

# Little Stanney & District Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council** held on Tuesday 25 November 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, Martin Roberts and Judith Thomas  
In attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk), Councillor Graham Heatley (CWaC), Andy Raynor (Senior Engineer, CWaC) and one member of the public.

## 14.143 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Linda Carter and Paul Carter,

## 14.144 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 14.145 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised.

## 14.146 MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28 October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Councillor Chris Dilworth was present at the meeting..

## 14.147 PLANNING

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

14/04500/FUL	Change of use from agricultural grazing land to equestrian all weather outdoor arena at 4 Ashwood Farm Court, Picton Lane, Wervin, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4HF – no objection
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(2) **Decisions:**

14/03779/FUL	Three GRP Kiosks on operational wastewater treatment works.at Ellesmere Port Waste Water Treatment Works, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Thornton Le Moors, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4JA – PERMISSION
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(3) **Awaiting Decision:**

14/03952/FUL	Conservatory to Granny Annex at Stanney House, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Little Stanney, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4HZ – APPLICATION WITHDRAWN
14/02271/S7	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
14/02278/S7	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

## 14.148 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

(1) **U-turns in Stanney Lane:** Andy Raynor, Senior Engineer, CWaC was present for this item. Bollards had been ordered for the grass verges at the end of Stanney Lane and two signs had been erected on Stanney Lane directing traffic straight on to Cheshire Oaks. It was hoped that this would encourage motorists not to perform u-turns. The junction off the motorway had been designed to keep the motorway clear, but Councillors were concerned that insufficient thought had been given to the effect this would have on local traffic. Several options to make the area around the junction safer were discussed. It was suggested that the two lanes from the motorway leading to the traffic lights on the A5117 that merged by Little Stanney Lane should be made into a single lane. Trees should be cleared from the motorway slip road to give better visibility. A box junction should be created opposite Little Stanney Lane to allow vehicles and cyclists to cross the road in safety. A note of the accident record around the Little Stanney Lane junction was requested.

- (2) **Speed Limits:** The Clerk had responded to the proposals for speed limits on Rake Lane and Wervin Road in accordance with a response provided by Councillors Astbury and Thomas. A reply had now been received from Dave Reeves, CWaC Highways and a copy had been circulated.

With regard to Rake Lane, the Parish Council felt that it should be treated as a shared space. It was only wide enough for two vehicles to pass each other and any pedestrians unfortunate enough to be beside them were forced into the hedges. Chicanes were suggested, but these had the tendency to increase speed rather than reduce it. CWaC were asked to consider hatching the corner off the A5117 onto Rake Lane to reduce the speed of traffic turning in. The Clerk was requested to ask Dave Reeves what account had been taken of the number of pedestrian that used the road and what other measures could be taken to make the road safe. A comparison was drawn between Rake Lane and the road between Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford which had been made into a 30mph route and which had no houses on it.

With regard to Wervin Road, a buffer zone would be needed at either end to slow traffic down before they reached the 40mph zone.

It was noted that a full traffic survey was to be done in Stoak village the next week.

- (3) **Waiting Restriction outside School House:** The double yellow lines had finally been painted on the road
- (4) **Bridleways:** As requested at the last meeting, Andy Raynor (CWaC Highways) had been reminded of the availability of planings for the bridleway by Casa Mia.
- (5) **Speeding on Whitby Lane:** A reply had been received from Inspector Keith Curbishley who had agreed to ask for some further support from the Force Roads Policing Team to support local officers in targeted enforcement of the speed limit and to liaise with the Highways Authority to explore any possibilities for signage or engineering that might also assist. Some activity had been noted since the last meeting. The rules had been relaxed and this would allow a safe place to be found to do some speed monitoring. It was asked whether anything could be done to assist pedestrians in crossing the road by the Strawberry roundabout.
- (6) **Little Stanney Lane footpath:** Following an enquiry by the Chairman after the last meeting, CWaC had confirmed that a section of footway from just after 'Stoke Grange' running back to Stoak Village had been recently inspected. A package of work had been put together with the intention of making a bid for funding with siding out of footway proposed to take place before the end of this financial year.
- (7) **Bin by Long Looms roundabout:** The Amenity Cleaner had asked whether the dog bin by Long Looms roundabout could be exchanged for a general bin so that he could leave his bag for collection there rather than on the roundabout itself. The Clerk would ask CWaC.

#### 14.149 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

- (1) **Play Area:** Four quotations had been received for the replacement equipment. The Clerk was still awaiting advice from CWaC with regard to applying for funding. Councillor Heatley had confirmed that he was unable to provide any funding from his Member's budget in the current financial year. Councillors favoured one of the quotations but much would depend on getting some grant from CWaC, which was still not confirmed.

#### 14.150 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

- (1) **Annual Report 2014:** Cheshire West and Chester Council's Annual Report 2014 provided an opportunity to reflect upon the Council's fifth year and to review achievements across the Council. It reported on how CWaC were continuing to investigate how all the Council's services could be delivered better and how that work had shaped a new organisation, responding to needs.
- (2) **Election Charges:** The issue of election charges had been raised at the last ChALC Area meeting and CWaC had subsequently clarified some points. Local Councils had always had to meet the cost of a by-election. With effect from 1 April 2014 local councils were to be recharged some of the costs for holding combined elections. A

fixed rate per elector had been proposed. This meant that local councils would know in advance how much a combined election would cost and could budget accordingly. For uncontested elections there would be a minimum charge of £181 (£165 admin fee plus returning officer fee £16 per 1000 electors) and this would affect all local councils. For contested elections the charges were £0.85 per elector with a minimum charge of £547.50 (£500 admin fee plus the Returning Officer fee of £47.50 as per the Cheshire Scale of Fees and Charges). There would be a cap on the maximum amount recharged to ensure that no local council would pay more than the actual additional costs incurred by CWaC in carrying out the election. The maximum amount recharged would be £2,337.50 based on 2,750 electors. Any parish councils (with grouped parishes) that had split elections for parts of their areas (3 or 4 councillors in each making up a whole) would only need to pay one uncontested fee if all areas were uncontested or one contested fee (and no uncontested fee) if only part of the parish council area had a contested election. Town Councils would have to pay for each ward that was contested. Whilst the recharging proposals meant that local councils would pay a contribution towards the cost of combined elections, the amount being charged did not equate to the full additional costs incurred by CWaC when combined elections were held. In order to lessen the impact of this change, costs for scheduled elections in 2015 could be paid for in two stages, 50% in 2015/16 and 50% in 2016/17. Following the May 2015 elections CWaC would review the arrangements and discuss with ChALC whether any further changes were required. Parish Councils would be notified well in advance of any changes that might be in place for the 2019 elections. This would give Councils the chance to create an elections reserve to enable them to budget for the cost of contested elections over a period of years. In relation to the 2015 elections CWaC would be offering all Clerks the opportunity to attend briefings on the nomination and elections process. These would take place in early 2015.

- (3) **Consultations:** It was noted that CWaC were currently consulting on a Domestic Abuse Strategy and a Homeless Strategy. The closing date for responses to both of these consultations was 31st December

#### **14.151 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM**

It was reported that Peel Environmental had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Babcock & Wilcox Volund (BWV) to progress the Ince Resource Recovery Park. BWV had replaced Covanta. This was to have been announced at the January meeting but Peel had made the announcement early. Peel and BVW would work together to pursue the development, construction and operation of the consented Energy from Waste plant which would service local needs and industry.

#### **14.152 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUILD**

The Chairman, Councillors Astbury, Jones, Lipscombe and Thomas and the Parish Clerk had met Richard Thomas and Nial Casselden, Senior Planning Officer, CWaC on 18 November to discuss proposals for the development of a site off the A5117 at Little Stanney for self build units. Although the site had been previously used, it was in the Green Belt where development would not normally be permitted. However, there was the possibility of using recent Community Right to Build legislation to gain approval for the development of the site and it was proposed that this be explored further. The proposal was agreed by seven votes for, one against and one abstention.

#### **14.153 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) **Active Cheshire Funding:** To celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Active Cheshire were awarding one grant of £15,000, one of £5,000 and five of £1,000 to be used for anything that would help to get a community active eg. fun runs, investing in equipment or adapting facilities. The closing date for submissions was 5 January 2015. It was agreed to put forward the new slide for consideration.
- (2) **Annual Consultation on Future Plans for Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service:** Cheshire Fire Authority had launched its annual consultation on plans for the next

financial year and was seeking feedback from local councils as key stakeholders. The overall plans had been developed and agreed by the Fire Authority to maintain and improve front line services, while making the most effective use of reduced national funding. The Fire Authority had published its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2015-16 which was open to consultation until 31 December. The latest draft plan included detail on the building of three new fire stations at Alsager, at the end of the M56 in Mollington and at Penketh as well as a joint safety/education centre and fire station at Lymm.. The new stations would provide on-call and other employment opportunities within local communities. The Plan also set out proposals to make significant changes to the way in which fire stations were crewed, by increasing the use of on-call staff. This would help the Service to meet expected budget cuts of £2 million per year from its current £42m budget. The Fire Authority were confident that no fire stations would be closed and no firefighters would be subject to compulsory redundancies. No comments to be made.

#### 14.154 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 November 2014	123.20
S/O	Amenity Cleaner – wages November 2014	242.67
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses November 2014	40.50
BACS	Amenity Cleaner – expenses November 2014	38.50
106	Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall – Room Hire	8.00

- (2) **Receipts:** None

#### 14.155 URGENT BUSINESS

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

#### 14.141 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

No issues raised

#### 14.142 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall. There would be no meeting in December.