

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 26 March 2013 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall

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

13.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Judith Thomas

13.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

13.18 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised

13.19 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 January 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

13.20 PLANNING AND LICENSING

(1) Planning Applications Received:

13/00395/LDC	Change of use of part of the original house to create a separate two storey dwelling (known as Flat 3 / maisonette) and change of use of former barn to create one ground floor flat (known as Flat 1) and one first floor flat (known as Flat 2) at Hill Farm, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Little Stanney, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4HZ
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(2) Decisions:

12/05628/FUL	Siting of portable office buildings and ISO containers used for storage at Air Products Ltd, New Bridge Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH2 4RA - PERMISSION
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(3) **Potential Development Land at Little Stanney:** The Parish Council considered the response received from a private developer to queries raised by the Parish Council, a copy of which had been circulated to all councillors. It was agreed that no further comments could be made until a formal planning application was received.

13.21 HIGHWAY MATTERS AND AMENITY CLEANING

(1) **Contract for Amenity Cleaner:** The contract for the Amenity Cleaner expired on 31 March 2013 and the Parish Council RESOLVED to approve its renewal for a further year to 31 March 2014 on the basis of 10 hours per week at £7.00 per hour, as agreed at the last meeting.

(2) **Strawberry Drive Footpath (Footpath No.50 Ellesmere Port):** On 8 March the Planning Inspectorate had informed the Parish Council that the Order relating to the above footpath, submitted by Cheshire West and Chester, was fatally flawed due to the use of incorrect notation and that as a consequence no further action would be taken on the Order by the Inspectorate. On 14 March a further letter had been received informing the Parish Council that an explanation of the supposed error had been received from CWaC and had been accepted and that the Inspectorate would now proceed to determine the Order. Their final decision was awaited.

(3) **Fly-tipping on Croughton Road:** At the request of the Amenity Cleaner, the Clerk had reported fly-tipping and vermin on the grass verge at the top of Croughton Road. The Amenity Cleaner had tried to report both matters himself and had been told by CWaC Streetscene that they would only deal with the fly-tipping and by Environmental Health that they would only deal with the vermin issue. It was noted that the fly-tipping had been removed, but a more long-term solution to problems was required at this location. It was agreed to approach CWaC again to ask for a gate to be erected

across the top of Croughton Road. It was also agreed to contact John Dwyer, the Police Commissioner, about the lack of police presence in the villages.

- (4) **Street Naming:** Since the last meeting four street names had been agreed and new road signs were currently being made. These were Strawberry Way East, Strawberry Way West, Whitby Lane and Dunkirk Lane. CWaC had informed the Parish Council that the section of highway from the Audi roundabout to the M53 roundabout, which the Parish Council thought had been agreed as Beech Way, was still under investigation and that residents had been contacted to finalise names. At the request of Councillor Heatley, Elton Primary School had been asked again for suggestions for the name of the section of highway from the M53 roundabout to the Hapsford roundabout. It was hoped to have a response before Easter. If nothing was forthcoming, CWaC agreed to set an end date for response so that the matter could be progressed.

At a meeting in October 2012 the number of signs to be erected and their location had been agreed between Parish Councillors and CWaC. Since then the number of signs had been reduced substantially so that now there would be only one sign at each end of a newly named stretch of road. The Parish Council had asked whether any money could be found from the S.106 agreement with M&S and had been told that there was nothing available. Any Parish signs that the Parish Council wanted to have erected were a separate issue and it was noted that these could not be attached to road signs.

Residents of Little Stanney around the Strawberry Cross/Whitby Lane area had been informed that despite being resident in Little Stanney the third line of their address was now Backford. CWaC had been asked to return this situation to the status quo but, in a 45 minute telephone conversation between two Councillors, the Parish Clerk and CWaC's Street Naming and Numbering Section, the Parish Council had been asked to raise this issue as a formal complaint to the Chief Executive. As it was an important issue, this had been done and a response was awaited.

- (5) **Outstanding Issues:** An update on issues raised with CWaC at the Parish Council meeting and subsequent site meeting in November 2012 had been requested, but to date had not been received. With regard to the handrail on the Canal Bridge, at the meeting in November, CWaC had agreed to repair this as a matter of urgency as it was a health and safety risk. The rail had not yet been repaired and other parts were becoming dangerous. It was agreed to take this up via the Chief Executive if nothing was done in the next week or so.
- (6) **The Culvert:** At the last meeting it was reported that the landowner had failed to remove the tipped material from the site following the issue of a Notice by the PROW officer giving him 28 days in which to do so. An enforcement notice had been issued but had apparently not been complied with as the site was still in the same condition. The Clerk was asked to check the current situation with CWaC.

13.22 **STOAK PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK**

- (1) **Gate to Nature Park:** The Parish Council was still trying to establish ownership of the footpath into the Nature Park. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to check with CWaC whether or not planning permission would be required.
- (2) **Annual Inspection of Play Areas:** Morral Play Solutions had offered to complete the annual inspection of the Play Area for £42.50, the same as last year, subject to the same number of Parish Councils requesting this service. Should there be fewer councils the fee would rise slightly. The only other quotation received was for £65 from RoSPA. It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Morral Play Solutions.

13.23 **CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL**

- (1) **Community Governance Review:** Cheshire West and Chester Council had started on the second phase of consultation with electors in the civil parishes of Little Stanney, Croughton, Stoak and Wervin on a range of general options for their future community governance. A letter and questionnaire, tailored to each parish to reflect

their individuality, had been distributed to every household within the four parishes.. An analysis of the responses would be presented to the Community Governance Review Committee on 10 April 2013 when draft recommendations would be determined. The Parish Council had been advised that comments already made would be taken into account in the discussions but that the Committee would welcome any further views from the Parish Council to help formulate the draft recommendations. Should the Committee be minded to recommend any change to the current arrangements, a public or Parish Meeting would be convened to seek endorsement by the local electorate prior to the agreement of final recommendations at Full Council in May/June. It was agreed to reiterate the points already made and make some suggestions with regard to possible changes of boundary between the parishes of Stoak and Wervin. Councillor Astbury and the Clerk would attend the meeting of the Community Governance Committee.

- (2) **Cheshire West Warm Zone Offer:** The Parish Council noted that funding was available until the end of March 2013 for free loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and central heating repairs for households where one resident satisfied one of five criteria – one resident over 60, a child under 16, private tenants renting from private landlord, resident in receipt of qualifying benefits, household located in certain wards. To check eligibility residents should call 0800 033 7873.
- (3) **Refurbishment of Chester Bus Exchange:** Work had started on 11 February and would provide improved waiting facilities pending the arrival of the long-awaited Northgate scheme. The Parish Council noted that there would be some disruption to passengers during the works.

13.24 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM

The last three meetings had been cancelled due to lack of business. The next meeting was scheduled for April 2013.

13.25 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/ISSUES

Publications etc: Receipt of the following items was noted

- (1) *Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2013*
- (2) *Cheshire West and Chester Bulletin for Local Councils – January 2013*
- (3) *Partnerships West Edition 45 – November 2012*

13.26 PARISH WEBSITE

Councillor Glazzard reported that the website was now available for public use. Notices had been put on the Parish Council’s notice boards and a flyer would be circulated to all residents.

13.27 FINANCE

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

Cheque No	To whom paid	Amount
052	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages and expenses March 2013	249.05
053	Clerk’s expenses-January-March 2013	34.50
S/O	Clerk’s salary – February 2013	112.00
S/O	Clerk’s salary – March 2013	112.00
054	HM Revenue & Customs-Income Tax January-March 2013	249.14
055	Cheshire County Playing Fields Association-annual subscription (2013-14)	16.00

(2) **Receipts:** Bank Interest of £1.12

13.28 URGENT BUSINESS AND EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items of business brought forward under Standing Order 6(21).

13.29 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2013-14

Tuesday 28 May 2013 (Annual Meeting)	Tuesday 26 November 2013
Tuesday 23 July 2013	Tuesday 28 January 2013
Tuesday 24 September 2013	Tuesday 25 March 2013