



Little Stanney & District Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 25 February 2020 in Little Stanney Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Mike Todd (in the Chair), David Astbury, Linda Carter, Roy Greenwood, Peter Hartshorn, John Jones and Pete Mountford

In attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk), Inspector Ian Stead (Cheshire Police), Kenny Murray (McArthur Glen) and one member of the public

20.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Carter, John Glazzard, Clive Lipscombe and Judith Thomas

20.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

20.18 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

(1) Following his attendance at the January Parish Council meeting, Kenny Murray (McArthur Glen) had invited Cheshire Police to the meeting to talk more about the traffic issues. The Parish Council welcomed Inspector Ian Stead (Cheshire Police based in Ellesmere Port). The Chairman thanked Mr Murray for the invitation to attend the last meeting of the Cheshire Oaks Partnership and apologised that he had not been able to accept the invitation due to work commitments.

The Traffic Management Plan for the area around Cheshire Oaks was believed to work satisfactorily for the majority of the time. Peak times such as Bank Holidays could be foreseen, planned for and managed. However, there had been two instances recently of exceptional congestion affecting all the roads leading to Cheshire Oaks to which the response had been slow. The circumstances surrounding these were being examined closely by Cheshire Oaks Partnership, the Police, Highways England and Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC). A request was made for the Parish Council to be included in any discussions, but it was accepted that it was sufficient for Mr Murray to report back regularly. The issues faced by residents were well known and would be factored into the discussions. It was confirmed that the peak Traffic Management Plan would be reviewed in March and the Parish Council would be a consultee.

Councillor Astbury reiterated his request that the discussions should include the A5117 up to Chester Gates as any traffic issues along this stretch had a knock-on effect and contributed to the problems by Cheshire Oaks.

With regard to litter, the Clerk was asked to check with the Amenity Cleaner which areas would benefit from a clean-up.

Councillor Hartshorn raised the matter of vehicles speeding on Whitby Lane. Inspector Speed agreed to raise this with the PCSO.

Councillor Jones expressed concern about shooting on the Nature Park. The Clerk had raised this with the PCSO asking that the area be more closely monitored. The Parish Council was advised to ring 101 and the matter would then be reviewed each morning. Councillor Jones also raised the issue of cars speeding by the bridge in Stoak, citing an incident where a car had hit the barrier and had flipped over.

(2) The Parish Council was informed that the B4RN project to bring superfast broadband to the rural areas was being rolled out to Rake Lane, Whitby Lane and the south side of Strawberry Way. Residents would be approached to register an interest. The installation cost was £150 and then £30 per calendar month. An investment in the project of £1,500 would include free installation.

20.20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

20.21 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that a reply had been received from Chester Zoo regarding the parking issue raised at the last meeting (Minute 20.08(2)). The Zoo confirmed that they were aware of people parking their vehicles on the road near the entrance to Cedar House. CWaC and the police had been asked to evaluate the road to try to find a viable solution. However, they had deemed the road a public highway that did not warrant any restrictions and the Zoo had not been able to enforce any themselves. They were, therefore, unable to stop anyone parking on the road and could not control where people left their vehicles. Permission to use the 'old car park' in the field opposite Cedar House had been removed some years ago and Zoo staff were currently unable to park cars there at any time. It was recognised that the matter needed to be resolved as soon as possible and CWaC had been told that the Zoo intended to lodge a planning application to reinstate part of this field for parking. Regular communications would continue to be sent to all staff encouraging them to use alternative parking whenever possible. Car share and cycle to work schemes were actively encouraged and staff who made full use of those options were rewarded.

20.22 PLANNING

(1) Applications Received

20/00398/FUL	Side extension to include first floor dormer at The Forge, Wervin Road, Wervin, Chester CH2 4BP – No comments to be made
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(2) Decisions: The following decision was noted

19/00237/FUL	Erection of new industrial units, access, parking, landscaping and associated works on land off Dutton Green, Chester - APPROVED
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- (3) Lime Tree Farm (former Reindeer Farm site): The Clerk was asked to check with the Planning Enforcement Officer whether the owner had permission to undertake preparatory work on the site. It was noted that an alarm had been installed which had the propensity to be set off during the night, which disturbed close neighbours.

20.23 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

- (1) It was reported that drains in Stoak were overflowing at several locations including under the bungalow hedge on Little Stanney Lane, bottom of the hill past the Bunbury public house and the bridleway past Ashwood Lane. These would be reported to CWaC.
- (2) It was suggested that Stuart Bateman and a Network Steward be invited to a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the various issues relating to highways in the parish.

20.24 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

It had not been possible to cut the grass on the Playing Field because of the very wet conditions. Concern about the use of firearms on the Nature Park had been passed to the local Police.

20.25 PROTOS (INCE PARK) COMMUNITY FORUM

It was reported that Protos would be launching a new website in April which would include information about the Community Benefit Fund under the Community heading <http://thisisprotos.com/community/>.

The Fund Panel had considered three new applications at its meeting on 19 February 2020. These were:

- Elton Village Events Committee (£4,000). Approved.
- Passion for Learning (£4,000) for after-school Enrichment Club at Elton Primary School. Deferred
- Elton Community Centre, Noise Reduction Scheme (£4,000). Approved.

An update was provided on existing uncompleted projects:

- Ince village lamp: Uncertainties about the fabricators - another fabricator to be sought
- Little Stanney & District PC (village signs): CWaC Highways approval still awaited
- Elton School (musical instruments). £1.500 still available for after school club
- Elton Gardeners Association. Toilet installed. No request for finance received.

Other decisions made by the Panel were:

- the £4,000 cap on each application should be retained for the current year
- the current postcode should not be expanded.
- Application Guidelines to state that while an applicant could be based outside the postcode limits, the benefits should be in the area.
- Guidelines should state that applications would lapse six months after approval if no work had been started or completed within 12 months.

The fund had approximately £25,000 left for the remainder of the year.

20.26 FINANCE

(1) **Payments** since the last meeting:

Date	Method	Item	Amount
29.01.20	BACS	Amenity Cleaner-expenses January	37.80
29.01.20	BACS	Councillor Jones-petrol for mower	7.51
29.01.20	BACS	M Jones-Playing Field grass cutting for 2020-21	300.00
29.01.20	BACS	Income Tax	200.00
25.02.20	BACS	ChALC-training for Councillor	35.00

(2) **Receipts:** None

(3) **Balance** at 25 February 2020: £14,932.35

20.27 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CWaC had advised that two events were to be held in March 2020:

- (1) **Lord Mayor's Banquet:** To be held on Friday 27 March 2020 in the Town Hall, Chester from 6.45pm. Tickets £55 included a welcome drink on arrival, four-course meal, three glasses of wine with meal, followed by a glass of port. Booking via the Clerk.
- (2) CWaC's Waste team were holding a '**Sustainable Spring Fair**' at **Rowton Hall**, Chester on **Saturday 21 March 2020** from 11am to 4pm.

20.28 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24 March 2020 at 7.30pm

The Coronavirus pandemic began in March 2020 before the next scheduled meeting could take place. In accordance with the Government guidelines, and advice from NALC about face to face Parish Council meetings, the meeting on 24 March was cancelled. Advice is awaited as to when face to face meetings can start again.