

Little Stanney & District Parish Council

www.littlestanney-pc.gov.uk

Chairman's Report for the year 2018-19



Councillor Chris Dilworth (Chairman)

Councillor David Astbury

Councillor Linda Carter

Councillor Paul Carter

Councillor John Glazzard

Councillor Roy Greenwood (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor John Jones

Councillor Clive Lipscombe

Councillor Peter Mountford

Councillor Judith Thomas

Councillor Michael Todd

Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk)

Elections: 2019 is election year for both the Borough and Parish Councils and on 2 May 2019 the following Councillors were elected to serve on the Parish Council for the next four years:

Croughton Parish:

Little Stanney Parish: David Astbury, Chris Dilworth, Judith Thomas and Michael Todd

Stoak Parish: Linda Carter, Paul Carter and John Jones

Wervin Parish: John Glazzard, Roy Greenwood and Clive Lipscombe

That left us with a vacancy in Croughton which Pete Mountford, the retiring representative for the Parish, has asked to (re)fill at our first meeting on 14 May 2019. Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) changed its boundaries and re-named the ward Gowry Rural, running from Elton to Mickle Trafford/Guilden Sutton. The increased size of the ward meant we could vote for two Councillors with the result that our new Ward Councillors are Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker (both Conservatives).

We wish Ste Smith, our outgoing Ward Councillor, all the best for the future. He attended a number of our meetings and was very helpful in dealing with some of our issues, particularly the setting of local speed limits which CWaC have now referred to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee following a successful motion to the full Council which was supported by Councillor Dave Astbury and two Little Stanney residents who attended the meeting in Winsford and spoke in favour of it.

At the meeting on 22 May 2018 I was elected Chairman and Councillor Roy Greenwood was elected Vice-Chairman for the year. The Parish Council continues to meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 7.30pm in Little Stanney Village Hall, with a break in August and December. Due to the illness of the Clerk, the meeting in January 2019 was kept short and only the precept was discussed and voted on.

Boundary Review: CWaC completed the boundary review in 2019 and, following extensive consultation, some changes were made, mainly to Little Stanney parish, including the transfer of Cheshire Oaks from Ellesmere Port and the shifting of the boundary from halfway down Stanney Lane to its junction with Kinsey Road. We welcome the addition of Cheshire Oaks to our parish and hope we can work closely with the Cheshire Oaks Partnership to resolve some of the issues having the site on our doorstep brings, particularly surrounding traffic and litter.

Finance: We increased the precept to £11,000 in 2018/19 to enable us to continue to employ our Amenity Cleaner and to ensure that we have sufficient reserves. We will have to make a contribution towards the cost of the Parish Council election although, as this was, fortunately, not contested it won't be too onerous. We applied for and received a grant of £960 from Protos Community Benefit Fund towards the cost of planting shrubs in the verges along the A5117 which we will receive once the planting is completed, hopefully in October 2019. We also received a grant of £900 from Ward Councillor Ste Smith towards the cost of Village Gateway signs for Little Stanney.

Amenity Cleaning: Graham Povey continues to provide us with an excellent service, working 10 hours a week across all four villages. Graham collects rubbish from our streets and grass verges and reports fly-tipping and other problems to CWaC and the Parish Council when he spots them. He is on good terms with the bin collection team and keeps an eye on the condition of the villages. We would find it difficult to replace him and we must hope he never decides to retire. As stated above, one of our biggest remaining problems is litter dropped by people who have visited the fast food outlets on Cheshire Oaks and we hope to continue discussions with the Cheshire Oaks Partnership about this issue.

Playing Field: The play area continues to provide some fun for smaller children. During 2019 CWaC volunteers repainted the football goalpost which is a great improvement. Play Inspection and Maintenance Service (PlandMS) provide a quarterly inspection of the play area and make recommendations about any necessary maintenance issues. We are inspected annually by a RoSPA accredited company. During the year CWaC decided to move the litter bin off the Playing field onto the grass verge outside the gate. Fortunately, they have now seen sense and, following complaints from residents and the Parish Council, have moved the bin back inside the enclosed playing field where children wishing to dispose of litter etc will remain safe from traffic.

Nature Park: The perimeter hedge has been kept low, so it is visible from the road. No incidents have been reported this year.

The Parish Council is very grateful to Councillor John Jones and Mrs Madge Jones who look after both the playing field and the Nature Park.

Planning: It was a very quiet year for planning. The Parish Council was consulted on only three planning applications throughout the year, to one of which we submitted objections on the grounds of excessive noise. Two applications from the previous year were approved, together with one this year. Two applications are still awaiting decision.

Outside Bodies: Councillor Greenwood continues to represent the Parish Council on the Protos Community Forum and he attended several meetings throughout the year. Little Stanney & District now has access to funding from the Protos Community Benefit Fund which is open to bids from local community organisations as well as parish councils.

Highways: Wervin Road 30mph and part of Rake Lane 40mph speed reductions were confirmed and signage is now in place for both. A plea to reduce the speed limit on Rake Lane to 30mph was refused because it didn't meet the current criteria but, as stated previously, CWaC have delegated the review of the setting of local speed limits to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, so there is still hope.

We are now being served by Stuart Bateman, Principal Engineer – Place Operations and Network Steward Tony Jones, both of whom are being very helpful on highway matters. Streetscene (now renamed Street Care) have a new website <http://westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk/street-care-pledge/> through which fly tipping and other issues relating to street care and grounds maintenance can be reported.

We have several ongoing issues with highways, particularly blocked drains in Stoak village, the bus shelter and parking by the bus stop in Stoak, flooding on Rake Lane (now hopefully resolved), and The Culvert in Stoak.

Communications: The Parish Council's website www.littlestanney-pc.gov.uk contains a lot of useful and anecdotal information and is kept up to date by Councillor John Glazzard, our webmaster. For those of you who are unable to access the website, the Parish council has Notice Boards in Croughton, Stoak and Wervin and by the Strawberry roundabout in Little Stanney, where notices of meetings are posted. There is also a Notice Board outside the Village Hall.

Police and Fire: We see very little of our local police officers and PCSOs, whose time is taken up in dealing with issues in other areas. The parish sits within the Chester Rural and Frodsham area and our Beat Officer is PC Rob Boulton. We also have a PCSO attached to our parishes. The Police and Crime Commissioner holds meetings throughout the year across the Borough. We were consulted on Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's draft 5-year Strategy but had no comments to make. The new Fire Station at Dunkirk is now operational.

Membership of Associations: The Parish Council continues to be a member of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Cheshire Community Action, the Cheshire Playing Fields Association and, on behalf of the Parish Clerk, the Society of Local Council Clerks. These Associations provide the Parish Council with information, advice and training opportunities and keep us up to date with changes in legislation and current

practices.

Chris Dilworth

Chairman, Little Stanney & District Parish Council

May 2019