



Little Stanney & District Parish Council

(Parishes of Croughton, Little Stanney, Stoak and Wervin)

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2022 in Little Stanney Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs David Astbury (in the Chair), Peter Hartshorn, John Jones, Pete Mountford, Mark Parry and Judith Thomas

In Attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk)

22.88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Linda Carter, Paul Carter, Clive Lipscombe and Michael Todd. Apologies were also received from Ward Cllr Margaret Parker who had Covid.

22.89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

22.90 VACANCY IN WERVIN PARISH

No applications had yet been received to fill the vacancy. The deadline for applications would now be extended to Friday 16 September and they would be considered at the meeting of the Parish Council on 27 September.

22.91 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

No members of the public present

22.92 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

22.93 PLANNING

RESOLVED: That

- (1) It be noted that no applications relating to Little Stanney & District had been received by CWaC since the last meeting of the Parish Council
- (2) No decisions had been made by CWaC on any applications in Little Stanney & District since the last meeting of the Parish Council
- (3) applications still awaiting a decision by CWaC be noted as follows

Application No.	Subject	Location
21/01494/FUL	Single storey extension to rear, first floor loft conversion with roof terrace, porch to front and modernisation to front elevation.	Belden Strawberry Cross Whitby Lane Backford Chester CH1 6PH
21/01523/HED	Removal of Hedgerow to increase security at the Farm	Lime Tree Farm, Stanney Lane, Little Stanney, Chester CH2 4HT
21/01530/FUL	Change of use of agricultural land to car sales and erection of a fence - retrospective	Lime Tree Farm, Stanney Lane, Little Stanney, Chester CH2 4HT
21/03108/FUL	Free standing rear timber sundeck - retrospective	Stoak Cottage, Little Stanney Lane, Stoak, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4HW
21/03611/FUL	Erection of six commercial buildings (use classes E, B2 and B8) together with the creation of accesses, parking and associated works.	Land Off New Bridge Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire
22/00024/FUL	Extension and alterations to existing dwelling to provide a large family home	The Paddock, Wervin Road, Wervin, Chester CH2 4BP
22/00272/FUL	Change of Use of Existing C3 residential Dwelling and redundant agricultural Barns into (Class C1) Holiday Cottages and (Class E(b)) Cafe/Tea Rooms	Top Farm, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester CH2 4DA
22/01150/OUT	To erect two portal-framed buildings comprising cafe, offices, toilets/changing and storage facilities, together with ancillary structures, site works and landscaping	Cheshire Oaks Fisheries, Strawberry Way West, Backford, Chester CH1 6PN

22/01408/FUL	Erection of a stable block and tack room and associated hardstanding	Land to the East Side of Fox Covert Lane, Picton, Chester
22/02100/P14	Installation of 220kW solar PV comprising of 579 x 380w Canadian Solar panels.	Mercedes-Benz Cheshire Oaks, Longlooms Road East, Ellesmere Port CH65 9LF

22.94 FINANCE

RESOLVED: That

- (1) expenditure from 21 June to 19 July 2022 be noted as follows:

28.06.22	SO	Staff salaries	546.62
30.06.22	Bank	Service Charge (3 months)	18.00
01.07.22	BACS	Amenity Cleaner-expenses	37.80
04.07.22	BACS	Parish Clerk-expenses	43.20
04.07.22	BACS	Parish Clerk-Postage, cartridges, suspension files	113.11
11.07.22	BACS	HMRC-Income Tax	215.44
18.07.22	BACS	Barnes Cooper Ltd-internal audit	780.00
			1,754.17

- (2) income received since 21 June 2022 be noted as follows:

04.07.22	Repayment of payment made to wrong person	20.00
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Reconciliation: Opening Balance	21,599.41
Add Income	20.00
Less Expenditure	<u>1,754.17</u>
Closing balance	<u>19,865.24</u>

22.95 AUDIT

The internal audit had been completed and all issues relating to HMRC had been resolved. A copy of the Internal Audit Report had been circulated to all Councillors. The AGAR documents had now been completed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The internal audit report prepared by Barnes Cooper Ltd be received
- (2) The Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed;
- (3) The accounting statement for the year 2021-22 be approved and signed;
- (4) The Statement of Exemption be approved and signed and submitted to the external auditors.

22.96 UPDATE REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS

- (1) **Little Stanney Village signs:** The sign at Location 1 had been approved at the last meeting and CWaC had been informed of the correct location for the sign on Stanney Mill Road. Two additional sites had been identified and these had been submitted to CWaC for approval and costing.
- (2) **Licence to permit planting and maintenance of the Highway verge:** A final licence for signature was awaited from CWaC. There was some discussion about whether this scheme should go ahead now that there was a new contractor cutting the grass with a wide machine as planting in the middle of the verge might cause an obstruction. However, it was decided to proceed with this once the approved locations had been clarified with CWaC.
- (3) **Licence to site a bench on the grass verge on Stanney Lane:** Mr Willis has selected the Lowther seat with brown enviropol slats from Glasdon who had provided a quote which had been sent to Mr Willis for approval. CWaC had been asked to draw up the licence for signature and to provide a quotation for putting in a solid base and affixing the bench to it. This was awaited. Once all the information had been received the bench could be installed.
- (4) **Green Corridor:** Cllr Parry had met Hannah Brookes and one of her colleagues at Chester Zoo and it appeared that what the Zoo intended differed substantially from Cllr Padmore's ideas. Rather than planting a line of trees, the Zoo wanted to identify the unused and underused areas, such as marshland, and work with the landowners

to improve those areas, including the creation of natural habitats for wildlife. This was what the Parish Council were keen to do and it was hoped that some agreement could be reached with the Zoo about the inclusion of Stoak Nature Park in their scheme. Cllr Parry mentioned bridlepaths as potential areas which the Zoo had not identified, and they had agreed to look into this. He would be speaking again to Hannah Brookes and would pass on the Parish Council's comments. The Zoo would send more information to the Parish Council.

- (5) **Vandalism:** CWaC had been asked for advice on dealing with the graffiti on the Parish Council's bench. However, since the last meeting the bench had attracted more graffiti, possibly by the same people. The bench in question was the one that had been wrongly installed. It had been intended for a site across the A5117, facing the road instead of with its back to the road as it was at present. If the siting of the bench could be corrected this would probably stop the graffiti. In the meantime Cllr Hartshorn would try to remove the graffiti from the bench.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact CWaC to ask for the bench to be sited in the place it was originally intended.

22.97 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

No specific issues identified.

22.98 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

The replacement of the wire fencing around the playing field had now been completed. The hedge from Bridge Farm to the bend before Church Lane had been trimmed back but the hedge from the bend to Church Lane needed to be trimmed back so that vehicles could pass without being scratched.

The bus stop at Stoak needed to be replaced. The current bus stop, which belonged to the Parish Council, was now very dilapidated. Parking close to the bus stop was a problem. There were often two or three large vehicles parked so close to the bus stop that they prevented people, especially those who were slow on their feet, from accessing the bus stop. CWaC had been asked to make the bus stop more visible by painting a bus stop outline on the road but they had refused to do this.

RESOLVED: That CWaC be requested to

- (1) ask the landowner to trim back the hedge from the bottom of Church Lane to the bend before Bridge Farm;
- (2) look again at a way of making the bus stop in Stoak more visible by preventing vehicles from parking too close to it.

22.99 PROTOS COMMUNITY FORUM

Cllr Parry had put Chester Zoo in touch with Peel Holdings to look at extending the green corridor.

22.100 BROADBAND FOR THE PARISHES

It was reported that the B4RN project had been abandoned as they were unable to acquire sufficient uptake on the voucher scheme. However, FactCo (a Liverpool based broadband provider) would be working with Connecting Cheshire to build a fibre broadband network covering the parishes of Saughall, Mollington, Lea-by-Backford, Backford, Chorlton by Backford, Croughton, Wervin and Stoak, but not Little Stanney. The latter had been excluded because all the properties were classed as Urban by DCMS (or the Valuation Office Agency), meaning that there was no availability of government funding. Most of the Whitby Lane properties already had Virgin Media available, but the dropping of Rake Lane in the area north of the M56 could be an issue that needed to be addressed.

RESOLVED: That the proposal by FactCo to make provision for a fibre broadband network in Croughton, Wervin and Stoak be welcomed and the lack of provision around Rake Lane be explored as the scheme unfolds.

22.101 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 7.15pm in Little Stanney Village Hall.

RESOLVED: That an alternative venue be sought for the meeting on 25 October and if no suitable alternative venue was available an alternative date be sought with the Village Hall.