

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at Little Stanney Village Hall

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

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

15.127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Carter, Paul Carter and Pete Mountford and Cheshire West & Chester Ward Councillor Stephen Smith

15.128 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

15.129 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised

15.130 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

15.131 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. No further action appeared to have been taken with regard to the proposed speed limits and the Clerk was asked to request an update on progress.
- (2) **Junction 10/Cheshire Oaks:** The Parish Council had been informed by CWaC that meetings had been held with the Cheshire Oaks Management Partnership in advance of the Christmas period and were ongoing with a view to doing whatever was possible to ensure people could get around in the Christmas period as smoothly as possible. The following had been discussed:
 - (a) review the possibility of yellow hatching on the Junction 10 roundabout (this would 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 to be placed out on the network for peak periods in November and December;
 - (d) trees and bushes to be cut back to that the signage next to TGI’s is clearer to see on approach;
 - (e) CWaC to 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 would be employing traffic police (provisionally a Sergeant and 2 police motorcyclists) to aid traffic movements and would also deploy additional car parking stewards throughout the Christmas period.
A long term signage strategy was also being discussed (see 7 below).
A further meeting of the Cheshire Oaks Partnership Group was due to be held on 18 November and the Parish Council would ask for an update.
- (3) **Ellesmere Port Gateway Sign:** A decision on the siting of the sign would be made after Christmas.
- (4) **Little Stanney Parish boundary signs:** Glasdon were waiting for sign design drawings from Andy Raynor to enable them to give the Parish Council a quotation for the work. The delay was due to the highways team being without drawing packages on their PCs which would hopefully be rectified soon.
- (5) **Little Stanney Lane junction with A5117:** A response had 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, they were unable to seed or turf due to the time of year and it was hoped to complete this work in Spring 2016. They hoped to replant trees opposite Nos. 3-5 Stanney Lane in November and would also replace two more bollards, making a total of five. They apologised for the inconvenience.

- (6) **Speed Checks on Whitby Lane:** It was agreed to ask CWaC to have the road surveyed with a view to siting Speedwatch at an appropriate site.
- (7) **Ellesmere Port draft Signage Strategy:** The Parish Council has received by email a copy of a draft Signage Strategy for Ellesmere Port dated March 2015. The Strategy included the M53 and the A5117 both of which were in Little Stanney parish. As the full document was 138 pages long a copy of the draft Strategy had been sent by email to Councillors.
- (8) **Loading Bay outside School House:** It was reported that the double yellow lines on the outside of the loading bay were not having the required effect and people were still parking there. The Clerk would ask CWaC again whether they could be moved to the inside of the bay and possibly backed up with a “No Parking – Loading Only” sign
- (9) **Vehicle Testing on Village Roads:** The Clerk was requested to ask PC Boulton whether he had managed to speak to the car dealerships and, if so, what response he had received.

15.132 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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15.133 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

No further progress had been made on finding funding for the new play equipment. The application to CWaC’s funding panel was unlikely to be successful in the light of their requirement to make savings. The Parish Council would have to look for alternative options.

15.134 INCE PARK COMMUNITY FORUM

Peel Environmental had announced the launch of “Protos” at the site formerly known as Ince Park. Protos would 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 had also reached financial close. Leading energy developer CoGen Ltd would construct and operate the facility at the first Protos plots which would generate enough renewable energy to power around 40,000 homes and create up to 150 engineering and construction jobs. Peel had 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 would unlock further development at Protos, which was set to create 3,000 jobs. Peel Energy’s neighbouring 19-turbine, 50MW Frodsham wind farm would form part of the wider Protos vision. Construction of the biomass facility, access road and wind farm had begun on site, with contractors appointed and mobilised.

15.135 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) **Empty Homes Strategy:** As of July 2015 CWaC had in total 4,096 empty homes, 1,795 of which had been empty for more than six months. There were currently around 2,500 applicants on CWaC’s housing register. CWaC had developed an Empty Homes Strategy which was designed to help bring empty homes back into use allowing more homes to come onto the market and benefiting the community by increasing the stock of decent homes and providing opportunities for more affordable housing. It would also help to decrease anti-social behaviour, reduce the risk to public health from unsafe structures and help to maintain and improve the housing market. CWaC wanted residents’ views on the aims and objects of the Strategy.

- (2) **New Homes Bonus:** Little Stanney & District Parish Council had been awarded a New Homes Bonus grant of £1,680 for the financial year 2015-16. It was noted that the grant allocation had been determined by the level of housing growth in the parish area in the period October 2010 to October 2014 and reflected CWaC's current policy to transfer a top slice of 20% of the New Homes Bonus grant it received from central government to local councils. The use of the grant was at the Parish Council's discretion. As CWaC was facing significant financial challenges over the coming years it was proposed that the payment of New Homes Bonus to local councils should end from 2016-17. A short questionnaire sought the views of local councils on this proposal.
- (3) **The future of Cultural Services:** Members were asked to note that CWaC were consulting on the future provision of cultural services in Cheshire West. The consultation provided an opportunity for residents to influence proposals concerning the future provision of libraries, museums, arts, events, and historic environment (archaeology). It was suggested that by working more closely together these services could support CWaC's vision to deliver vibrant cultural services across the borough. There was also the potential to create a more efficient service.
- (4) **Cheshire Fire Authority Annual Consultation:** Cheshire Fire Authority's draft plan set out how the Authority would deliver the most efficient and effective fire and rescue service. The Plan provided more information on the proposed programme of collaboration between Cheshire Fire Authority and Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner which, if approved, would create a number of shared support functions and reduce costs by moving to a single, shared headquarters site. The final Plan and Budget would run from 1 April 2016.
- (5) **Podiatry Consultation Outcome:** Following the consultation earlier in the year changes had been made to podiatry services in West Cheshire. From November 2015 the eligibility criteria would change to support people with high level medical and complex podiatric needs. Every patient on the current caseload would be assessed and those with low level needs would 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 changed they could be referred back for another assessment.
- (6) **Publication:** Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2015

15.136 DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

The Chairman had attended the Digital Champions meeting in Alderley Edge on 5 November. It had mainly been attended by representatives from East Cheshire who had more issues than those in the West. Garry Rooney, who was responsible for the roll-out in Greater Manchester, was now working in Cheshire and some of the problems being experienced in Wervin had been referred to him. Stoak had fibre broadband which allowed reasonable speeds but the rest of the parish remained slow.

15.137 FINANCE

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

Cheque No		Amount
BACS	HMRC-Income Tax	291.06
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary November 2015	128.10
S/O	Amenity Cleaner – wages November 2015	260.00
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses November 2015	19.81
BACS	Amenity Cleaner – expenses November 2015	37.80
153	J Jones-Cut playing field grass/petrol for mower	255.64
154	P Jones-Cut hedge at side of Nature Park	65.00

- (2) **Receipts:** None
- (3) **Balance:** The balance in the bank at 24 November 2015 was £9,007.59

15.138 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None

15.139 MEETINGS IN 2016

The following dates were agreed for meetings 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