

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 February 2016 at Little Stanney Village Hall

Present: Councillor Chris Dilworth (in the Chair), David Astbury, Paul Carter, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe, Judith Thomas and Michael Todd

In attendance: Pauline English (Parish Clerk)

16.015 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Carter, John Glazzard, Roy Greenwood and Peter Mountford

16.016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

16.017 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised

16.018 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Councillor Dilworth was present and Councillor Todd was not.

At the request of the local Members, the Clerk had asked Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Council's planning team about the current status of "Woodcroft" on Whitby Lane. No reply had yet been received and the Clerk would follow this up.

16.019 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

(1) Progress with the following issues was reported:

- (a) Speed Limits – Rake Lane and Wervin Road: Letters had been delivered to all of the appropriate residents on Wervin Road and results had been sent back to CWaC for analysis. The result was overwhelming approval for the 30mph limit to be introduced, although a number of residents had recommended making the 30mph zone wider. With regard to Rake Lane, a public meeting had been arranged prior to the Parish Council meeting, attended by Dave Reeves, CWaC Highways and PC Andy Burnham. This meeting had explored the issues around why the proposed speed limit was 40mph and not the 30mph that residents would have liked. Because of this the consultation letters had not yet been delivered to residents in Rake Lane and they were now out of date. Andy Raynor, CWaC Highways, would arrange for new letters to be printed and reply paid envelopes to be supplied and the result should be known by the next meeting.
- (b) Junction 10, Cheshire Oaks: There was no further progress with any of the issues raised with CWaC and Highways England.
- (c) Ellesmere Port Gateway Sign: After months of delay and indecision about the location, the gateway sign was now being built in the position suggested by the Parish Council.
- (d) Little Stanney Parish boundary signs: Costings were awaited.
- (e) Speed Checks on Whitby Lane: The Clerk had referred this to CWaC for and a reply was awaited.
- (f) Loading Bay outside School House: The Clerk had written to the owners of School House asking whether they still needed/used the loading bay. If it was no longer needed CWaC would be asked to fill it in.
- (g) Vehicle Testing on Village Roads: The police had visited the Porsche garage to ask them not to use excessive speeds on the village roads, in particular Rake Lane. However, the Parish Council was reminded that nothing could be done if vehicles were driving within the speed limits. A recent incident on

Stanney Lane was mentioned where a Porsche had ploughed through a hedge into a garden.

(h) Meeting with BP re issues relating to their service station on Strawberry roundabout: The Clerk had written to BP requesting a meeting but had not received a reply. A follow-up letter would be sent.

(2) **Trees on Highway land:** Concern had been expressed that a large number of old established trees on the A5117 had been cut down and not replaced during the construction work on the new Mercedes-Benz dealership off Longlooms Road East, Ellesmere Port. Some of these trees were in Little Stanney parish, some in Whitby Ward, Ellesmere Port. Discussions were ongoing with the CWaC Ward Members with a view to seeking a meeting with the developers to discuss planting some new trees.

16.021 PLANNING

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

16/00118/FUL - First floor side extension at Kniver, 11 Little Stanney Lane, Stoak, Chester Cheshire CH2 4HW – no observations

(2) **Decisions:**

15/04880/FUL - Change of use of outbuilding to form two dwellings with associated garages - amendment to 13/05178/FUL at Stanney House, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Little Stanney, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4HZ – **APPROVED**

15/05104/FUL - Conversion of outbuilding into dwelling at Plum Tree Cottage, Wervin Road, Wervin, Chester, CH2 4BP - **APPROVED**

16.022 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

As requested by the Parish Council, Phil Davies, Play Inspection and Maintenance (PI&MS), visited the Play Area and provided a quotation of £3,300 + VAT for the installation of mats under the climbing frame and slide unit measuring approximately 9m x 9m. He also offered the following advice/comments in relation to the Play Area generally:

- If the Parish Council decides to provide a surface under the existing unit, the whole area needs to be done (approximately 9m x 9m). If only the slide area is done the Parish Council could find itself in a 'fix' if someone was to have an accident on any part of the unit. Why only surface part of the required area and not the whole thing? This would be a question asked by your insurance or the claimant's solicitor.
- Would recommend that the grass is kept fairly short under the unit. The grass length as it was during inspection could hide broken glass or dog faeces making these hazards difficult to identify.
- A note should be kept of all site visits to inspect and carry out maintenance works. It would appear that these are not kept at present. These would need to be produced in the event of a claim and not having them makes it more difficult to defend a claim. The records are also available for future reference if the present members of the Parish Council are no longer available.
- Consider implementing a RPII registered inspector to undertake quarterly inspections of the site. PI&MS would do this for £40 + VAT per inspection.
- Any surfacing installed, such as grassmat under the Unit, may not be able to be re-used. Grass will, as designed, grow up and intertwine itself through both the mesh underlay and the mats themselves making lifting and re-use difficult. If it is difficult, any contractor employed to refurbish to site may decide to scrap both the unit and the new surfacing. It may be cheaper to start again, wasting any funds previously used.
- The Parish Council may feel that it is better and more cost effective to remove the existing Unit and do without until the site is refurbished or the Unit replaced. From a risk and funding point, the Parish Council may consider this the best option.

- All decisions made and actions taken (or not) regarding the play area should be recorded for future reference if required.

The Parish Council noted these comments and agreed to appoint PIANDMS to undertake quarterly inspections, as recommended. It was also agreed that the grass should be kept short and that an applications should be made to WREN for funding to replace the unit and the safety matting.

16.023 PROTOS (INCE PARK) COMMUNITY FORUM

A meeting of the Forum had taken place on 27 January at Thornton Science Park. Councillor Greenwood was unable to attend so the Parish Council had not been represented at the meeting. However, it was noted that Mark Degg of Cogen and Adrian Grocott, Site Manager at Buckingham's had been introduced and that representatives of Cogen and Buckingham's would attend all Forum meetings to report on progress with the construction. Work had started on 30 November and enabling works were currently being carried out. Some rebuilding work was taking place on Grinsome Road. The next phase would be the construction of on-site roads. Piling was taking place on the biomass site and it was hoped these will be completed by June. Above ground building would start in mid-July with hot commissioning scheduled for October 2017. It had been agreed to circulate a copy of the paper detailing the air quality conditions of the biomass plant to all Forum members. Discussions with other organisations were ongoing. A second site visit was to take place in May/June. With regard to the Community Benefit Fund, application forms had been sent out to four organisations in Elton but to date only one application form had been returned. Applications would be considered by the Panel on 17 February. The next Forum meeting would be on either 25 March or 6 April (date to be decided by the Forum members).

16.024 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) **Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable update:** The Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's update had been received and circulated to all Members of the Parish Council with the agenda.
- (2) **Year of Care:** This was the phased roll out of an initiative which, subject to evaluation, could become ongoing practice. It was part of the West Cheshire Way approach which sought to provide treatment and care in the community instead of at hospitals. The initiative enabled people with long term conditions to have all necessary tests at their GP practice at the same time, avoiding duplication and multiple appointments for those with more than one long term condition. Test results were then posted out in advance of follow up appointments which made consultations more productive for both patients and doctors and cut down the number of GP appointments for people with long term conditions. An action plan was agreed with the patient which set out the steps required for them to better understand and manage their condition. Patients were automatically enrolled into the Year of Care at their long term condition review. Until the end of March 2016, "Year of Care" would focus on people with diabetes. In the longer term other conditions were envisaged including asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder), epilepsy, rheumatology, heart failure and hypertension (high blood pressure).
- (3) **Regulating Shale Gas - Meet the Regulator Event:** The Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive, Oil and Gas Authority and Public Health England staff were hosting an informal information session to explain how they regulate the oil and gas industry to protect people and the environment between 1.00–8.00pm on Tuesday 23 February 2016 in the Civic Centre, Toft Rd, Knutsford WA16 0PE. Regulators and agencies involved in assessing the impacts of the oil and gas industry had a duty to ensure that any exploration and development, including fracking operations, was done in a way that protected people and the environment. Local communities rightly looked to them to provide reassurance that health and environmental risks were being controlled and managed properly,

and to hold oil and gas operators to account. This session provided an opportunity for them to meet local people, explain respective roles and discuss some of the key issues before sites are identified for development.

16.025 FINANCE

(1) **Payments:** The following payments were noted / approved

Payment Method	Payee	Amount
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary February 2016	128.10
S/O	Amenity Cleaner – wages February 2016	260.00
BACS	Amenity Cleaner – expenses February 2016/New Boots	76.34
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses January 2016	20.26

(3) **Receipts:** None

(4) **Balance in Bank:** The balance in the bank as at 23 February 2016 was £8,701.39

16.026 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION

(1) Councillor Jones reported that CWaC had sent engineers to repair the street light across the road from his house, but that the following day it had failed again. CWaC had been informed and had promised to send out further engineers but nothing had happened and the light was still not working.

(2) Councillor Jones also reported that the drains on Croughton Road in Stoak need cleaning out as they were being prevented from working properly due to an accumulation of leaves.

16.027 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22 March 2016 at 7.30pm in Little Stanney Village Hall.