

# Little Stanney & District Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council** held on Tuesday 28 July 2015 at Little Stanney Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Glazzard (in the Chair), David Astbury, Paul Carter, Chris Dilworth, Roy Greenwood, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe, Pete Mountford, Judith Thomas and Michael Todd.

In attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk), PCSO Jake Connolly, Cheshire Police and Councillor Margaret Lockhart, Elton Parish Council. There were no members of the public present.

## 15.88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Linda Carter and Ward Councillor Stephen Smith

## 15.89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 15.90 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised

## 15.91 MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

## 15.92 PLANNING

### (1) Applications:

15/02229/FUL	Detached dependant relative accommodation at Barn, Pennywell Farm, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester – resubmission of previous application – reiterate Parish Council's concerns and make the point that the proposed development is in the wrong place
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### (2) Decisions: None taken

### (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

## 15.93 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

- (1) **Speed Limits – Rake Lane and Wervin Road:** The point was made that it was now nearly a year since the speed limit reviews had been undertaken on these two roads and that it was time the public consultation had been completed. The Clerk would again ask CWaC for an update on the current situation.
- (2) **Junction 10/Cheshire Oaks:** No further action since the meeting in April which had been attended by representatives of Highways England and CWaC.
- (3) **Loading Bay outside School House:** No further action taken.
- (4) **Overhanging trees:** The Clerk had reported to CWaC that trees were overhanging the road in a number of locations and were also obscuring road signs.
- (5) **Motorbike:** It was reported that a motorbike, often with two people aboard, was being seen regularly speeding through Stoak village. PCSO Connolly said he would wait for him by the Bunbury Arms next time he was on duty early in the morning.
- (6) **Vehicle Testing on Village Roads:** It was reported that, once again, local dealerships were using village roads to test their vehicles. The worst offender was Porsche. PCSO Connolly agreed to have a word with them.

- (7) **Blocked Bridleway:** It was reported that a tree was blocking the bridleway to the rear of Whitby Lane. The Clerk would report this to CWaC.
- (8) **Rubbish from BP Garage:** It was reported that there was an apparent increase in rubbish from the BP Garage at the Strawberry roundabout. The Clerk would ask the Amenity Cleaner whether he had noticed an increase before writing to BP.
- (9) **Buses:** It was reported that the bus service between Ellesmere Port and Chester which currently served Stoak village was to be discontinued and that the service would in future only operate between Handbridge and the Countess of Chester. The Parish Council had not been informed of this and the Clerk would check with CWaC.

#### **15.94 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK**

- (1) **Play Area:** Councillor Smith offered to follow up the Parish Council's application for funding towards the cost of the new play equipment but to date there was no further news. The annual inspection had been undertaken and the report was awaited. A decision was becoming urgent on what to do about replacing the base of the climbing frame and it was suggested that prices be sought from local firms for appropriate safety surfacing.
- (2) **Nature Park:** No issues raised.

#### **15.95 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM**

The Annual General Meeting was held on 1 July 2015. Councillor Tony Mills, Elton Parish Council, was elected Chairman for 2015-16. A business meeting followed at which it was reported that all planning conditions on the Resource Recovery Park and the Biomass had now been discharged which would enable work to start on site. This was likely to take place in August/early September. Northern Biopower had taken plot 3 and would use it to provide some feedstock for the Biomass plant. Peel were working with BWV and another organisation to progress the EfW (Energy from Waste) plant. It was hoped to announce this partner organisation in September. The Forum Team now had an office at Thornton Science Park and Peel were working with Chester University on some joint marketing activity which would involve a re-branding exercise for Ince Resource Recovery Park. A formal launch of this project would take place at the end of September. A Community Benefit Fund (CBF) was being established which would be restricted to residents of Ince and Elton for the first two years. No decision was made on whether the CBF should be extended after 2017 to include Helsby, Frodsham and Little Stanney; this would be considered at a later date. The value of the fund this year would be £30,000 but the running costs of the Ince and Frodsham pumping stations would have to be taken out of this fund and these costs could be quite substantial. The next meeting would be on 9 September 2015.

#### **15.96 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) **Police Update:** Inspector Keith Curbishley's monthly update focused on changes to the way in which Cheshire Constabulary would be structured. Police forces across the country had to make financial savings. In order to deliver these savings without cutting front line police officers, the existing Neighbourhood Policing Units (NPU's) were being restructured into Local Policing Units (LPU's) covering different geographical areas. The existing Western Rural NPU with the exception of Tarporley would be in the new Chester LPU. The majority of these organisational changes would take place during early July. Inspector Curbishley would be taking up a post at HQ.

PCSO Connolly explained that all officers were now booking in at Blacon Police Station and receiving their briefing before being deployed. Teams were now working within CWaC ward boundaries. Each ward had its own team of officers. The officer for the Elton ward was PC Rob Boulton.

Councillor Margaret Lockhart, Elton Parish Council, explained that she was a designated Speedwatch Co-ordinator and she offered to conduct speed surveys using the SID machine. Any roads chosen for this would need to be assessed by CWaC first. It was agreed that Whitby Lane would be an obvious choice.

It was agreed to purchase approximately 100 stick-on 30mph signs for Little Stanney from a company called “Smartwheelie”, who produced a range of speed awareness wheelie bin stickers aimed at encouraging drivers to slow down and stick to the speed limit, especially in residential areas. The Clerk would check whether there were any 40mph stickers available for Wervin..

- (2) **CWaC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: Town and Parish Councils – Needs and Aspirations:** CWaC had commissioned an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study to collect information about how much and what type of spaces and facilities were required to meet the needs of local people. The study will be used by the Council as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and would also feed into considerations regarding the use of developer contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds collected by the Council. The study was very wide ranging, covering village greens, recreation grounds; play areas and youth facilities; allotments; wildlife areas/nature reserves, natural green spaces; footpaths, bridleways etc; and amenity and informal green spaces. It did not include formal sports pitches/courts which were the subject of a different project (the Playing Pitch Study). A response was requested by Wednesday 30 September.
- (3) **Playing Pitch Facilities Consultation:** CWaC had commissioned a needs assessment leading to the production of an area wide strategy which would include all facilities managed within the public, private, voluntary and education sectors and would identify local need for sports provision within CWaC. The survey responses would help form the strategic plan for the future of provision within CWaC, including improvements in pitch quality, maintenance, ancillary facilities and the creation of new pitches. A short on-line survey would provide information on current playing pitches and facilities, as well as demand information which would help to form an accurate picture of sports provision across the borough.
- (4) **Mixed Source 3D Seismic Survey for iGas Energy Group:** Tesla Exploration International Limited had begun consultation with a number of landowners with regard to the proposed 3D Seismic Survey. :

## 15.97 FINANCE

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

Cheque No		Amount
S/O	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner)-wages July 2015	260.00
S/O	Parish Clerk-salary July 2015	128.10
BACS	G Povey (Amenity Cleaner) – expenses July 2015	38.20
BACS	Parish Clerk-expenses July 2015	43.30
120	Cheshire Community Action – Affiliation Fee	20.00
BACS	BDO LLB – External Audit Fee	120.00
BACS	Village Hall – Room Hire	50.00

- (2) **Receipts:**

HM Revenue & Customs – repayment of VAT	245.19
Bank Interest	2.71
- (3) **Balance:** The balance in the bank at 28 July 2015 was £10,454.38.
- (4) **Conclusion of Audit:** The Parish Council had received notification from the external auditors, BDO LLP, of the completion of the audit of the Council’s accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015. No issues had been raised. Notices had been displayed on the Council’s Notice Boards inviting residents to inspect the accounts.
- (5) **Financial Services Compensation Scheme:** Until now Local Authorities’ investments and deposits had been excluded from the protection offered to other depositors under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme by specific exclusion under The Compensation Rules (COMP) established by the FCA. The Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) of the Bank of England had announced in May 2015 a change in policy to extend the protection afforded under the Scheme to Small Local Authorities” (SLAs) with an annual budget of up to 500,000 Euros. SLAs were now

protected in the same way as other protected investors for deposits/investments up to £85,000, reducing to £75,000 from 1 January 2016, with any UK bank, building society and credit union.

**15.98 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

None

**15.99 NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 25 August 2015 at 7.30pm at Little Stanney Village Hall