

# Little Stanney & District Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting** held on Wednesday 8 January 2014 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Glazzard (in the Chair), David Astbury, Linda Carter, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe, Peter Mountford, Martin Roberts, Judith Thomas and Ken Whitehouse and Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk). There were seven members of the public present.

## 14.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Roy Greenwood (holiday), Paul Carter (work)

## 14.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 14.03 OPEN FORUM

As the members of the public were attending for the discussion on the planning application relating to Church Farm, the Chairman agreed to hold the open forum with that item.

## 14.04 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 26 November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

## 14.05 PLANNING AND LICENSING

### (1) Planning Applications Received:

13/04923/FUL	Change of Use of agricultural buildings to 3 residential units with car port on land adjacent to Church Farm, Church Lane, Stoak, Chester CH2 4HP Standing Orders were suspended for discussion of this item to enable members of the public to put their views. A detailed discussion ensued, the main points raised relating to the retention of the turning circle at the top of Church Lane and the need to install a haul road to accommodate HGVs entering/leaving the site during the demolition/construction phase of the development. The Clerk had noted the points made and would respond to Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) accordingly.
13/05178/FUL	Change of Use of outbuilding to form two dwellings with associated garages at Stanney House, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Little Stanney, Chester CH2 4HZ – no comments

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

13/04490/LDC	Use of mobile home as residential dwelling at Bridge Farm, Croughton, Chester CH2 4DA - PERMISSION
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### (3) Cheshire West & Chester Draft Local Plan: It was noted that the draft Local Plan had been approved by the Council on 19 December and was submitted for public examination to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 23 December. Despite opposition the Council had approved the construction of 22,000 new homes over the Plan period, including the development of Green Belt land off Wrexham Road. The Plan would be scrutinised by an Inspector and if found to be satisfactory an Examination in Public would take place in the Spring of 2014. The Inspector's report was expected in the Summer.

## 14.06 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

### Update on outstanding issues:

- (1) **Street Naming:** It had been agreed that the A5117 from the M56 roundabout up to the M53 roundabout was to be called Hill View Road. The last stretch between the M53 roundabout and Longlooms Road had yet to be agreed.
- (2) **Flooding:** The ditches by Casa Mia on Strawberry Way West had been cleaned out but there was still flooding on the opposite side of the road by the flats
- (3) **Drainage in Stoak:** The grids in Croughton Road had grass growing out of them which was preventing water from draining into them causing the water to run down the road.

The drain from the bottom of Croughton Road to Bridge Farm had not worked for years. The Clerk would raise this again with CWaC.

- (4) **Speed Limits:** Although the Parish Council had not been formally informed that a speed check had been conducted on Whitby Lane, Councillors had been aware that this was taking place and the Clerk had requested a copy of the information received. This had not yet been sent and the Clerk would ask again. It was noted that the “road narrows” signs on Wervin Road appeared to be having no effect on speeds at that location.
- (5) **Waiting Restriction sign outside School House:** The lack of this sign had been reported again to CWaC. Parked vehicles in the layby were still causing difficulties for vehicles emerging from Little Stanney Lane.
- (6) **White stakes outside Orion, Whitby Lane:** The Clerk had asked again about these stakes, but had received no reply. Further enquiries to be made.

#### **14.07 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK**

**Damage to Picnic Bench:** Came & Company, the Parish Council’s insurers, had informed the Clerk that a claim for the damaged Picnic Bench should have been made within four weeks of the incident occurring, so a claim would now be out of time. The shell of the vandalised picnic table was now in a dangerous condition and would be removed. There were two possible replacement benches available - the Garthdee All-Steel Picnic Unit from Broxap at a price of £599 plus VAT and carriage £108 plus VAT, a total of £743 plus VAT and the VMP/6 Picnic Table from Wybone at a price of £609.70 plus VAT, carriage £58.99 plus VAT, a total of £668.69 plus VAT. It was agreed to purchase the Garthdee as this was longer and offered more seating space. Councillor Heatley very kindly agreed to meet the cost of the replacement bench from his Area budget.

#### **14.08 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL**

- (1) **Statutory Review: Gambling Act 2005 – Draft Statement of Principles:** The Parish Council had been informed that CWaC was undertaking a review of its Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, to be republished in April 2014. Comments were requested by 10 January 2014. No comments to be made by the Parish Council.
- (2) **New Homes Bonus:** The Parish Council had been informed that it was eligible for a payment of New Homes Bonus grant from CWaC’s Community Fund. For the current year the grant was £384. The grant had been directly determined by the level of housing growth in the parish area in the period October 2010 to October 2012. It was anticipated that the Parish Council might continue to receive grant in future years. Based on the current Government policy the amount available in future years would be around £192 in 2014-15 and £125 in 2015-16. This year’s grant had already been paid into the Parish Council’s bank account.
- (3) **Community Governance Review:** CWaC had published final recommendations in relation to the review of Mickle Trafford, Bridge Trafford, Wimbolds Trafford, Picton and Hoole Village parishes and the Parish Council was invited to comment as a neighbouring authority. Comments were requested by 17 January 2014. No comments to be made by the Parish Council as the boundaries with the relevant neighbouring parishes were not in dispute.

#### **14.09 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

**Publications etc:** Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2014. :

#### **14.10 HIGH SPEED BROADBAND**

Councillor Glazzard reported that he had attended a briefing at Oulton Park organised by Connecting Cheshire at which it was reported that the Mickle Trafford exchange was likely to be upgraded around July 2014. Residents wanting to take advantage of the high speed link would have to pay to be connected to the cabinet.

#### **14.11 MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk had asked Members to consider holding Parish Council meetings monthly (except August). This would ensure that everyone was kept informed of issues on a regular basis and that issues were able to be followed up more quickly, and that the Parish Council was able to comment on planning applications within the timescale for comments set by

CWaC. Meetings could take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, subject to the Village Hall being available, or on such a date and time as the Parish Council decided. The meetings were likely to be shorter probably lasting around an hour and a half rather than the current two hours. It was resolved to try this for 2014-15, starting in April 2014. A meeting would be scheduled for December, but could be cancelled if there was no business. There would be a cost involved which would be reflected in next year's budget.

#### 14.12 FINANCE

- (1) **Budget and Precept:** The Parish Council discussed the draft budget prepared by the Clerk and RESOLVED that:
- (a) the services of the Parish Amenity Cleaner be retained for 2014-15 for 10 hours per week at the rate of £7.25 per hour, an increase of 25p.
  - (b) the Clerk's salary from 1 April 2014 be set at £1,848 per annum, the monthly fixed payment for use of the Clerk's home, covering heating, lighting, telephone and use of the Clerk's computer/internet, be increased to £10 and travelling expenses be set at 45p per mile
  - (c) the budget be approved (copy attached)
  - (d) the precept for 2014-15 be set at £7,000, taking account of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant of £614.

It was noted that, based on information received from CWaC regarding the tax base for the Parish, the approximate cost to each Band D property would be £36.70 per annum,

- (2) **Internal Audit:** RESOLVED that the appointment of Wellfield Accounting Services as the Council's internal auditor for the 2013-14 audit at a cost of £80 be confirmed
- (3) **Payments:** The following payments were approved:

Cheque No		Amount
87	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-expenses December 2013	28.35
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary January 2014	118.72
S/O	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages January 2014	242.67
90	Parish Clerk-expenses November-January 2014	26.45
S/O	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages February 2014	242.67
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary February 2014	118.72
91	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner) – expenses February 2014	t.b.c.
92	M J Jones-Grass cutting on Playing Field for 2013	250.00

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

Cheshire West and Chester - New Homes Bonus	384.00
Bank interest (31 December 2013)	2.07

#### 14.13 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business brought forward under Standing Order 1(18).

#### 14.14 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25 March 2014 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall.