked Mrs Armstrong for taking the time to attend the meeting and for the open and frank discussion and she left the meeting.

12.49 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised.

12.50 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 22 May 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

12.51 PLANNING AND LICENSING

(1) Planning Applications Received:

12/01742/FUL	Extension of existing slurry lagoon at Ashton House Farm, Wervin Road, Wervin, Chester, CH2 4BP – no comments by Parish Council
12/02774/FUL	Extension of existing hayshed at Ashton House Farm, Wervin Road, Wervin, Chester – concern expressed at the size of the extension.
12/02839/DIS	Discharge of conditions 5,8,9,10,18,20,23,24 and 26 of planning permission 11/05840/FUL for Construction of two (2 storey) car dealerships; comprising showroom, workshop, MOT testing, administrative offices, ancillary space and a wash/valet outbuilding plus external car parking, used vehicle sales, access and manoeuvring areas on land adjacent to Audi Cheshire Oaks, Longlooms Road East, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire

(2) Decisions: The following decisions were noted.

12/02256/FUL	LPG tank and associated landscaping (retrospective) (Resubmission of 11/01771/FUL) at 2 Cross House, Ashwood Lane, Wervin, Chester. This had already been implemented and was satisfactory - PERMISSION
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(3) Awaiting Decision:

12/01931/FUL	Pigeon Loft (retrospective) at 2 Bridge Farm Cottage, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester CH2 4HH
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12/01858/FUL	Construction of 1 No. Electrical Substation Kiosk in association with other operational site improvements at Ellesmere Port Waste Treatment Works, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Thornton-le-Moors, Chester
12/02194/EXT	Extension of time to implement planning permission 09/10382/FUL (Change of use of existing outbuilding to form one dwelling) at Stanney House, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Little Stanney, Chester CH2 4HZ

- (4) **Green Belt Review:** It was reported that CWaC were currently undertaking a review of the Green Belt in ten areas around Chester city, as part of the Local Development Framework, and an exhibition had been held at the Wesley Methodist Church in Chester. Parish Councils would be formally consulted on the review in the near future.

12.52 HIGHWAY MATTERS AND AMENITY CLEANING

- (1) **Footpath to Stanney Woods from Strawberry Drive, Whitby:** Under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 CWaC had made and published the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council (Addition of Public Footpath No.50 Ellesmere Port) Modification Order 2012. Representations and objections were to be submitted no later than 15 August 2012. If no objections were received the Order would be confirmed. If objections were received that could not subsequently be resolved the application, together with a copy of any objections, would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and would probably have to be resolved by a local Inquiry.
- (2) **Traffic and Visibility problems on Whitby Lane:** Councillors Dave Astbury and Judith Thomas had met Councillor Graham Heatley and CWaC officers Steve Marks, Principal Engineer and Bert Sapio, Network Steward on 21 June. The main issue discussed had been visibility problems being experienced by residents and visitors entering and exiting from east side of the road properties, especially those close to the roundabout. It had been agreed that hatching with white lines would push the traffic nearer to the centre of the highway thus increasing visibility when exiting properties. The lack of enforcement of the new 30mph speed limit had also been discussed. New road markings would be introduced to remind motorists that they were in a restricted area. Councillor Heatley agreed to discuss with the police the problems with the parked cars that obstruct visibility. Councillor Thomas would provide copies of the photographs taken. Councillor Heatley had also stated that there was S.106 money available from the Strawberry Park scheme that might be used to move the kerbs if the white hatching proved successful.
- (3) **Flooding on A5117** (Minute 12.44(1) refers: Councillor Astbury had raised the issue of the ongoing flooding problems on the A5117 outside Casa Mia with Steve Marks during the site visit (see (2) above) and he had agreed to look into it.
- (4) **Grass Cutting** (Minute 12.44(2) refers: The condition of the verge on the south side of the A5117 had been raised by Graham Povey, the Parish Amenity Cleaner, and had been referred to CWaC. CWaC had confirmed that they had received a complaint about Rural/Urban grass cutting for the Stoak/Picton area. CWaC had explained that the maintenance of highway verges was currently undertaken as part of the Term Maintenance Contract with Bam Nuttall through their sub-contractor, TWS. In urban areas the Contractor was required to keep the grass on highway verges below 75mm. The Contractor had determined that he could achieve this by scheduling a cut every two weeks during the peak growing season and he had generally met the required targets. However TWS had acknowledged that during the early part of this season they had encountered difficulties in achieving the necessary standard. TWS had confirmed that their operatives were working hard to keep up with the rapid grass growth currently being experienced during the exceptional weather conditions and additional "mobile" crews had been deployed to attend to "hot spots" and assist in areas where the regular crews were struggling to meet the standards/schedule. The area highways offices monitored the grass cutting and weed killing processes through a monthly audit of computer generated, randomly chosen sites, to ensure that the contractor was complying with the set criteria, and financial penalties were imposed for failure to meet the required standards. The results of the July audit were expected shortly and early

indications were that a noticeable improvement on June's poor performance was expected due to the utilisation of these additional resources.

- (5) **Hedge on Bridge at Croughton:** Councillor Mountford reported that a complaint had been received about the hedge on the bridge at Croughton. The Clerk would report this to CWaC.
- (6) **Little Stanney Lane/Rake Lane:** It was reported that the Audi and Porsche garages were using both Little Stanney Lane and Rake Lane to test their cars. The Parish Council could see no reason why they should not use either the A5117 down towards Elton or the M53 motorway. The Clerk would report the problem to CWaC.

12.53 STOAK PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

It was reported that the remains of drug activity had been identified on the Nature Park with empty wrappings left on the picnic table. It was possible that the site was being used because of the high hedge surrounding it and it was agreed to look at reducing the height to make the site more visible from the road. Councillor Jones and the Chairman would review the situation and make any necessary arrangements.

12.54 CHESTER GREEN BELT STUDY

As reported at the last meeting (Minute 12.38(4) refers) CWaC were working on a new Development Plan to set the framework for development for the whole of the Borough. As part of the process officers had undertaken a study of the Green Belt around the City of Chester. The CPRE had written seeking support for its views that the Green Belt around Chester should be retained for the following reasons:

- To prevent the built up area of Chester expanding and merging with the surrounding villages and smaller settlements,
- To preserve the critically narrow remaining open space between the built up part of Chester and the built up part of Ellesmere Port
- To preserve the open countryside setting and special compact and human scale character of the historic city of national and international importance.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to support the CPRE and to submit an appropriate response to Jeremy Owens at CWaC.

12.55 ELLESMERE PORT & CHESTER GI LINKS ACTION PLAN

The Parish Council noted that the Ellesmere Port & Chester Links Green Infrastructure (GI) Action Plan considered the natural environment within the future plans for two settlements. The Action Plan was timely as Ellesmere Port was looking to broaden its appeal from its traditional manufacturing base, while Chester was looking to develop a longer terms vision and comprehensive strategy for the city. GI had an important part to play in this. GI was the network of multifunctional green spaces, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supported the natural and ecological processes and was integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities. The Action Plan demonstrated how a comprehensive and connected GI network could deliver many social economic and environmental benefits focusing particularly on areas of anticipated future development and links between the two settlements.

12.56 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

- (1) **New Code of Conduct and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:** A Briefing Note issued by CWaC and ChALC had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Parish Council had already resolved to adopt CWaC's new code when this became available at the end of July. Councillors' attention was drawn to the information relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

- (2) **Protocol for Planning Site Visits:** The Council noted that the Member Planning Protocol adopted by CWaC contained the following clause:

7.9 The Parish Clerk or Chairman of the Parish Council will be allowed to attend Cheshire West and Chester Planning site visits but for the purpose of asking questions only and only under strict guidance. For this purpose only the Parish Clerk will be notified. Otherwise third parties will not be able to attend and speak at Planning Committee site visits.

12.57 INCE MARSHES RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK

The Chairman reported that an Air Quality consultant had been appointed to measure air quality before, during and after construction. An acoustic fence had been erected around the site. Some experimental work had been undertaken on gas extraction on the site (not fracking).

12.58 WEBSITE

Despite a promise by Susannah Truman, CWaC, of some progress with the development of the Parish Council's new website, nothing had yet happened. Councillor Glazzard would send a reminder.

12.59 PROTOCOL FOR THE RETENTION OF PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

The Parish Council considered a policy for the retention of Parish Council documents based on NALC Legal Topic Note 40 and RESOLVED that it be adopted.

12.60 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/ISSUES

- (1) **Cheshire Association of Local Councils 2012 Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting was to be held at Fire Brigade HQ, Winsford on Thursday 20 October at 6.30pm. It was RESOLVED that Councillor Astbury and the Clerk should attend.
- (2) **Broadband:** Councillor Glazzard had attended a meeting in Northwich at which it had been confirmed that the roll-out of broadband into the rural areas was unlikely to affect the Little Stanney area. The parish was served by three exchanges and the population was not sufficiently great to justify the cost.
- (3) **Publications etc:** The following publications had been received:
 - (a) *Clerks and Councils Direct – July 2012*
 - (b) *ChALC Newsletter (sent separately)*
 - (c) *Engage – Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Newsletter*
 - (d) *Unity Trust Bank – In Unity Newsletter Issue 2*

12.61 FINANCE

- (1) **Payments:** The following payments were approved:

31	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages and expenses July 2012	267.39
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary June 2012	112.00
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary July 2012	112.00
32	Stoak & Stanney Community Association–Room Hire to 31 March 2013	120.00
33	Parish Clerk-expenses May-July 2012	43.06
34	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages and expenses August 2012	249.14
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary August 2012	112.00
35	J Jones – Petrol for mower	14.35

- (2) **Receipts:** The following receipts were noted:

CWaC – grant from Members' Budget (Cllr Heatley)-Amenity Cleaning	1,000.00
Bank Interest	2.10

12.62 URGENT BUSINESS

None

12.63 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

None

12.64 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25 September 2012 at 7.30pm