



Minutes of the Meeting of Little Stanney & District Parish Council held on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 at 7.30pm in Little Stanney Village Hall

Present: Councillors Chris Dilworth (in the Chair), David Astbury, Linda Carter, John Glazzard, Roy Greenwood, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe and Mike Todd

In attendance: Pauline English (Parish Clerk), Graham Heatley (Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Ward Member), Margaret Parker (CWaC Ward Member) and Graham Povey (Amenity Cleaner). There were seven members of the public present

.19.67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Paul Carter, Pete Mountford and Judith Thomas

19.68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

19.69 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Roy Greenwood was proposed by Councillor Glazzard and seconded by Councillor Lipscombe and there being no further nominations it was RESOLVED that Councillor Roy Greenwood be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2019-20/

19.70 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

The Chairman of the Little Stanney Residents Association put forward a number of issues that had been raised by residents relating to the Little Stanney area.

- (1) the dangerous condition of the existing footpath on the west side of Stanney Lane from the bus stop to the top end of the Lane adjacent to Kinsey Road. This path was used regularly, in particular by elderly residents to get to the bus stop and/or the Coliseum.
- (2) Flooding adjacent to Lime Tree farm on Stanney Lane and the car park entrance to the Village Hall, probably due to the gullies being full of leaves and debris which has accumulated in the road verges that are not swept on a regular basis.
- (3) Grassed areas hedge cutting – should be carried out on a regular basis, although outside the growing season, as the grass has at times been allowed to grow up to 750mm high in places.
- (4) Tree planting – we are probably one of the few villages in the Borough with only a few trees with space available to permit the planting of a number of flowering trees and consider a minimum of around 20 would suffice. This would certainly improve the street scene of the Village.
- (5) The almost continuous “U” turning of vehicles at the south end of the Village having approached from off the A5117. This remains a serious problem as many minor accidents have already occurred and a more serious outcome will happen unless this problem is resolved. This ridiculous situation also arises at the north end of Little Stanney Lane adjacent to School House property.
- (6) Contact with Cheshire Oaks Consortium: Several months have now elapsed since the very useful meeting that the Parish Council arranged regarding assistance with the ongoing litter problems, have you made any progress from your initial meeting, if so what?
- (7) The hazardous conditions that prevail for pedestrians attempting to negotiate the A5117 to visit the local amenities, from Rake Lane. To attempt this with no central refuge area and with traffic moving up to a maximum of 50mph, we consider that this speed limit should be reduced to 40mph considering there are four access points onto the A5117 at this point. Namely Little Stanney Lane, Stanney Lane, Harvester public house and Rake Lane all within a very short stretch of highway.
- (8) Traffic pollution: due to the vast amount of vehicular traffic, local to the area, residents frequently observe the amount of pollution that is present when the traffic flows are high. The residents would appreciate the assistance of the Parish Council support as to whether the air quality meets the mandatory standards.

Ward Councillor Margaret Parker suggested that a small group of Councillors should meet with Highways officers to discuss these issues.

The Chairman asked that in future, rather than taking up all of the time allocated for public speaking, issues of this nature should be raised in writing with the Parish Clerk before the meeting as this would enable appropriate officers to be invited to respond.

A resident asked that thanks be recorded to Councillor Astbury for his help within the community over the past few years, particularly in relation to the issues on Rake Lane. In noting this the Chairman reminded everyone that other Councillors had also been involved in getting these issues resolved.

19.71 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2019 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the addition of the following to Minute 19.57:

“A copy of the responses to all planning applications be provided to the Councillors residing in that Parish and any other Councillor who requests to see the Council’s response.”

19.72 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

The Council’s Amenity Cleaner was in attendance. He reported that he had tackled Kinsey Road on three occasions. On two occasions there had been very little litter, on the third occasion he had come away with a full bag. On his round he had spotted a bag with the Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) logo on it at the side of the road by the pedestrian crossing on Kinsey Road which suggested that CWaC also had a litter picker working in the area.

Both of the bins in Little Stanney (in the bus stop and on the corner of the A5117/Stanney Lane) were overflowing. He described the condition of the bin area in the bus stop in Little Stanney as ‘a carpet of rubbish’. The bins in Stoak were also overflowing because people were using them to dump clothing.

The woodland across the road from the entrance to Stanney Woods was being desecrated by the cutting down of trees and fly tipping. This had been reported to CWaC and the Parish Council had been advised to contact the landowner. The Parish Council was of the opinion that the land was owned by CWaC as part of Stanney Woods and would raise the issue again with CWaC.

There was a “phantom” litter picker working in the Stanney Oaks area. He had been spotted and when questioned he turned out to be one of a team of volunteers from the Stanney Oaks Facebook Group, who were unaware that they were covering part of Graham’s area. There was some concern about his safety as he was not wearing any hi viz clothing. However, the Parish Council agreed that the Group should be thanked for doing this work.

The gullies in Picton Lane leading to Ashwood Road were submerged in silt.

Attention had been drawn to a gully on Strawberry Way West which needed attention but because of its position this was not something that could be tackled by the Amenity Cleaner and it would be referred to CWaC.

Councillor Todd explained that all of these issues could be reported by Councillors through CWaC’s website and a number would be allocated which could be used to follow up the issue if necessary.

Councillor Linda Carter reported that the hedge outside the bungalow on Little Stanney Lane coming into Stoak was overgrown to the extent that it was preventing people from walking on the pavement and cars were hitting it. It needed to be cut right back. The Clerk would report this to CWaC who would write an official letter to the site owners.

19.73 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Roy Greenwood should continue to represent the Parish Council on the Protos Community Forum.

19.74 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2018-19

A smaller authority (under £25,000 gross income/expenditure) could certify itself as exempt from submitting an Annual Governance and Accountability Return and instead submit a Certificate of Exemption. In order to do this, the Parish Council must meet the following requirements:

- The authority has been in existence since before 1st April 2015
- In relation to the preceding financial year (2017/18) the external auditor **has not**:
- Issued a public interest report in respect of the authority or any entity connected with it;
- Made a statutory recommendation to the authority relating to the authority or any entity connected with it;
- Issued an advisory notice under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 8 to the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (“the Act”), and has not withdrawn the notice;
- Commenced judicial review proceedings under section 31(1) of the Act
- Made an application under section 28(1) of the Act for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful and the application has not been withdrawn nor has the court refused to make the declaration;

The court has not declared an item of account unlawful after a person made an appeal under section 28(3) of the Act.

The exempt Parish Council must publish on its website, before 1 July, the following documents:

- Annual Internal Audit Report
- Annual Governance Statement
- Annual Accounting Statements
- Analysis of variances
- Bank reconciliation
- The Exemption Certificate
- A statement regarding the exercise of public rights

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the completion of the internal audit by Dotty about Accounts be noted;
- (2) the submission of the Certificate of Exemption to PKF Littlejohn, the Parish Council’s external auditors, be approved
- (3) the period for the exercise of public rights should be Friday 28 June to Monday 12 August 2019.

19.75 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Having considered the documents, especially Standing Orders, in some detail it was RESOLVED that:

- (1) the new NALC Standing Orders, with the Parish Council’s specific requirements inserted where necessary, be adopted.
- (2) The following remaining policies and procedures be re-affirmed.
 - (a) Financial Regulations
 - (b) Complaints Procedure
 - (c) Data Protection and Information Security Policy
 - (d) Dignity at Work, Bullying and Harassment Policy
 - (e) Discipline, Dismissal and Grievance Policy
 - (f) Equality and Diversity Policy
 - (g) Freedom of Information – Publication Scheme
 - (h) Health & Safety Policy
 - (i) Policy and procedure for handling requests for information
 - (j) Risk Management Strategy
 - (k) Scheme of Delegation

19.76 PLANNING

- (1) **Applications received for comment:**

19/01993/REM	Approval of reserved matters following outline application 17/05212/OUT for 7 dwellings on land adjacent to Lime Tree Farm, Stanney Lane, Little Stanney, Chester - Noted
19/01855/FUL	Extension and open sided canopy to existing industrial unit at Benjamin House, Dutton Green, Chester CH2 4SA – No comments to be made

- (2) **Decisions** made by CWaC since the last Parish Council meeting: None
- (3) **Awaiting Decision:** None

19.77 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

The 'No Dogs except Guide Dogs' notice had been fastened to the fence beside the gate of the Playing field.

A request was made for some mature trees for the Nature Park, such as Rowan, Crab Apple and Oak. Councillor Jones was asked to check the price of these trees at Premier Plants and one other outlet and to submit a proposal that could be put to the Protos Community Development Fund in time for planting in October.

19.78 PROTOS COMMUNITY FORUM

Councillor Greenwood had attended the last meeting where there was discussion about progress with a number of outstanding issues. He reported that the Community Benefit Fund had only £6,000 uncommitted for the current year so if the Parish Council wanted to take advantage of this funding a bid needed to be approved and submitted before the next Community Benefit Fund meeting in September.

19.79 FINANCE

(1) Payments since the last Parish Council meeting:

28.05.19	SO	Staff Costs	497.95
28.05.19	BACS	Parish Clerk-expenses	121.51
28.05.19	BACS	ChALC-affiliation fee	147.96
28.05.19	BACS	ChALC-affiliation fee (see receipts)	147.96
31.05.19	BACS	Zurich-Insurance	353.88
31.05.19	BACS	Cheshire Community Action-annual subscription	20.00
31.05.19	BACS	Amenity Cleaner-expenses	35.55
06.06.19	BACS	Dotty about Accounts-Internal Audit	108.00
20.06.19	BACS	Finance Training for Clerk	40.00

(2) Receipts since the last Parish Council meeting:

07.06.19	BACS	ChALC repayment of duplicated payment	147.96
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(3) Balance in bank at 25 June 2019: £22,128.96

19.80 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION

No further issues raised

19.81 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 23 July 2019 at 7.30pm in Little Stanney Village Hall