

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at Little Stanney Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Roy Greenwood (in the Chair), Linda Carter, Paul Carter, Chris Dilworth, John Glazzard, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe and Pete Mountford

In attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

15.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors David Astbury and Judith Thomas

15.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

15.03 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised.

15.04 MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

15.05 PLANNING

(1) Applications Received for consideration and comment:

14/05127/FUL	Change of use of existing granny annex to single dwelling, addition of conservatory at Stanney House, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Little Stanney, Chester – no comments to be made
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(2) Decisions since the last meeting of the Parish Council:

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 – PERMISSION
14/04841/FUL	Single storey rear extension at Ty Ni, Strawberry Cross, Whitby Lane, Backford, Chester CH1 6PH – PERMISSION
14/04928/FUL	Additional office space and a site security cabin at Ellesmere Port Waste Water Treatment Works, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Thornton-le-Moors, Chester, CH2 4JA - 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
14/02278/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

15.06 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

- (1) **U-turns in Stanney Lane:** Although he was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting, Councillor Astbury had submitted a statement regarding the traffic problems in the Little Stanney/Cheshire Oaks area over the Christmas period. He stated that several times during December and January gridlock conditions had occurred in the Little Stanney/Cheshire Oaks area making it impossible for public transport, businesses and individuals to move in either direction on the highway network. The Police had made public announcements requesting people to avoid the area and had also closed the M53 motorway junctions at Little Stanney to ease the situation. Several attempts had been made by CWaC Highway officers to find a solution to the problems and the Parish Council thanked them for their efforts. However, the situation was not improving and it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to CWaC (Mike Jones, Leader of the Council) McArthur Glen, the Highways Agency and the Police to ask their intentions with regard to alleviating the traffic problems in

this area, which were likely to increase with the opening of Chester Zoo's Islands site later in the year. The Clerk had (separately) received a message from Andy Raynor (Senior Engineer, CWaC) to say that following the traffic problems the Cheshire Oaks area had over the Christmas period, he was to meet with all the stakeholders and the police to discuss traffic flow in the area. The Clerk had asked that the Parish Council be included in these discussions. A reply was awaited.

- (2) **Speed Limits:** As requested at the last meeting the Clerk had asked Dave Reeves (Engineer, CWaC) what account had been taken of pedestrians using Rake Lane when recommending the 40mph speed limit. He had replied that the leisure use (pedestrians) of Rake Lane would have resulted in a recommendation of 40mph as the appropriate speed limit. The criteria for a 30mph speed limit included a minimum housing density of 20 properties per 600m fronting the road and an average speed at or below 30mph. With neither of these criteria being met the police would not support a speed limit below 40mph. It was agreed to accept the 40mph speed limit subject to the outcome of the public consultation.
- (3) **Bin by Longlooms roundabout:** The Amenity Cleaner had reached agreement with the bin collection operatives to leave his filled bags for collection on the corner of Longlooms/A5117 so there was no need to change the dog bin.
- (4) **Road Investment Strategy:** A briefing note setting out the proposals for local schemes which were part of a £15 billion investment programme proposed by the Government in December 2014 had been circulated and was noted.

15.07 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

- (1) **Play Area:** The Clerk had contacted CWaC again with reference to the possible S106 funding for the new play equipment but had not received any reply.

15.08 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL

- (1) **New Chester Bus Interchange at Gorse Stacks:** The business case submitted for the Chester Central Transport Improvements Package, which included the bus interchange and planned improvements to paving and streetscape in pedestrian routes adjoining Gorse Stacks, had received Government approval and would be progressed to a formal grant award early in the new year. The Council's Strategic Planning Committee had approved the planning application for the bus interchange. A preferred construction bidder would be identified by the end of April 2015 with a planned start on site in early summer 2015. Enabling works on utility diversions would commence in the spring. Construction was expected to last around 15 months and it should be operational towards the end of 2016.
- (2) **Annual Public Health Report:** The focus of the Annual Health Report was encouraging change to improve health and wellbeing; highlighting actions that individuals could undertake to benefit their own and their family's health and showing what was happening around the Borough

15.09 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM

The next meeting was to be held on 4 February 2015.

15.10 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUILD

It was agreed at the last minute that the possibility of using recent Community Right to Build legislation to gain approval for the development of the site at Lawnswood should be explored further. The Clerk reported that she had been unable to find any evidence of the successful use of the legislation which might be used as precedent. The Parish Council considered what benefits there might be to the Council of undertaking the scheme compared to amount of time and effort that would be required to undertake such an exercise and it was decided not to go ahead. The Clerk would inform the potential developer.

15.11 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) **Proposed Changes to Podiatry Services in West Cheshire:** Cheshire and Wirral Partnership and the West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group had issued a consultation document on proposed changes to the way in which the podiatry service

in West Cheshire was to be offered. There were three options for consideration. The consultation closed on 1 March 2015. It was agreed not to submit a Parish Council response.

- (2) **The Cheshire "Meet the Developer" Event:** An event for Cheshire Communities to engage with developers was to be held on 12 March 2015, 10.00am to 3.30pm, at Crewe Alexandra Football Ground. It was agreed that no-one should attend.
- (3) **Rural Housing Alliance:** A letter had been received from Peter Moore, Chair, Rural Housing Alliance informing Parish Councils that the 'Affordable Rural Housing: Practical Guide for Parish Councils' had been revised and republished and was available to download or request from the National Association of Local Councils. The letter highlighted two areas of concern. The first related to the way in which homes in some areas were being allocated. The second related to the recent announcement by the Government that the revised threshold at which new developments would be required to provide some affordable homes had been set at 10 houses.
- (4) **Community Pride Competition 2015:**
It was agreed that the Parish Council should not submit an entry.
- (5) **Meeting with Police & Crime Commissioner:** The feedback from the meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner held on 10 July 2014 had been circulated and was noted. The next meeting was on 27 January 2015 at the Community Centre, Weaverham, which clashed with the Parish Council meeting.
- (6) **Cheshire Constabulary Review of the Year 2014:** It was noted that, as Cheshire Constabulary did not produce a formal annual report, they had created a Review of the Year for 2014 which was available on line.
- (7) **Publications:** The following publications had been received:
 - Clerks and Councils Direct January 2015

15.12 FINANCE

- (1) **Budget and Precept for 2015-16:** It was resolved that:
 - (a) The budget for 2015-16 be agreed;
 - (b) the Clerk's salary from 1 January 2015 be increased to £154.99 per month (£1,859.88 per annum gross) in line with SCP26 on the NJC pay scales;
 - (c) the Clerk's salary from 1 April 2015 be increased by one spinal column point to SCP27, £1,921.44 per annum (£160.12 per month gross)
 - (d) the non-consolidated payment of £8.11 (£6.49 net) made in December 2014 be noted and a further £7 gross (£5.60 net) payment be made on 1 April 2015;
 - (e) the monthly fixed payment for 2015-16 should remain at £10 per month;
 - (f) the rate per mile to be paid for casual use of own transport by both employees and Councillors on Parish Council approved business should remain at 45p per mile;
 - (g) the Amenity Cleaner's hourly rate be increased to £7.50 from 1 April 2015.
 - (h) the precept be set at £7,500 plus the CTRS sum of £535 making a total precept of £8,035.
- (2) **Internal Audit for 2014-15:** It was resolved that Wellfield Accounting Services be appointed to conduct the audit of the 2014-15 accounts at a cost of £84.
- (3) **Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities:** The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 set out a new audit framework for local public authorities which were currently covered by the Audit Commission regime. Under the new audit framework Local Councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 would be exempt from routine external audit and would be subject to new transparency requirements laid out in the Code. The Code set out what smaller authorities should publish and when and how the information should be published.

- (4) **Payments:** the payment of salaries/wages and expenses and invoices for goods received and services rendered were approved.

Cheque No		Amount
107	Cheque void	
108	HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax October-December 2014	282.51
BACS	Village Hall – 4 th Quarter payment for Room Hire	50.00
S/O	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages January 2015	251.33
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary January 2015	123.99
BACS	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner) – expenses January 2015	38.25
BACS	Parish Clerk-expenses January 2015	27.13
109	J Jones – Grass cutting-Playing Field	250.00

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

Unity Trust Bank – bank interest	1.89
Cheshire West & Chester – New Homes Bonus	384.00

15.13 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk advised of potential traffic congestion around the A5117 at lunchtime on Friday 30 January due to a gypsy funeral taking place from Elton to the crematorium at Blacon.

15.14 NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24 February 2015 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall.

Following the meeting the Parish Council learned of the death of Councillor Martin Roberts earlier in the day. The Council's condolences would be offered to his family