

# Little Stanney & District Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council** held on Tuesday 26 August 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, Pete Mountford and Martin Roberts  
In attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public present.

## **14.97 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

## **14.98 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in Minute 14.102 (14/02834FUL) as he was the applicant.

## **14.99 OPEN FORUM**

The issues raised were discussed under Minute 14.101(1) and Standing Orders were waived to allow the public to speak.

## **14.100 MINUTES**

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22 July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

## **14.101 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING**

- (1) **U-turns in Stanney Lane:** At the last meeting the problems relating to U-turns in Stanney Lane had been discussed along with the possible changes to signage around Junction 10 to try to stop this from happening. A major review of the signing of all the major gateways into Ellesmere Port was currently being commissioned by CWaC and would include the signage and lining around Junction 10. In the interim additional signage guiding shoppers to "Cheshire Oaks" via Longlooms Road had been ordered and would be erected shortly. To complement this, CWaC had suggested a Prohibition of the Right Hand Turn into Stanney Lane from the A5117. The left hand turn for traffic approaching from the west would still be allowed, as would left and right turns out of the lane onto the A5117. Three members of the public, including the owner of the Nursery at the entrance to Stanney Lane, attended the meeting to express their concerns about this proposal and the Clerk had received a telephone call from another resident who was unable to attend the meeting, also expressing concerns. Although it was recognised that U-turns were becoming an increasing problem for residents of Stanney Lane, the introduction of a Prohibition of Right Hand Turn would cause difficulties for users of the Nursery and the Village Hall and would potentially push the problem onto Rake Lane. Vehicles travelling from Stoak and Wervin via Little Stanney Lane would have to negotiate the hazardous right turn across the traffic on the A5117 and negotiate the traffic lights to enter Stanney Lane from Kinsey Road. It was generally agreed that extending the central reservation was exacerbating the problems because drivers were now using people's driveways or the Nursery car park to turn around. This was particularly dangerous in the Nursery because young children had to cross the car park on foot. It was agreed that the central reservation should be shortened or removed altogether. It was noted that turning right out of Stanney Lane onto the A5117 was becoming increasingly difficult during the daytime because of the volume of traffic on the A5117. The Parish Council was totally opposed to the introduction of the Prohibition of the Right Turn into Stanney Lane and was of the opinion that the best way of controlling access to Cheshire Oaks was by the introduction of appropriate signage. The Parish Council would like the opportunity to be included in any discussions about this before any decisions were made. It was resolved that the Clerk should respond to CWaC accordingly.
- (2) **Speed Limits:** The assessment of both Rake Lane and Wervin Road had now been completed and had been sent to Cheshire Police for their comments.

- (3) **Waiting restriction outside School House:** As a result of concerns expressed by the Parish Council with regard to the proposed waiting limited to half an hour, no return within the hour that had been advertised for this layby, a revised order was currently being advertised that would prohibit waiting at any time in the layby outside School House. This would not prevent vehicles from delivering goods to School House but would stop vehicles from parking in the layby. It was resolved that the Parish Council should support this proposal.
- (4) **Bridleways:** The Clerk had reported the lack of funding for public rights of way to Councillor Lynn Riley, Executive Member for Localities, and had received a non-committal response.
- (5) **Oil Drum in Stoak:** Despite several reminders, CWaC had not yet removed an empty oil drum from a site in Stoak. The Clerk would remind them again.
- (6) **Obscured Road signs:** The Chairman had emailed a reminder to CWaC about the need to remove foliage from around road signs at the junction of Wervin Road and Fox Covert Lane.
- (7) **Grass Cutting:** It was reported that a grass cutting machine on a trailer had parked outside the Playing Field in Stoak for about 45 minutes before driving off without cutting any grass. The Clerk would report this to CWaC.

#### 14.102 PLANNING

- (1) **Applications Received** for consideration and comment:

Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in Minute 14.102 (14/02834/FUL) as he was the applicant. He took no part in the debate or decision except to clarify the location of the application site.

14/02834/FUL	Agricultural building OS Field Number 8277, Picton Lane, Wervin, Chester, Cheshire – No objections
14/03076/FUL	Single Storey rear extension at Ty Ni, Whitby Lane, Backford, Chester CH1 6PH – No objection but concern that the extension would more than double the size of the property and could constitute overdevelopment of the site

- (2) **Decisions:**

14/02313/FUL	Two storey rear extension at Church View, Church Lane, Stoak, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4HP - PERMISSION
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- (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
14/02532/FUL	Replace mobile home with Log Cabin at OS Field Numbers 7363 5880 and 6600, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester – new plans submitted as the proposed Cabin was more than 30% bigger than the existing mobile home

#### 14.103 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

**Play Area Inspection Report:** The report of the inspection undertaken on 24 June 2014 had been received from Morral Play Services. The main issue raised in the report was the condition of the Junior Multi-Play Unit (climbing frame and slide) which was unsatisfactory. The Inspector recommended that consideration be given to replacing this unit which, in his

words, was “past its best”. He also expressed concern about the level of the woodchip safety surface. It was reported at the last meeting that there was a possibility of the Parish Council being allocated some funding from the S.106 requirement attached to the Wood Farm development. It had now been confirmed that the Parish Council was able to make a bid and the Clerk was seeking quotations for a replacement unit and safety surface.

#### **14.104 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL**

- (1) **Community Governance Review:** Following the decision at the last meeting not to pursue the inclusion of the four properties at the end of Whitby Lane within the parish boundary, revised recommendations for the parishes of Croughton, Little Stanney, Stoak and Wervin had now been published. The deadline for comments was 27 August 2014. In the notice the spelling of Stoak was the old civil parish spelling of “Stoke”. As the village was known as “Stoak” there was an option to have the name of the civil parish amended to this spelling. It was resolved that an amendment of the name of the civil parish to “Stoak” should be sought.
- (2) **Webchat:** The CWaC website attracted a large number of visitors each day and was one of the main places that residents looked when searching for methods of contacting the Council. Customer Services had recently implemented a Webchat pilot to allow customers visiting the CWaC website to speak online to a member of staff about Council services. Customers would type a question into the Webchat form, connecting them to a member of staff in the Contact Centre. Webchat was initially being piloted with Waste Collection and Streetscene, helping customers with issues such as replacement containers, bulky waste collections and fly tipping. If the initial pilot was a success it would be rolled out to all services offered within the Contact Centre.
- (3) **Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:** These were recently the subject of three weeks of hearings as part of its public examination. The Local Plan Inspector had confirmed that the Local Plan was not sound but could be made sound through main modifications. CWaC officers would produce a full schedule of modifications that would be returned to the Inspector before the six week public consultation commenced on 8 September.
- (4) **Housing Strategy Consultation:** At the last meeting it had been agreed that the Clerk should read through the document and make suggestions as to a Parish Council response. Having read through the online survey, it seemed more appropriate for it to be completed by individuals, as it could be difficult to agree a group response. The closing date for comments was 26 September 2014.
- (5) **Growth and Prosperity Transformation Programme – Public Consultation:** As with the Housing Strategy Consultation above, it was considered to be more appropriate for this survey to be completed by individuals as opinions might differ. The consultation ended on 5 October 2014.
- (6) **Development Planning–consultation:** The Development Planning service was currently carrying out a consultation exercise as part of a wider programme of service assessment throughout the Growth and Prosperity Directorate of the Council. Since 2010, the Government’s priority to address the national budget deficit had had a significant impact on councils and driven the need 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 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 consumers. Local Councils had been identified as key stakeholders and their views would form a crucial element in designing how the service was delivered in the future. The consultation period would involve a number of different mechanisms for speaking with and obtaining the views of stakeholders. An on-line survey was available. The final date for responses was 5 October 2014. It was resolved that the Clerk should look through the survey and propose a suitable response at the next meeting.

- (7) **Chester Forum:** The Parish Council was advised that in September and October the majority of CWaC staff would leave the offices in Chester's Forum. Only the Customer Advice Centre would remain open on the ground floor with public access unchanged. Some staff would be relocated to Nicholas House and the HQ building in Chester and the remainder would transfer to the council's Ellesmere Port offices in Civic Way. Whilst staff would re-locate to other accommodation, CWaC would continue in its efforts to increase footfall in the Forum and support its market traders before the building made way for the Northgate Development scheme at the end of 2016. Discount chain store, B&M Bargains, was expected to join Poundland in the Forum soon and CWaC was currently in negotiation with other potential tenants. Signage to Chester Market was being improved; an advertising campaign on local radio was to be launched in October and the Council was talking to traders about further ways to promote the Market.

#### 14.105 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM

Nothing to report. The next meeting was on 1 October 2014.

#### 14.106 OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS

The above Regulations came into force on 6 August 2014. They applied to all councils and other local government bodies in England and gave the press and public the right to film and to report using social media, including blogging and tweeting, all of a body's public meetings. The Regulations also gave the public the right to access information about the more important decisions taken by a body's officers on behalf of a body. From 6 August all local government bodies were legally bound to ensure everyone could exercise their new rights. The government had advised that any provisions in a body's Standing Orders that could be taken to inhibit the new reporting rules should be waived pending formally updating Standing Orders, which should be done as soon as practicable. Advice was awaited on the correct wording for any amendment to Standing Orders but in the meantime it was resolved that Standing Orders 1(13) and 1(14) be waived.

#### 14.107 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) **Community Road Safety:** A meeting had been arranged by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) to discuss Community Road Safety in our parishes. The meeting was being held in partnership with the Police Commissioner, John Dwyer, and would take place on Thursday 25 September at Police Headquarters in Winsford. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.30pm and the meeting would commence at 7pm. The speakers, along with John Dwyer, included representatives from the Cheshire & Warrington Road Safety Partnership and the Fire & Rescue Service and examples would be given from parish councils. The aim of the event was to develop a better understanding of what and how community road safety issues could be addressed within parish and town councils. The event was free. It was resolved that Councillors Greenwood and Astbury should attend.
- (2) **Cheshire Police:** Monthly Newsletter – July 2014
- (3) **Publications:** None

#### 14.108 FINANCE

- (1) **Payments:** To note/approve the payment of salaries/wages and expenses and invoices for goods received and services rendered.

Cheque No		Amount
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary August 2014	123.20
S/O	Amenity Cleaner – wages August 2014	242.67
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses August 2014	39.79
BACS	Amenity Cleaner – expenses August 2014	t.b.c.

- (2) **Receipts:** To note any receipts:

#### 14.109 URGENT BUSINESS

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

#### **14.110 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION**

- (1) Councillor Dilworth asked whether the Amenity Cleaner had reported an excess of litter from the three fast food takeaways on Cheshire Oaks (McDonald's, KFC and Burger King), and wondered how far from their units their obligation to clean up stretched. He would have a word with the three units and report back. The Clerk had not yet received the Amenity Cleaner's timesheet for August, but would check whether there had been an increase in litter around the A5117 in Little Stanney, especially over the bank holiday weekend.
- (2) Councillor Glazzard reported that the phones and internet had been down in parts of Wervin for a week because a hedge cutter had severed the line. A repair had now been effected and the service was back to normal.
- (3) It was reported that an accident in Stoak recently had closed the road through the village for several hours. The rescue helicopter had landed on the Playing Field.

#### **14.111 NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 23 September 2014 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall