

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

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COUNCIL SUMMONS

Dear Member

You are HEREBY SUMMONED to attend the Meeting of the Council to be held in **LITTLE STANNEY VILLAGE HALL** on **TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2015** at **7.30pm** for the purpose of transacting the business set out on the agenda below



Parish Clerk
17 November 2015

Members of the public and the press are welcome to attend for the “Part 1” section of the agenda. Any reports in “Part 2” contain confidential information and only Councillors and the Parish Clerk can be present.

If you have any general enquiries about the meeting, please contact: Pauline English, Clerk to the Parish Council (Tel: 0151 339 1405, e-mail: engy02@ntlworld.com).

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors are reminded that, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, they should declare any personal interests they have in any matter to be considered at the meeting. The declaration should be made before the matter is considered or as soon as the Councillor becomes aware that a declaration is required. If the interest is a prejudicial one, this must be declared and the Councillor should withdraw from the meeting. It is the Councillor's responsibility to decide whether or not a matter should be declared, although the Clerk will offer advice on the interpretation of the Code if required.

3 OPEN FORUM

Members of the public are invited to raise issues not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda. The maximum time allowed is 30 minutes, subject to the Chairman's discretion.

4 MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 October 2015 as a correct record.

5 UPDATE ON ISSUES ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

To update Councillors on issues that are not included on the agenda.

6 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

(1) **Speed Limits – Rake Lane and Wervin Road:** At the last meeting it was reported that Kay Parry would be taking over responsibility for highway matters in the parish from Andy Raynor. This decision had been reversed to ensure continuity with regard to the issues in the area.

(2) **Junction 10/Cheshire Oaks:** The Parish Council has been informed by CWaC that meetings have been held with the Cheshire Oaks Management Partnership in advance of the Christmas period and are ongoing with a view to doing whatever is possible to ensure people can get around in the Christmas period as smoothly as possible. The following have been discussed:

- (a) review the possibility of yellow hatching on the Junction 10 roundabout (this will take some time to discuss as it could make the signals inefficient);
- (b) organise to have the 'Keep Clear' marking refreshed or provide "yellow box" markings on the Sainsbury's roundabout;

- (c) the yellow temporary directional signage will be placed out on the network for peak periods in November and December;
- (d) trees and bushes will be cut back to that the signage next to TGI's is clearer to see on approach;
- (e) CWaC will speak to Highways England to get the trees and bushes cut back on the Junction 10 slip road so that the signage is clearer.

Cheshire Oaks Management are employing traffic police (provisionally a Sergeant and 2 police motorcyclists) to aid traffic movements and are also deploying additional car parking stewards throughout the Christmas period.

A long term signage strategy is also being discussed (see 7 below).

A further meeting of the Cheshire Oaks Partnership Group is due to be held on 18 November and the Parish Council will ask for an update.

- (3) **Ellesmere Port Gateway Sign:** Update
- (4) **Little Stanney Parish boundary signs:** Glasdon are waiting for sign design drawings from Andy Raynor to enable them to give the Parish Council a quotation for the work. The delay is due to the highways team being without drawing packages on their PCs which will hopefully be rectified soon.
- (5) **Little Stanney Lane junction with A5117:** A response has been received from United Utilities in relation to reinstatement following their work in Stanney Lane earlier this year. With regard to the grass verge on the corner of Stanney Lane and the A5117, unfortunately they are unable to seed or turf due to the time of year. It is hoped to complete this work in Spring 2016. They hope to replant trees opposite Nos. 3-5 Stanney Lane in November and will also replace two more bollards, making a total of five. They apologise for the inconvenience.
- (6) **Speed Checks on Whitby Lane:** Update
- (7) **Ellesmere Port draft Signage Strategy:** The Parish Council has received a copy of a draft Signage Strategy for Ellesmere Port dated March 2015. The Strategy includes the M53 and the A5117 both of which are in Little Stanney parish. A copy of the draft Strategy has been sent by email to Councillors because the full document is 138 pages long, so it is too big to copy for everyone.

7 PLANNING

- (1) **Applications Received** for consideration and comment: None received
- (2) **Decisions** taken by CWaC since the last Parish Council meeting:

15/04047/FUL	Detached accommodation for dependant relative at Barn, Pennywell Farm, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester - PERMISSION
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8 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

To consider any issues relating to the Playing Field and/or Nature Park.

9 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM

Peel Environmental have announced the launch of "Protos" at the site formerly known as Ince Park. Protos will see a collection of industries at the 126-acre site themed around energy and innovation. A deal to deliver a 20MW biomass plant and timber processing facility at the Ince site has also reached financial close. Leading energy developer CoGen Ltd will construct and operate the facility at the first Protos plots which will generate enough renewable energy to power around 40,000 homes and create up to 150 engineering and construction jobs. Peel has confirmed a multi-million pound loan from the North West Evergreen Fund to deliver phase one infrastructure at the site including construction of an access road. This key funding will unlock further development at Protos, which is set to create 3,000 jobs. The North West Evergreen Fund is made up of 16 local authority limited partners. It was established to provide funding to support real estate projects and is critical to the region's economy, generating jobs and growth. It is capitalised through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and other public money allocated under the Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas (or "JESSICA") initiative, which is managed by the European Investment Bank in the North West on behalf of the Homes and Communities Agency. Peel Energy's neighbouring 19-turbine, 50MW Frodsham wind farm will form part of the wider Protos vision. Construction

of the biomass facility, access road and wind farm have begun on site, with contractors appointed and mobilised. Councillor Greenwood, the Parish Council's representative on the Forum, will brief the Parish Council further at the meeting.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) **Empty Homes Strategy:** As of July 2015 Cheshire West and Chester had in total 4,096 empty homes, 1,795 of which had been empty for more than six months. There are currently around 2,500 applicants on CWaC's housing register. CWaC have developed an Empty Homes Strategy which is designed to provide the focus needed to help bring empty homes back into use. From this, more homes will come onto the market, benefiting the community by increasing the stock of decent homes and providing opportunities for more affordable housing. It will also help to decrease anti-social behaviour, reduce the risk to public health from unsafe structures and finally, help to maintain and improve the housing market. CWaC would like to hear residents' views on the aims and objects of the Strategy and how CWaC works with empty home owners in encouraging them to bring their empty home back into use so that the housing potential of long term empty homes can be unlocked. The draft Empty Homes Strategy is available at [Empty homes strategy 2015 - 2020 \(PDF, 737KB\)](#). The feedback questionnaire is available either online or in paper copy and any observations should be made by Friday 4 December 2015.
- (2) **New Homes Bonus:** Little Stanney & District Parish Council has been awarded a New Homes Bonus grant of £1,680 for the financial year 2015-16. The grant allocation has been determined by the level of housing growth in the parish area in the period October 2010 to October 2014 and reflects CWaC's current discretionary policy to transfer a top slice of 20% of the New Homes Bonus grant it receives from central government to local councils. The use of the grant is at the Parish Council's discretion. CWaC is facing significant financial challenges over the coming years due to continued reductions in central government funding and rising demand for services and is proposing to end the payment of New Homes Bonus to local councils from 2016-17. A short questionnaire is attached which seeks the views of local councils on this proposal. The deadline for response is 5 February 2016. The Parish Council might consider putting some or all of this money towards the cost of replacing the climbing frame in Stoak Play Area.
- (3) **The future of Cultural Services:** CWaC are consulting on the future provision of cultural services in Cheshire West. The consultation provides an opportunity for residents to influence proposals concerning the future provision of Cultural Services including libraries, museums, arts, events, and historic environment (archaeology). The consultation document explains what each service currently does and how they might work differently in the future. By working more closely together these services could support CWaC's vision to deliver vibrant cultural services across the borough and there is also the potential to create a more efficient service which will be better placed to deal with the reducing budgets that are likely to be experienced because of the national reduction in public spending. The formal consultation period will run for 12 weeks. Anyone can complete the questionnaire online, by printing off a paper questionnaire or picking one up from a variety of places across the borough including: libraries, museums and council offices. The deadline for return of all questionnaires is 2 December 2015. The survey responses will be analysed and used to inform the future delivery of Cultural Services in Cheshire West and Chester.
- (4) **Cheshire Fire Authority Annual Consultation:** Cheshire Fire Authority's draft plan sets out how the Authority will deliver the most efficient and effective fire and rescue service, while the funding it receives continues to fall by around £2m per year. This includes continuing to implement changes agreed in 2012 as part of the first emergency response programme which will see the construction of four new fire stations and changes to the way existing stations are staffed. The Plan also provides more information on the proposed programme of collaboration between Cheshire Fire Authority and Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. If approved this would

create a number of shared support functions and reduce costs by moving to a single, shared headquarters site. Other headline projects in the draft Plan include

- a review of internal support services not part of the blue light collaboration programme;
- re-launch the programme of Home Safety Assessments (HSAs) as ‘Safe and Well’ visits, with firefighters and advocates carrying out additional basic health checks;
- increase the number of these home safety visits from 20,000 to 40,000 each year; build and launch Safety Central, Cheshire’s first dedicated safety centre, at Lymm;
- work with partners to develop the sub-regional programme to support families and individuals with complex needs;
- launch the new fire station at Alsager; build and open new fire stations at Lymm, Penketh and Powey Lane, near the M56;
- introduce new on-call crewing arrangements for the second fire engines at Crewe and Ellesmere Port;
- complete a second, comprehensive emergency response review to identify further options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation’s frontline staff and vehicles.

A summary document is attached. The full plan is available on the Fire Authority’s website. Comments can be emailed to consultation@cheshirefire.gov.uk or write to Freepost Cheshire Fire Consultation. Once the consultation has closed, the Fire Authority will consider the feedback and make any necessary changes before approving a final Plan and Budget in February 2016 to run from 1 April 2016.

(5) **Podiatry Consultation Outcome:** Earlier this year the Parish Council was consulted on proposed changes to podiatry services in West Cheshire. As a result of the consultation, from November 2015 the eligibility criteria will change to better support people with high level medical and complex podiatric needs. Every patient on the current caseload will be assessed and those with low level needs will be discharged and provided with self help information, details of alternative non-NHS providers and contact details for how to get help with benefits. If their medical circumstances change they can be referred back for another assessment. It is likely to take twelve months for the changes to be fully implemented.

(6) **Publication:** Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2015

11 DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

The Chairman attended the Digital Champions meeting in Alderley Edge on 5 November and will report on discussions.

12 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 2015	128.10
S/O	Amenity Cleaner – wages November 2015	260.00
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses November 2015	t.b.c.
BACS	Amenity Cleaner – expenses November 2015	t.b.c.

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

(3) **Balance:** To note the balance in the bank at 24 November 2015

13 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION

14 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS IN 2016

The following dates are proposed for meetings of the Parish Council in 2016:

- Tuesday 26 January 2016
- Tuesday 23 February 2016
- Tuesday 22 March 2016
- Tuesday 26 April 2016 (Parish Meetings)
- Tuesday 24 May 2016 (Annual Meeting)
- Tuesday 28 June 2016
- Tuesday 26 July 2016
- Tuesday 23 August 2016
- Tuesday 27 September 2016
- Tuesday 25 October 2016
- Tuesday 22 November 2016
- No meeting in December