

# Little Stanney & District Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council** held on Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors Roy Greenwood (in the Chair), David Astbury, Linda Carter, Chris Dilworth, John Glazzard, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe, Martin Roberts and Judith Thomas.

In attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk). There was one member of the public present.

## **14.67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Paul Carter and Pete Mountford and Ward Councillor Graham Heatley

## **14.68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

## **14.69 OPEN FORUM**

A resident of Little Stanney raised the issue of the traffic confusion at the Cheshire Oaks junction and the effect this was having on Stanney Lane. Drivers who missed getting into the correct lane to turn right for Cheshire Oaks were looking for the first place available to turn around, which was Stanney Lane. Despite the extended traffic island and bollard with the "No u-turns" notice, vehicles were still making this manoeuvre often using the drives of houses to do so, or trying to u-turn and churning up the grass on the verge which was now a mess. The problem was exacerbated by staff from the Day Nursery parking along the road, as the new owner was not prepared to pay the small fee to allow them to park in the Village Hall car park. There was additional traffic on the road due to the housing development at Wood Farm.

Moving on from the traffic problems the resident asked why Little Stanney had not received any of the Section 106 money from the Wood Farm development. It had been reported in the Ellesmere Port Pioneer in January this year that £52,500 was to be made available by Barratt Homes, the developers of the site, of which £40,000 was allocated to play space "elsewhere" and £12,500 towards a bus stop and shelter "nearby". Nothing had been allocated to the local community and it was queried why this was when there was tree planting in the verges, pavements being repaired and grass being cut on a regular basis not far away in Ellesmere Port.

The resident also expressed concerns about the amount of rubbish to the rear of the Blue Planet Aquarium and said that the path to the site could not be walked upon because the hedge had not been cut back.

The Parish Council promised to raise these issues with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) and to report back at the next Parish Council meeting. A representative from CWaC would be invited to attend.

## **14.70 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 May 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

## **14.71 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The annual internal audit report had been received from Wellfield Accounting Services and it was resolved that the conclusions drawn and the suggestions made be noted.

## **14.72 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Financial Regulations had been revised to take account of the Council's decision to make payments by BACS transfer where appropriate following the repeal of Section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 which removed the requirement for payments by Parish Councils to be made by a cheque signed by two authorised signatories. The amendments relating to this were in paragraph 6. Paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 relating to Audit had also been added. The amendments complied with the NALC Model Financial Regulations, suitably modified to reflect a small Parish Council. It was resolved that the revised Financial Regulations be adopted.

## 14.73 PLANNING AND LICENSING

### (1) Applications Received for consideration and comment:

14/02159/FUL	Conversion of existing barn into residential unit at Pennywell Farm, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester CH2 4DA – No objections
14/02160/LDC	2 No. Detached garage blocks to existing dwelling at Pennywell Farm, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester CH2 4DA – No objections

### (2) Consultations as Neighbouring Authority:

14/02271/S73	Variation of condition 15 (acoustic barriers) and removal of conditions 33 (upgrades to canal berth) and 34 (railway line) of planning application 11/04083/OUT at Plot 3, Ince Resource Recovery Park, Grinsome Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire
14/02272/S73	Variation of conditions 2 (scale and appearance), 3 (reserved matters), 6 (approved plans), 9 (HGV movements), 10 (car parking provision), 12 (vehicular access), 16 (Canal upgrade works), 17 (railway line), 19 (site gatehouse), 33 (acoustic barriers) and 46 (Business centre and village) of planning permission 10/01488/FUL at Ince Resource Recovery Park, Grinsome Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire
14/02278/S73	Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans), 14 (acoustic barriers), 26 (car parking provision), 28 (vehicular access) and 31 (vehicle movements) and removal of conditions 29 (Grinsome Road works), 33 (Canal upgrade works) and 34 (railway line) of planning application 11/00040/WAS at Plot 9, Ince Resource Recovery Park, Grinsome Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire

With regard to the applications for the Ince Resource Recover Park, the Chairman reported that it had proved impossible to find a developer who was prepared to take on the development of the berth and the railway. To enable development of the site to proceed it was necessary to remove these elements of the original plans. It was resolved that Little Stanney & District Parish Council should not make any comments on these applications but should offer support to Elton Parish Council should they wish to object to any of the proposals.

**Decisions** since the last meeting of the Parish Council: None taken

## 14.74 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

### (1) The Parish Council was updated on progress with the following outstanding issues

- (a) **Street Naming:** The signs for Old Farm Way and Hill View Way on the A5117 had been installed and the signage in that area was now complete. There were still a few signs outstanding but the majority had now been put in place. It was noted that the sign opposite the Fishery by the Strawberry roundabout had still not been replaced having been knocked down some time ago by a vehicle. It was believed that the sign was still at Guilden Sutton Depot.
- (b) **Speed Limits:** CWaC had confirmed that Little Stanney & District were currently 7<sup>th</sup> in the programme of reviews and it was hoped to complete the review within the next three weeks. The Clerk was asked to remind CWaC of the Rake public house and the Caravan Club site, both of which generated a lot of traffic.
- (c) **Waiting Restriction outside School House:** The TRO had been advertised, no objections had been received and it would be signed and sealed by CWaC's legal department during the first week July. The sign had been ordered. Although the 30 minute restriction with no return within the hour was not what the Parish Council had wanted, as it still meant that the layby could be permanently occupied by vehicles, the situation would be monitored. If lack of visibility from Little Stanney Lane continued to be a problem, the Parish Council would ask CWaC to find another solution.
- (d) **Bridleways:** Pete Atkinson, CWaC Greenspace, was happy to meet with Councillors on site to discuss any issues that still needed to be resolved.

### (2) **Fly-tipping:** There had been an increase in fly-tipping within the parish this month with incidents reported at the junction of Picton Lane and Ashwood Lane (wooden bed), Pretty Bridge (trees and other foliage dumped in the middle of Croughton Road) and the top of Croughton Road, Stoak beyond the bollards. These incidents had been reported to Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWA) who had been asked to advise

on further measures to prevent fly-tipping on Croughton Road. It was also noted that there had been a build-up of items in The Culvert, which had also been reported to CWaC.

- (3) **Grass Verges:** Complaints had been received about the lack of grass cutting along the verges, especially in Wervin around Fox Covert Lane. There were several instances where the grass was so long at junctions, vehicles had to pull out into the road in order to see whether it was clear to pull out. The Amenity Cleaner had advised that the schedule for the rural cut did not seem to be being maintained. This had been reported to CWaC and the situation would be monitored. Councillor Jones reported that the verges in Stoak village had not been cut since January 2014.
- (4) **Wervin Road:** It was noted that Wervin Road was to be closed on Friday 27 June to enable some tree felling to be undertaken. The Parish Council had not been informed about this. It was also noted that neither residents nor the Parish Council had been informed about a cycle race that had gone through the village on 15 June. The Clerk would enquire of CWaC whose responsibility it was to tell residents about incidents such as these.

It was resolved to ask Ward Councillor Heatley to request a ward walk with appropriate officers of CWaC.

#### **14.75 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK**

The annual inspection of the Playing Field equipment had taken place on 24 June 2014 but, despite assurances that Councillor Jones would be informed of the date of the visit and be invited to join in the inspection, once again this had not happened. The inspection report was awaited but in the meantime concern was expressed about the condition of the safety surface under the slide. This would have to be replaced in the near future. It was agreed to do nothing until the inspection report was received.

#### **14.76 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL**

- (1) **Seamless Care, Closer to Home 2014-2017:** It was reported that CWaC were consulting residents on a new Commissioning Plan called "Seamless Care, Closer to Home". The Plan outlined the information, context and approach that would shape the delivery of adult social care services for the next three years. An easy read version of the document had been circulated with the agenda. The consultation would last until the end of August and the outcome would be published later in the year. It was agreed that a response should not be made by the Parish Council, but individuals were encouraged to submit their own personal views.
- (2) **Chester Bus Interchange:** It was reported that the Chester Transport Strategy, approved by CWaC's Executive in February 2014, had endorsed a new city centre Bus Interchange at Gorse Stacks. The concept scheme proposals and feasibility study had recently been completed and public consultation was now under way prior to the commissioning of detailed design development work. An artist's impression of the new Interchange was on the CWaC website. The relocation of Chester Bus Interchange to Gorse Stacks was planned for June 2016 to enable work to commence on the proposed Northgate Development.

#### **14.77 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM**

The next meeting was planned for 25 June 2014. The Chairman would attend.

#### **14.78 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) **Local Councils' Charter:** The Charter between Parish Councils in Cheshire, the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) and the then County and District Councils was first developed in 2005 and had been refreshed in 2009. At the ChALC Annual Meeting in October 2013 a motion (proposed by Little Stanney & District Parish Council) was passed to review and refresh the Charter. Comments were requested by 30 June 2014 on the basis for developing and building on the existing foundations for facilitating effective working relationships. The Charter would focus on the broad principles of effective working relationships and would be supported by a number of supplementary specific protocols around planning, working with young

people, standards and complaints procedures. It was resolved that the Clerk should respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

- (2) **Punishment of Offenders (“Community Remedy”) – Consultation:** Section 101 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 required Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) to prepare a ‘Community Remedy’. John Dwyer, the PCC for Cheshire, was carrying out a simple, short consultation on the appropriate options for the punishment, rehabilitation and reparation of offenders of anti-social behaviour and low level crime such as criminal damage and low value theft by means of a survey. Following the consultation the PCC would publish a Community Remedy Document which police officers would use to invite victims to choose an appropriate sanction for the crime committed against them. The consultation closed on 15 August 2014. The Parish Council considered the list of possible remedies and resolved to support paying compensation to the victim, reparation to the victim and reparation to the community as their preferred options.
- (3) **Connecting Cheshire:** The update for June 2014 was received and noted. Councillor Glazzard reported that residents of Stoak should soon be able to receive superfast broadband.

#### 14.79 FINANCE

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

Cheque No		Amount
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary June 2014	123.20
S/O	Amenity Cleaner – wages June 2014	242.67
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses June 2014	23.41
BACS	Amenity Cleaner – expenses June 2014	38.70
BACS	Wellfield Accounting Services Ltd – Internal Audit fee	80.00
98	HMRC-Income tax April-June 2014	280.89
99	J Jones – petrol for mower	12.98

- (2) **Receipts:** None:

#### 14.80 URGENT BUSINESS

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

#### 14.81 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22 July 2014 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall