

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 22 July 2014 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Roy Greenwood (in the Chair), David Astbury, Chris Dilworth, John Glazzard, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe and Pete Mountford.

In attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk), Ward Councillor Graham Heatley and Andy Raynor, Senior Engineer, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC). There were no members of the public present.

14.82 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Linda Carter, Paul Carter, Martin Roberts and Judith Thomas

14.83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mountford declared a personal interest in Minute 14.88 (14/02532/FUL) as he was the applicant. He provided the Parish Council with some pictures of what the proposed log cabin would look like, but took no part in the debate or decision.

14.84 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised

14.85 MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 24 June 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

14.86 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

(1) The Parish Council welcomed Andy Raynor (AR), Senior Engineer, CWaC, to the meeting. Prior to the meeting Councillors Astbury and Dilworth and a local resident had visited the area around the J10 roundabout with AR to look at the signage. Issues discussed at the meeting were:

- (a) The "No U-turn" stickers on the bollard on Stanney Lane had not been put there by CWaC. CWaC had assumed that either the Parish Council or local residents had put them there and had, therefore, not removed them. It was confirmed that they could be removed.
- (b) Councillor Jones had reported several times the presence in Stoak village of a 45 gallon drum which used to contain tar. He had asked for it to be removed but it was still in situ.
- (c) The direction signs at the junction of Fox Covert Lane and Wervin Road were obscured by foliage.
- (d) There were parking issues on Stanney Lane over the Christmas period when Lime Tree Farm was a popular destination due to the reindeer and Christmas tree sales. However, it was agreed that putting no parking signs out would not be good for business and that no action should be taken.
- (e) Councillor Astbury asked whether some form of pedestrian crossing could be made at the Strawberry Roundabout. AR was reluctant to take this further as it was considered dangerous to put coloured markers or other distinguishing features on the road where there was no official crossing point.
- (f) Councillor Dilworth asked whether the corner when turning left off the A5117 into Rake Lane, which had been rounded off, could be reinstated to slow traffic down. It was currently a "fourth gear" corner when it had previously been a "third gear" corner.
- (g) Councillor Astbury asked whether street lighting could make an inspection in Little Stanney as there were a number of street lights on during the day.
- (h) With regard to the J10 roundabout and Cheshire Oaks signage, the following was agreed:

- A way needed to be found to move people from the left lane into the right turn lane sooner
 - The lining on the road needed to be altered to encourage people to get into lane earlier
 - Signage should be installed at an appropriate place directing people to Cheshire Oaks shopping via the Longlooms roundabout
 - The Parish Council still had concerns about the two lanes from the M53 onto the A5117 and through the traffic lights, which became one lane quite quickly after the Little Stanney Lane turning. tAR said this had been done to prevent traffic from queuing back to the motorway. Accident statistics at that point would be checked.
- (2) The Clerk had been in contact with CWaC with regard to the availability of Section 106 money from the Wood Farm development and had been informed that capital improvements to amenity or recreational open space, such as play areas, were likely to be acceptable projects to receive support, if the proposals fell within the vicinity of the development site. The Parish Council had been invited to put proposals forward and it was RESOLVED to seek funding for a replacement climbing frame and slide for the Stoak Play Area. An enquiry had been made as to whether tree planting could be funded from the S.106 money or whether there were other options that the Parish Council could explore. No response had been received as yet.
- (3) The Parish Council was updated on the following outstanding issues:
- (a) **Speed Limits:** Dave Reeves, CWaC Engineer, confirmed that Rake Lane, Little Stanney and Wervin Road, Wervin were now numbers one and two on his list for assessment. AR had that day received a draft report from Dave Reeves in relation to Rake Lane which suggested 40mph from the junction with the A5117 to the last house. Formal notice of this was awaited, together with the potential costs of making an Order.
 - (b) **Waiting Restriction outside School House:** The Parish Council expressed their concerns to AR that the advertised proposal for a 30 minute wait limit, no return within an hour would not prevent a vehicle from parking in the lay-by every 30 minutes. It was agreed that, subject to the approval of the resident of the School House, double yellow lines would be a more appropriate solution.
 - (c) **Bridleways:** Councillors Astbury and Jones and the Parish Clerk had met Pete Atkinson, Public Rights of Way Officer (North Chester and Ellesmere Port) on 16 July. The following issues had been identified and actions had been agreed.
 - i. The gate, framework and fencing had been removed from FP50 (Strawberry Drive) and a Motorcycle Inhibitor was to be installed to prevent access by motorcycles.
 - ii. A bollard was to be installed at the entrance to Bridleway BR7 in Stoak
 - iii. The wet area identified in Bridleway BR2 was to be added to CWaC's capital list to be considered in the future. A fallen bough would be removed as soon as possible.
 - iv. With regard to the Bridleway entrance off Ashwood Lane, the fencing that was alongside the wicket gate would be put on the list to be reinstalled to prevent vehicular access. However, no guarantee could be given that this would be done, or the timescale. The wet areas along this lane towards Picton would also be added to the list.
 - v. Arrangements would be made to have the works required on Footpath FP5 (by the church) carried out but, with CWaC's new way of working, this might not be for 6-12 months.
 - vi. With regard to Bridleway BR4 off Strawberry Way West, there was no record on the definitive map of the bridleway extending behind the houses leading to Casa Mia so no action could be taken with regard to access in that area.

- (d) **Grass Verges:** Numerous complaints had been made about the cutting of the grass verges within the parishes. AR confirmed that inside the speed limit the responsibility for cutting the grass lay with Streetscene, outside the speed limit Highways were responsible. Verges in the rural areas were only cut three or four times a year, whereas in the urban areas they were cut every 10-14 days. This did not seem very fair. The Clerk reported that CWaC Councillor Eleanor Johnson had asked a question on this subject at the last CWaC Council meeting and had received the following reply from Councillor Lynn Riley, the Executive Member:

“I accept that we have had difficulties this season for various weather and operational reasons and at times we have not met our expected standards. Actions, all of which to be implemented before the start of the next growing season:

- Senior officers responsible for the delivery of these services have reviewed the current service provision to identify the problem areas.
- Develop an integrated work program, identifying all the resources required to ensure a consistent co-ordinated delivery program for next season.
- Integrate the delivery and inspection teams to ensure issues are picked up earlier and dealt. Improving communications to ensure where there are unavoidable circumstances that these are flagged earlier and communicated to Members and our local communities.
- Publication of grass cutting standards.”

This could be a subject for discussion at the forthcoming Local Councils Assembly on 16 September.

- (e) **Fly-tipping:** Councillor Jones reported that fly-tipping was taking place between the two bridges at Stoak. It had been reported by the Amenity Cleaner.
- (f) **Road Closures:** At the last meeting it was reported 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 had asked CWaC whose responsibility it was to tell residents about incidents such as these and a reply was awaited. AR confirmed that the Parish Council should have been on the list of consultees with regard to the Wervin Road closure.
- (g) **Ward Walk:** At the last meeting it was resolved to ask Ward Councillor Heatley to request a ward walk with appropriate officers of CWaC. This had been agreed and a suitable date was being sought. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk of issues to be raised.
- (h) **Grass Verge in Stoak:** Councillor Jones reported that BT operatives had arrived to reinstate the grass verge outside 4 Bunbury Close following the installation of the communications cabinet by sprinkling grass seed. He had told them that this method of reinstatement was unacceptable and had asked them to find a suitable alternative.

14.87 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The final recommendations for the Community Governance Review of the parishes of Backford, Caughall and Chorlton-by-Backford had been published. The recommendations were to form a new single parish of Backford, but there was no mention of transferring the four houses on Whitby Lane to Little Stanney parish. CWaC had confirmed that they had written to the four properties listed in the draft recommendations seeking their views. Two had responded, both of whom were opposed to the boundary change. The other two had failed to reply. The Community Governance Review Committee were minded to go with the views of those who had taken the trouble to respond. It was RESOLVED that, in light of this, no further action be taken to pursue the transfer of these four properties.

14.88 PLANNING AND LICENSING

(1) Applications Received for consideration and comment:

Councillor Mountford declared a personal interest in Minute 14.88 (14/02532/FUL) as he was the applicant. He provided the Parish Council with some pictures of what the proposed log cabin would look like, but took no part in the debate or decision

14/02532/FUL	Replace mobile home with Log Cabin at OS Field Numbers 7363 5880 and 6600, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester – No objections
14/02313/FUL	Two storey rear extension at Church View, Church Lane, Stoak, Chester Cheshire CH2 4HP – No objections

(2) Decisions:

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

(3) Awaiting Decision:

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

14.88 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

The report of the annual inspection of the Play Area had not yet been received. However, Councillor Jones had spoken to Ian Morrison of Morral Play Services about the condition of the climbing frame and slide and the safety surface and had been informed that they were getting to the point where they would be unsafe to use and should be replaced. The Clerk had asked Came & Company to advise whether or not the Council would be covered should an accident occur prior to this happening. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should request funding for a new climbing frame and slide unit with safety surface from the S.106 money from the Wood Farm development and that Councillor Heatley be asked to make up any shortfall from his Area budget.

Further drug activity had been noted on the Nature Park, which had been reported to the Police. They would monitor the site. The surrounding hedge had been trimmed to provide a more open view into the site.

14.89 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

(1) **Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan:** The Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies had been the subject of three weeks of hearings (17 June to 4 July) as part of its public examination. The Planning Inspector, Mr Kevin Ward, had written to CWaC confirming that the Council had complied with the legal 'duty to co-operate' in preparing the Plan and that, although the Plan was not sound in some instances, it could be made sound through main modifications. Through the examination process, CWaC had invited the Inspector to make main modifications to the Plan and had itself submitted a number of modifications. CWaC was now waiting for further information as to the nature and extent of the main modifications that the Inspector considers necessary. These would be the subject of further sustainability appraisal work and six weeks public consultation

starting on 8 September 2014.. Once the consultation period was ended the Inspector would be in a position to indicate the likely date for submitting his report to the Council.

- (2) **Housing Strategy Consultation:** Following consultation with key partners and other stakeholders, a new Housing Strategy for Cheshire West and Chester had been published as a draft for public consultation. The Strategy set out the Council's vision and aims for housing in the borough for the next five years, the key issues affecting the local housing market and what the Council intended to do to help overcome these challenges and improve housing outcomes for local people. The draft strategy identified three key priorities and a series of proposed actions. These were: Priority 1: Increasing and enabling supply: more homes stable growth, Priority 2: Improving access to housing, Priority 3: Improving housing quality, sustainability and design. The Housing Strategy would cover a five year period, but would be reviewed annually. Consultation on the draft strategy closed on Friday 26 September 2014. The final version of the Housing Strategy would be submitted to the Executive for approval in November and would be launched later this year. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should read through the document and put forward some proposals for a response for the next meeting.
- (3) **Growth and Prosperity Transformation Programme – Public Consultation:** Since 2010, the Government's priority to address the national budget deficit had driven the need for the council to explore new and innovative ways of delivering services with less funding. CWaC had also given a firm commitment to increasing economic growth within the borough to ensure West Cheshire was the place of choice for people to invest, live, work and visit; had a prosperous, growing and dynamic economy; and was a place that enabled residents and communities to thrive and prosper. To balance these priorities, a number of services were being assessed to ensure that they were providing value for money and incorporating best practice, whilst meeting the needs of customers. Views are sought on Museums, Development Planning, Total Environment, Housing Solutions, Markets and Property. During the service reviews, changes might be identified to improve services and identify efficiencies that could have an impact on the public and businesses. The consultation document was, therefore, asking for suggestions to help improve local services, opinions on different ways of working and views on who should deliver these services in the future. The consultation runs from 14 July to 5 October 2014. The information gathered would be used to ensure that the way things were done in the future would improve services. The feedback from the consultation and responses from other stakeholder engagement activities, would inform recommendations being considered by the Council's Executive later in the year. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should read through the document and put forward some proposals for a response for the next meeting.
- (4) **Councils Together Event:** CWaC were planning to hold an all-day event for Local Councils on Tuesday 16 September 2014 at Cheshire View, Christleton. The aim of the event was to showcase good practice, highlight work that had been done around transfer of services and assets to Local Councils, look at innovation in finance, look at ways in which community benefit could be unlocked from the planning system and provide information about sources of support available nationally and locally. It was RESOLVED that Councillors Astbury and Dilworth would attend.

14.90 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM

The last meeting had been held on 25 June 2014. The Chairman reported that negotiations were under way with a company that might be prepared to take over the Covanta contract, but progress was slow. The next meeting was scheduled for October 2014.

14.91 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) **Cheshire Police:** Monthly Newsletter – June 2014
- (2) **Connecting Cheshire:** Updates June and July 2014
- (3) **Publications:**
 - (1) *Clerks and Councils Direct – July 2014*
 - (2) *Community Safety Wardens July Newsletter*
 - (3) *ChALC Newsletter July 2014*

It was noted from the ChALC Newsletter that the Annual Meeting was to be held on 22 October 2014 and it was RESOLVED that Councillor Astbury and the Parish Clerk should attend. Parish Councils were again invited to put forward Motions for discussion at the meeting. Councillors were asked to give consideration to possible subjects for a Motion for discussion at the next meeting. Councillor Heatley made a suggestion about the ensuring Local Councils had a say in the distribution of the funding that had become available to the Local Enterprise Partnership and would provide the Clerk with more information on this subject.

14.92 FINANCE

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

Cheque No		Amount
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary July 2014	123.20
S/O	Amenity Cleaner – wages July 2014	242.67
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses July 2014	21.33
BACS	Amenity Cleaner – expenses July 2014	47.70
BACS	Morral Play Services – Annual Inspection of Play Area	54.00
100	Hedge Trimming around Nature Park	70.00

- (2) **Receipts:** None:
 (3) **Quarterly Comparisons:** The comparison of actual income and expenditure against budget for the first quarter of 2014-15 was noted. There were no issues arising.

14.93 URGENT BUSINESS

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

14.94 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26 August 2014 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall

14.95 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information and Public Interest would not be served in publishing the information

PART 2 – MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

14.96 PROPOSAL FOR SELF BUILD HOUSING

The Parish Council considered further a proposal put to them to undertake a Community Right to Build scheme and RESOLVED to take this to the next level, which would include discussions with planning officers at CWaC.