

# Little Stanney & District Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 27 November 2012 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors Roy Greenwood (in the Chair), David Astbury, Linda Carter, John Glazzard John Jones, Clive Lipscombe, Peter Mountford, Judith Thomas and Ken Whitehouse, Ward Councillor Graham Heatley and Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk). Steve Marks, Principal Engineer, Cheshire West & Chester Council was in attendance. There were no members of the public present.

## 12.78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Carter and Martin Roberts.

## 12.79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 12.80 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised.

## 12.81 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 September 2012 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of Minute 12.70(2)(c) to read School House rather than Stanney House. There were no issues arising from the Minutes that were not on the agenda.

## 12.82 PLANNING AND LICENSING

### (1) Planning Applications Received:

12/04817/FUL	Replacement CCTV cameras and redesign of the CCTV coverage including installation of new 4.5 metres CCTV towers to extend coverage at Little Stanney Pumping Station, Stanney Mill Lane, Chester – no objections by the Parish Council
12/04659/FUL	Alterations and single storey extension at 4 Rake Hall Cottages, Rake Lane, Little Stanney, Chester CH2 4HS – no objections by the Parish Council

### (2) Decisions: The following decisions were noted.

12/04276/FUL	Single storey side extension to form attached garage/utility at 3 Rake Hall Cottages, Rake Lane, Little Stanney, Chester CH2 4HS - REFUSED
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 - APPROVED

### (3) Awaiting Decision:

12/02133/FUL	Introduction of natural gas pipeline into Refinery, overground and underground, together with associated reinforced concrete foundations and structural steelwork (includes land to south and north side of A5117) – Stanlow Refinery, Oil Sites Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4BD – no comments by the Parish Council
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(4) **Enforcement:** Following a report to the Parish Council of the construction of a building (2 horse stables) to the rear of The Bungalow, Croughton Road, Stoak the Parish Council had contacted CWaC's Planning Enforcement Team and had been informed that no action would be taken to seek a retrospective application as the new building was sitting on the site of a previous garage and, although it was slightly larger than permitted development limits (taller by 0.5 metres) planning permission would be granted if applied for. Consequently, in line with government directives, CWaC were not going to insist on the submission of an application for planning permission.

## 12.83 HIGHWAY MATTERS AND AMENITY CLEANING

(1) **Highway Issues reported to CWaC:** Steve Marks, Principal Engineer, CWaC attended the meeting to discuss a number of highway issues that had been raised over the past year. These issues were contained in an Appendix to the Minutes. A site visit would also be held the day following the Parish Council meeting in Stoak and Croughton to view some of the sites.

- (2) **Traffic and Visibility Problems on Whitby Lane:** In response to the request by the Parish Council to have the white marker posts re-established in the verge or for some other permanent solution to be found to prevent parking on the verge, CWaC had forwarded a copy of a response by the Police to the issue of parking on grass verges. The verge markers could be reinstated but to ensure parity this would mean putting verge markers along the edge of all the verges in the street. The possibility of erecting a new street sign was being considered.
- (3) **Speed Limit in Wervin:** The Parish Council had expressed concern to CWaC about the speed of vehicles on Wervin Road through Wervin village and had been informed that in 2006 the Department for Transport (DfT) had issued revised guidance for the setting of local speed limits. The guidance included a policy that, where appropriate, a 30mph speed limit should be the norm in villages. The DfT defined a village as 20 or more houses and a minimum distance of 600 metres, with an average density of at least 3 houses per 100 metres. The guidance recommended that extra allowance should be made for any key buildings such as a church, shop or school. In order to progress a review of the speed limit, a request should be made to the Area Manager (Kieran Collins). However, the Parish Council was asked to bear in mind that if the request was successful the Parish Council would be required to meet half the cost of implementing the order (i.e the costs of the order, new signage and lining etc). It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should pursue the matter with Kieran Collins and to ascertain exactly how much it would cost to make the order. Councillor Heatley offered funding from his Members' Budget.
- (4) **Street Naming:** The name Dunkirk Way had now been confirmed for the A5117 between the A41 roundabout and the traffic lights onto the A540. Letters had been sent to residents confirming the intention to re-introduce the name Whitby Lane to the A5032 between the Strawberry Roundabout and the Backford lights. The naming of Strawberry Way East and Strawberry Way West on the A5117 on either side of the Strawberry roundabout was still awaiting confirmation, and Elton Primary School children were being asked to suggest an appropriate name for the stretch from the Motorway roundabout at Hapsford up to the Motorway roundabout at Little Stanney. The Parish Council had suggested Gowy Way or Thornton Way as possibilities. The name Oakland Drive had been proposed for the entrance to the new car dealerships off Longlooms Road.

#### 12.84 STOAK PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

- (1) **Inspection:** The Playing Field annual inspection had been carried out earlier in the year by Morral Play Solutions and a copy of the report had been circulated. Although there were no issues that needed immediate attention, there were a few repairs that needed to be carried out and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should seek appropriate quotations for the work. The report had suggested that the goal nets needed tightening, but the Parish Council did not consider this to be a feasible option and RESOLVED to remove them altogether.
- (2) **Gate to Nature Park:** The Parish Council had received confirmation from CWaC that planning permission was not required to erect a gate from the footpath over the Canal bridge into the Nature Park. However, advice was awaited from the Canal Trust about the status of the bridge because if it had been downgraded to a cycleway, a weight restriction might mean the Parish Council would not be able to use the gate for access with hedge trimming machinery. There was still some confusion about ownership of the bridge. It was possible that the Canal Trust owned the bridge but CWaC owned the cycleway over it.

#### 12.85 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

- (1) **Community Governance Review:** The Parish Council had asked CWaC to consider a revision to the parish boundary so that the new development on the former Wood Farm site at the end of Stanney Lane could be included within Little Stanney Parish. CWaC had a problem with this request in that the proposed boundary extension extended into the unparished area of Ellesmere Port and this area was not within the scope of the current

Little Stanney review. CWaC were considering modifying the terms of reference of the current review to broaden the area under consideration and needed to clarify the extent of this broader area. In order to progress this a report would be considered by the next meeting of the Community Governance Review Committee on Wednesday, 12 December at 5.30pm in Room G1, HQ Building, Chester. Councillors Astbury and Thomas and the Clerk would attend, and would ask to speak in support of the extension of the review area. The Chairman and Vice Chairman would meet with Councillors Astbury and Thomas and the Clerk to discuss how best to put the Parish Council's case forward once the agenda and report had been produced for the meeting on 12 December.

- (2) **New Governance Model for West Cheshire:** West Cheshire had been selected as one of the four national Whole Place Community Budget pilots. The intention was to get agencies working together to provide better outcomes at lower costs. Implementation would require different accountability arrangements, which needed to be formalised through a new governance framework. Trials were being undertaken in both urban and rural settings and in single and two-member wards. A consultation document had been designed which outlined proposed governance arrangements for managing public service business across West Cheshire. The consultation ended on 31 December 2012. All responses would be considered in developing the finalised structure, the intention being to implement this from 1 April 2013.
- (3) **Budget Consultation:** As reported at the last meeting, CWaC were undertaking a three stage budget consultation process this year. The second phase had now begun with consultation on the approach and principles that might be adopted by the Council to improve services and achieve a financially sustainable position going forward. The third phase (*January*) would involve consultation on specific draft budget proposals once there was more certainty over the Council's financial position. The budget would then be set in February 2013. The second phase of the consultation ended on 16 December 2012.

## **12.86 CHESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – CONSULTATION**

Cheshire Fire Authority had published its annual plan, the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2013/2014 and the years beyond and a 12-week consultation had been launched in September, ending on 17 December. The draft Plan set out a number of far reaching proposals which had been developed so that the Fire and Rescue Service could maintain and improve the services it provided to the local community and make most effective use of reduced funding. The plan contained proposals to build up to five new fire stations, make significant changes to how fire stations were crewed, introduce a blanket 10 minute response time, reduce the number of full time firefighters and increase on-call staff. If implemented, the proposals would help the Service to meet expected budget cuts of around £5 million over the next four years, although they would take a number of years to implement. It was not anticipated that any firefighters would face compulsory redundancy. The Parish Council supported the new proposals which could be of benefit to the residents of the parish.

## **12.87 INCE MARSHES RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK**

The Chairman was unable to attend the last meeting, which included a presentation by Alan Thornley of Civitas Planning on the proposal for an anaerobic digester plant at Home Farm, Ince. This proposal was still in the early stages and Civitas were keen to hear about issues of concern to the community, such as traffic and smell. CWaC were still trying to decide whether or not the proposal required an Environmental Impact Statement, which would be a major undertaking. The meeting scheduled for 28 November 2012 had been cancelled due to lack of business. The next meeting was likely to take place in January 2013.

## **12.88 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/ISSUES**

- (1) **Publications:** Receipt of the following publications was noted:
  - (1) *Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2012*
  - (2) *Partnerships West bulletin – November 2012*
  - (3) *The Playing Field – Autumn 2012*
  - (4) *CWaC History and Heritage – Winter 2012*
  - (5) *CWaC Exhibitions & Events – October 2012-January 2013*

## 12.89 FINANCE

### (1) Payments:

S/O	Parish Clerk-salary October 2012	112.00
41	N Evans-Hedge Cutting @ Nature Park	70.00
42	J Jones – Mower maintenance and petrol	14.52
43	Parish Clerk-expenses September-November 2012	45.90
44	HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax October-December 2012	249.09
45	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages and expenses November 2012	259.89
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary November 2012	112.00
46	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages and expenses December 2012	248.49
47	M J Jones-playing field cuts for 2012 season	250.00
48	J Jones-plants for verge in Stoak village	15.00

### (2) Receipts:

Bank Interest	£2.01
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- (3) **Draft Budget for 2013-14:** Initial consideration was given to the issues to be addressed when setting the budget and precept for 2013-14. It was proposed to increase the wages of the Amenity Cleaner and this would be taken into account when setting the budget and precept.

## 12.90 URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Order 6(21) the Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered as a matter of urgency as it could not await the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council:-

**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Dispensations:** The Localism Act prevented Members from participating in any local council business where they had a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) unless they had sought a dispensation under Section 33. Where a Member and/or his spouse or partner owned or rented land in the council's area, they would have a DPI. A criminal offence could be committed where a member with a DPI participated or voted at a meeting. Dispensation were now a matter for consideration by local councils. In the previous Model Code of Conduct for Members there had been a number of exemptions to the rules on "prejudicial interests" which had given Members a general dispensation to participate in meetings. This included setting the precept. There were no similar exemptions in the new legislation so individual dispensations were required. These could be given for up to four years. In order to ensure all Members could participate in the discussion on and vote for the budget and precept for next year it was RESOLVED that, subject to the completion of an appropriate request form, all Councillors be granted a dispensation for four years to approve the budget and the annual precept for the parish on the grounds that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the consideration of this item of business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business, and the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the council's area.

## 12.91 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 21 January 2013 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall