

# Little Stanney & District Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Tuesday 23 July 2013 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors Roy Greenwood (in the Chair), David Astbury, John Glazzard, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe, Judith Thomas and Ken Whitehouse and Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk). Also in attendance were Mr Ian McNeill (Area Engineer, Ellesmere Port and Rural West) and PCSO Lyam Beddowes. There were ten members of the public present.

## **13.49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Carter and Peter Mountford and Ward Councillor Graham Heatley.

## **13.50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

## **13.51 HIGHWAY, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING**

(1) **Rake Lane and Wervin Road – Speed Limits:** The Chairman welcomed Ian McNeill (Area Engineer, Ellesmere Port and Rural West) who had agreed to attend the meeting to discuss speeding issues, particularly on Rake Lane and Wervin Road. As background information a copy of a report to Cheshire West and Chester Council's Locality Working Scrutiny Committee entitled New Guidance on Setting Local Speed Limits had been circulated with the agenda.

In relation to Rake Lane, the Chairman opened the meeting to residents to put their concerns to Mr McNeill. The main issues raised related to the speed of traffic, the lack of pavements requiring pedestrians to walk in the road, use of the lane by HGVs and poor driver behaviour. As well as residential properties, access was required to the Caravan Club site, which had 100 pitches that were often fully utilised, and to The Rake public house. The Cheshire Oaks Outlet Village was within walking distance and was one of the main reasons for campers using the Caravan Club site. It was also noted that both Audi and Porsche garages used Rake Lane to demonstrate their vehicles. The road was also used by horse riders. Although there were only two recorded RTCs over the past few years, residents could testify to any number of incidents involving vehicles, pedestrians and horses, mainly due to speeding vehicles and the lack of driver care and attention. The road was so narrow that two vehicles could not pass each other if there were pedestrians walking in the road. HGVs were unable to remain in lane and often straddled the centre line. Poor street lighting was also an issue, especially during the summer months when many lights were obscured by foliage. It appeared that drivers who were not local often used Rake Lane from the A41 to the A5117 as this was the shortest route offered by GPS/SatNav.

The possibility of introducing a 30mph speed limit was discussed and Mr McNeill advised that the road did not meet the criteria. However, he was confident that a 40mph limit would be approved, at least up to the bridge over the motorway. The Parish Council was asked to make a formal application. The possibility of introducing a 7.5 tonne weight restriction was also discussed but it was accepted that this would not solve the problem with HGVs as a weight restriction only related to through traffic and not to vehicles wishing to access properties. Any other traffic calming solutions would be assessed, such as the potential to use vehicle activated signs. Mr McNeill agreed to provide the results of a recent traffic count which had recently been undertaken 24 hours a day over a seven day period. This would show the volume and type of traffic. The cost of signage for a 40mph limit would be around £2,000, which would need to be met by the Parish Council.

With regard to Wervin Road, many of the same issues applied as to Rake Lane. A traffic survey was requested. The possibility of a "Concealed Entrance" sign on the approaches to the Mobile Home Park would be explored.

The Chairman thanked Mr McNeill for his attendance and he left the meeting.

- (2) **Street Naming:** The Parish Council had received a response from the Solutions Team with regard to Stage 2 of their complaint, to the effect that there had always been and would always be anomalies in regard to conflicting details for addresses and their parish locations and that residents would eventually choose the locality they believed they resided in. Post codes and GPS meant that emergency services could respond to exact pin-pointed addresses. The tone of the letter from the Solutions Team suggested that the Parish Council was in some way to blame for making this complaint, which was not the case. CWaC appeared to have misunderstood completely what the Parish Council was asking for, which was for the various databases to be pulled together into one that could be used by everyone. The Clerk had responded to the letter to this effect and had received a further response that the reason the matter had been recorded as a complaint was that officers had felt that whatever they said was not acceptable even though the answer given was the only one available. It was accepted that the databases were out of date and not synchronised but a project to rectify this was a large enterprise and not high on the Council's list of things to do. CWaC believed that the situation did not cause any danger to residents and that the current systems were fit for purpose. With regard to the ongoing discussions about street names, very little had changed since the last report. The Street Naming and Numbering Team were still in discussion with residents and the primary school in Elton about the name of the A5117 from the M56 motorway to the M53 roundabout.
- (3) **Ongoing Issues:** A site meeting had been arranged with Steve Marks and Bert Sapio on 20 June 2013. The Chairman, Councillor Jones and the Parish Clerk had attended. It had been agreed to install collapsible bollards at the top of Croughton Road to try to stop fly tipping. The Parish Council (Councillor Jones) and the tenant of the adjacent field would hold the keys to enable access if required. Councillor Jones confirmed that the refuse collection vehicles reversed up Croughton Road as there was insufficient space for them to turn around at the top end so no-one should be inconvenienced by the installation of the bollards. The bollards had now been installed but were in the wrong location and did not prevent vehicular access. CWaC would investigate and, if necessary, arrange for the bollards to be relocated. At the request of CWaC, the Clerk had asked Chester and District Housing Trust to cut back the overhanging foliage from trees and bushes on the boundary of their property on Croughton Road. Brambles and nettles alongside the approach to the Canal towpath would be cut back.
- (4) **Fly Tipping:** The Council's Amenity Cleaner had reported a substantial increase in fly tipping in June on Croughton Road, Little Stanney Lane and Picton Lane, much of it builders rubble, all of which has been reported to CWaC.

### 13.52 OPEN FORUM

The Parish Council welcomed PCSO Lyam Beddowes to the meeting. He reported on several incidents that he had attended recently including an alcohol-related disturbance at The Rake public house and damage to a vehicle in Stoak village. The Parish Council was amused by a report of a man apprehended for riding naked on a bicycle. The police proposed to hold a monthly surgery for residents in the Village Hall if suitable arrangements could be made. The Parish Council would advertise this on the website. The police would keep an eye on the Nature Park at Stoak as a person had been noted rummaging through litter bins on the adjacent towpath.

### 13.53 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 28 May 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 13.54 PLANNING AND LICENSING

#### (1) Planning Applications Received:

13/02535/FUL	Proposed side and front extension to existing unit to provide additional workshop, storage and canteen facilities - Land and Building adjacent to Dial House, Dutton Green, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4SA – no objection by the Parish Council.
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(2) **Decisions:** The following decisions were noted.

13/00887/FUL	Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary granny annexe at Heathcote, Rake Lane, Little Stanney, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4HS – PERMISSION
13/01676/EXT	Extension of time to implement planning permission 10/10636/FUL for two storey side extension with porch to front at Applegold, Strawberry Way East, Chester CH1 6PG – PERMISSION
13/02087/FUL	Single storey rear extension at The White House, Little Stanney Lane, Stoak, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4HW – PERMISSION
13/01739/FUL	Factory extension including dust extraction unit and sound attenuating fence and gates, including outside storage area, ground slab and alteration to car park to facilitate waste trailer at Initial Citylink, Dutton Green, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4SA

(3) **Awaiting Decision:**

13/01672/FUL	Erection of a 60m temporary anemometry mast for measuring wind speed and direction for the period of 24 months from construction at Ellesmere Port Waste Water Treatment Works, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Thornton-le-Moors, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4JA
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- (4) **Church Farm, Stoak:** The Parish Council's concerns regarding traffic on Church Lane should the Church Commissioners decide to apply for planning permission to develop the Church Farm site had been noted and the Parish Council had been informed that the matter was currently under consideration and would be taken into account in the preparation of a formal planning application for the site.

### 13.55 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

- (1) **Annual Inspection of Play Area:** Morral Play Solutions had undertaken the annual inspection of the Play Area on 7 July 2013. Their report had been circulated with the agenda. Once again the inspection had been conducted without a representative of the Parish Council being present, despite a request for Councillor Jones to be contacted prior to the inspection and the Clerk was asked to express the Parish Council's concern about this when paying the inspection fee. One of the issues raised in the report was a missing board along the side of the Play Area. The opportunity had been taken while Ringwood were on site to ask them to replace two boards at a cost of £112.13 (including VAT), the cost being met from the Council's agreed maintenance budget of £400. It was AGREED to seek a quotation from Ringwood for the replacement of a piece of plywood on top of the decking platform on the Climbing Frame that bolts onto the slide. It was further AGREED that if the cost was considered to be reasonable, and within the Parish Council's budget for maintenance, the Clerk should accept the quotation before the next Parish Council meeting.
- (2) **Access Gate to Nature Park:** As agreed at the last meeting (Minute 13.41), the access gate into the Nature Park at the junction of Picton Lane and Wervin Road had been installed by Ringwood Fencing. It had been necessary for one of the posts to be wooden rather than steel as the ground was uneven and a steel post on one side was found to be too short to be effective

### 13.56 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

- (1) **Local Councils Assembly:** This had taken place on the evening of Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June at Chester Town Hall. The Chairman, Councillor Astbury and the Parish Clerk had attended and heard presentations by Steve Robinson (CWaC Chief Executive), Maria Byrne, Head of Rural Localities Team on Localities and Local Working, Caryn Cox, Director of Public Health on Public Health issues and Jackie Weaver, Chief Officer of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) on the General Power of Competence. A short round table discussion had been followed by question time. In his closing remarks, Council Leader Mike Jones had paid tribute to Steve Kent, Director of Localities, who was taking partial retirement from CWaC and in the future would be working one day a week for the Department for Transport on the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme, one day a week as President of ADEPT (Association of Directors of Economy, Environment, Planning and Transport) and one day a week providing strategic advice to the Council and the Cheshire and Warrington Local

Enterprise Partnership on his specialist areas of transport and infrastructure. Steve's successor as Director of Localities would be John Jeffrey, currently Locality Head of Service for Chester (formerly Head of Waste Management and Streetscene).

- (2) **Community Governance Review:** Following the decision by CWaC's Community Governance Committee not to make any changes to the governance arrangements in the parishes at the present time, a formal notice had been published and placed on the Parish Notice Boards and the website setting out the decision and asking residents or organisations to make any representations by 2 August 2013. Further consideration would be given to the external boundaries of the parishes during consideration of the governance arrangements for the unparished areas of Ellesmere Port. The Clerk had reminded CWaC of the Parish Council's interest in the boundary with both Ellesmere Port and with Backford.
- (3) **Participatory Budgeting Event:** CWaC officers and Councillor Heatley were currently exploring the feasibility of delivering a Participatory Budgeting Event in the Elton ward. This event could provide an opportunity for local community groups to bid for additional funding, understand the contribution of local groups in the area, allow the community to have their say on how funding is allocated and finally bring the community together. As Councillor Heatley was not at the meeting, no further information was available on this initiative.
- (4) **Lord Mayor's Charity Ball:** It was noted that this was to be held on the evening of Friday 26 July at Chester Town Hall. Tickets were £35 and all proceeds would go to the Lord Mayor's Charity "Adoption Matters Northwest".

### **13.57 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM**

The Annual General Meeting had been held on 26 June 2013. Councillor Tony Mills, Elton Parish Council, was elected Chairman of the Forum for the ensuing year. As a result of the failure by Covanta to obtain the Merseyside waste contract the company had announced its withdrawal from the UK market and had put its UK assets, including Ince Park up for sale. Until this position was resolved, development at Ince Park will be limited unless an alternative way of funding the infrastructure could be found. In response to a question at the AGM it had been confirmed that the Resource Recovery Plant (RRP) could go ahead without the Energy from Waste (EfW) plant, but if the RRP were to go ahead before the EfW plant then planning conditions relating more to the EfW than the RRP might have to be revisited. The next meeting would be in late October.

### **13.58 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

John Dwyer, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, had invited all parish councils to be represented at a meeting to be held on Monday 29 July at 6.30pm in the Civic Suite, Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port. Councillors Thomas and Whitehouse would attend.

### **13.59 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

It was reported that the Connecting Cheshire Partnership had signed a contract with BT to deliver Fibre Broadband to over 80,000 premises in rural areas of Cheshire. The project would ensure 96% of homes and businesses had access to high speed broadband by 2016. The remaining 4% that currently experienced low speeds should see an uplift, as the project aimed to deliver a minimum of 2Mbps or more to almost all homes and businesses. Over the next eight months or so BT engineers would analyse the best way to roll out the network. The communities to be included in the first stage of the roll-out should be announced around December 2013. Whether all residents and businesses would have access to these new superfast speeds by 2016 depended on BT's work over the next months to survey, plan and assess the costs of installing fibre-optic cables to upgrade the infrastructure. The most likely areas not to receive the superfast broadband would be rural. The remaining 4% would be the most expensive and complex areas to deliver the infrastructure. Parish Councils were being encouraged to engage with residents and businesses to build evidence of the need to bring superfast broadband to their communities. One way Parish Councils could help was by directing people to the [www.connectingcheshire.org.uk](http://www.connectingcheshire.org.uk) website to join the campaign for Better Broadband in Cheshire. Over 8,600 demand registrations had been received so far, including over 1,000 businesses.

### 13.60 PROTOCOL FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE PARISH WEBSITE

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk, in consultation with Councillor Glazzard, should draw up a protocol for the management of the Parish Council's website, including whether or not to make any charges for advertising on the website and what criteria should be applied. The draft protocol would be presented for approval to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

### 13.61 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/ISSUES

(1) **Free trees from The Woodland Trust:** It was reported that the Woodland Trust was offering 4,000 free tree packs to school, community and youth groups this autumn. "Community" included parish and community councils. Applications had to be submitted before 13 September 2013 for the chance to receive a free tree pack to plant in November 2013. Each pack was worth £30, £105 or £420 for 30, 105 and 420 saplings, respectively (£1 per tree). Applicants had only to find a suitable site and supply the volunteer planters and tree protection

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/moretreesmoregood/free-trees/Pages/free-tree-packs.aspx>

It was AGREED that the Parish Council should seek a quotation for the cost of planting, staking and protecting the trees and also seek permission from CWaC for their location in the public highway.

(2) **Publications etc:**

- (1) *Clerks and Councils Direct – July 2013*
- (2) *CWaC History and Heritage Summer 2013*
- (3) *CWaC Exhibitions & Events June-September 2013*
- (4) *ChALC July Newsletter*

### 13.62 FINANCE

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

Cheque No		Amount
S/O	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages June 2013	242.67
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary June 2013	118.72
S/O	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages July 2013	242.67
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary August 2013	118.72
S/O	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)wages-August 2013	242.67
71	Parish Clerk-expenses May-July 2013	104.45
72	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-expenses July 2013	39.75
73	Morrall Play Service – Fee for annual inspection of Play Area	51.00
74	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-expenses August 2013	33.00
75	Ringwood Fencing-Supply and erect two boards along side of Play Area	112.13
76	J Jones-petrol for mower	7.20

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

CWaC – grant from Members' Budget (Cllr Heatley)-Amenity Cleaning	1,000.00
Bank Interest (April-June 2013)	1.83

### 13.63 URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Order 1(18) 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.

#### **The Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council (Addition of Public Footpath No.50 Ellesmere Port) Modification Order 2012**

The Parish Council had received CWaC's Statement of Case in relation to the above Order and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should prepare an appropriate submission in support of CWaC's Statement for submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

### 13.64 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24 September 2013 at 7.30pm