



Little Stanney & District Parish Council

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27 September 2022 in Little Stanney Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs David Astbury (in the Chair), Linda Carter, Peter Hartshorn, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe, Pete Mountford, Mark Parry and Roger Pemberton

In Attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk)

22.102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Paul Carter, Judith Thomas and Michael Todd. Apologies were also received from Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) Ward Cllrs Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker.

22.103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

22.104 VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR FOR WERVIN PARISH

The Parish Council had received an application from Mr Roger Pemberton to fill the vacancy for a parish councillor for Wervin parish. Mr Pemberton met the criteria necessary to become a parish councillor. No other applications have been received.

RESOLVED: That Mr Roger Pemberton be co-opted to fill the vacancy for a parish councillor to represent Wervin parish with immediate effect.

22.105 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

No members of the public present

22.106 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

22.107 UPDATE REPORTS

Little Stanney Signage: Costings had been provided by CWaC for the signage for Little Stanney totalling £5,571 +VAT. A package cost had been offered if all the signage was completed together of £3,995 +VAT.

RESOLVED: That CWaC be informed that the Parish Council accepts the package cost of £3,995 +VAT and requests an invoice for that amount to enable a revised application to be made to Protos for grant.

22.108 PLANNING

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The following applications relating to Little Stanney & District that had been received by CWaC since the last meeting of the Parish Council be noted, as follows: None
- (2) The following decisions made by CWaC since the last meeting of the Parish Council on applications in Little Stanney & District be noted, as follows:
 - 21/01494/FUL- Single storey extension to rear, first floor loft conversion with roof terrace, porch to front and modernisation to front elevation at Belden, Strawberry Cross, Whitby Lane, Backford, Chester CH1 6PH – APPROVED
 - 22/02100/P14 - Installation of 220kW solar PV comprising of 579 x 380w Canadian Solar panels at Mercedes-Benz Cheshire Oaks, Longlooms Road East, Ellesmere Port CH65 9LF - APPROVED
- (3) applications still awaiting a decision by CWaC be noted as follows:
 - 21/01523/HED - Removal of Hedgerow to increase security at the Farm at 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 at Lime Tree Farm, Stanney Lane, Little Stanney, Chester CH2 4HT

21/03108/FUL - Free standing rear timber sundeck - retrospective at 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 on 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 at 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 at Cheshire Oaks Fisheries, Strawberry Way West, Backford, Chester CH1 6PN

22/01408/FUL - Erection of a stable block and tack room and associated hardstanding on land to the East Side of Fox Covert Lane, Picton, Chester

22.109 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

Public Rights of Way (PROW): It was reported that this year CWaC had funded £175,000 of improvements to public rights of way at locations across the borough, one of which was Stoak No 2. This was a Public Bridleway so it should be available for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and mobility vehicles. It had become so overgrown that a pedestrian would have had to walk doubled over in places. Vegetation had been cleared back to make the route fully available for use again. The completed works had significantly improved accessibility to the Bridleway.

RESOLVED: That the improvements to Bridleway Stoak No.2 be noted and CWaC be requested to ensure all the PROWs in the parish are cleared as soon as possible.

22.110 PLAYING FIELD/NATURE PARK/STOAK VILLAGE

Cllr Jones and Mr Carter of Bridge Farm, Stoak had met Stuart Bateman, CWaC Principal Engineer, on site to discuss Mr Carter's wish to put a gate across the top of Croughton Road leading into the cul-de-sac created by the construction of the M53, in place of the bollards that had previously been in place but had since disappeared. The request was made to ensure access to Mr Carter's fields was kept clear. As this was a public highway planning permission would be required and would be requested by CWaC Highways.

Cllr Jones had taken the opportunity to discuss other issues in Stoak village which Mr Bateman was asked to take away and report on at a later date:

Vicarage Hedge: It was the responsibility of the landowner to keep the hedge trimmed and this had now been done.

Barriers outside parish field: Work that was needed on the barriers had been reported several times and the Parish Council had recently received an assurance that they were at the top of the priority list, but unfortunately there was nothing in writing to back this up.

Drains from the Bunbury into Stoak village: These drains were blocking up whenever there was heavy rain. The problem had been reported over a number of years but nothing that had been done had proved to be successful.

Parking by the bus stop opposite the bottom of Bunbury Close: Stagecoach have taken over the route through Stoak from Arrowebrook Coaches, which had now ceased to trade. The bus often found it difficult to access the bus stop opposite the bottom of Bunbury Close because there were vehicles parked close to it. The Parish Council had asked previously for the words 'Bus Stop' to be painted on the road, but this had been refused by CWaC.

RESOLVED: That these issues be added to the list of outstanding issues to be followed up with CWaC.

Cllr Jones also reported that people were using portable barbeques in the Nature Park and, on one occasion, had been seen using the picnic table in the Play Area. When asked to leave one of the people involved had become quite aggressive saying she had the right to be there as it was a public field. Cllr Jones had explained that the field belonged to the Parish Council and that fires in a Children's Play Area would not be tolerated.

22.111 **PROTOS**

Following the recent meeting which Cllr Parry had been unable to attend, he reported that the HyNet pipeline proposals had been high on the agenda, mainly relating to piling issues in Ince and Elton.

22.112 **GREEN CORRIDOR**

Cllr Parry had met with the team at the Zoo, and they had mapped out the land ownership in the area. The scheme was about managing land in its current environment rather than being a planting scheme and the Zoo would be reaching out in the long term to the local landowners/farmers to discuss opportunities with them. Cllr Parry had suggested that early wins would be collaborating with CWaC to manage the bridle paths, which was considered to be a good idea. RESOLVED: That the report be received, and Cllr Parry be requested to set up a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and the Zoo to discuss matters further.

22.113 **FINANCE**

RESOLVED: That income and expenditure since the last meeting be noted, as follows:

Income

09.08.22	Repayment of overpayment of expenses	24.50
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Expenditure

19.07.22	BACS	HMRC – Income Tax	409.80
21.07.22	BACS	HMRC – Income Tax	33.68
25.07.22	SO	Barnes Cooper-Monthly fee for payroll management	10.00
28.07.22	SO	Parish Clerk-salary July	203.48
28.07.22	SO	Amenity Cleaner-wages July	343.20
29.07.22	BACS	Amenity Cleaner-expenses July	37.80
29.07.22	BACS	ChALC-Training fee	25.00
01.08.22	BACS	Cheshire Community Action-affiliation fee	20.00
01.08.22	BACS	Ringwood Fencing-replacement wire fence-Playing Field	913.00
09.08.22	BACS	Parish Clerk-expenses	131.94
25.08.22	SO	Barnes Cooper-Monthly fee for payroll management	10.00
30.08.22	SO	Amenity Cleaner-wages August	343.20
01.09.22	BACS	Parish Clerk-salary August	203.48
05.09.22	BACS	Amenity Cleaner-expenses August	37.80
09.09.22	DD	Information Commissioner Annual Fee	35.00
14.09.22	BACS	ChALC-Training fee (Clerk)	25.00
Reconciliation	Balance brought forward	19,865.24	
	Add: Receipts	0	
	Less: Payments	<u>2,782.38</u>	
	Carried forward	<u>17,082.86</u>	

22.114 **CIVILITY AND RESPECT**

There were growing concerns about the impact bullying, harassment and intimidation was having on councils, councillors and staff and the resulting effectiveness of local councils. The Civility and Respect Project had been founded by the Civility and Respect Working Group and was supported by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), National Association of Local Councils (NALC), County Associations and One Voice Wales (OVW). To support this, Councils were being asked to sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge. .

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The work of the Civility and Respect Project be noted; and
- (2) the Parish Council signs up to the Civility and Respect pledge

22.115 **DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY**

Having agreed to sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge the Parish Council was invited to adopt the Dignity at Work policy.

RESOLVED: That the Dignity at Work policy be adopted and be added to the Council's Policies and Procedures.

22.116 'ARE YOU OKAY'

Witnessing street harassment and not safely intervening sent the message to those experiencing it that it was okay and society normalised it. The Neighbourhood Watch Network were launching a campaign targeting bystanders. The campaign encouraged those who saw someone being harassed in public to ask the victim 'Are you Okay' when they felt safe doing so.

RESOLVED: That the message be put noted.

22.117 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER INITIATIVES

- (1) **Community Cashback Fund:** The PCC for Cheshire, John Dwyer, had launched a new £90,000 'Community Cashback Fund', which would see money taken from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) being spent on projects to improve local communities. Each of Cheshire's nine Local Policing Units (LPUs) would be given £10,000 from the Community Cashback Fund during the 2022/23 financial year, with residents able to vote on how the money was spent.
- (2) **Refresh of Police and Crime Plan:** John Dwyer, PCC for Cheshire, had launched a public consultation on his proposed refresh of the Police and Crime Plan. When the Plan was first published last year, PCC Dwyer had promised to refresh it based on people's feedback in other surveys, as well as key themes from conversations and correspondence with people, businesses and community groups across the county. The consultation survey had closed on 28 September and all responses received would be taken into account before the final Plan was published later this year
- (3) **Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Action Fund:** The PCC's Community Action Fund had reopened, with money available for projects across Cheshire that would prevent and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The application window was open from 1 September until 30 November 2022. £100,000 was available for projects which improved the safety of individuals in the area. Individual bids of up to £5,000 could be submitted by applicants who were working with their local policing team to address their area's priorities. Applications were welcome from community, voluntary or third sector groups, including Parish Councils. Any bids to the Community Action Fund had to be match-funded to provide the maximum benefit to the area, making the true value of the fund £200,000. Applicants were asked to name a contact in their local policing team and Local Authority or volunteer centre when submitting their form. Projects supported by the Fund had included sports activities and youth engagement programmes to help prevent young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, the installation of CCTV at community premises, and engagement with Cheshire's rural communities.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the Police & Crime Commissioner's initiatives be noted;
- (2) the Parish Council identifies any projects that might benefit from funding from the Community Action Fund and makes a bid for funding before 30 November 2022.

22.118 SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda. The national £2.6 billion funding was for local investments by March 2025. CWaC had been awarded £12.6m, £1.5m of which would be used for Multiply, the Government's adult numeracy programme. The funding was aimed at investing in local priorities and targeting funding where it was needed most to increase pride in places, support high quality skills training, support pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances. It replaced the funding previously available from the EU.

RECOMMENDED: That the Shared Prosperity Fund be noted

22.119 CHESHIRE WEST CROWD AUTUMN 2022 ROUND

The following funding pots would be available from CWaC in the autumn 2022 round - Community Innovation Fund £250,000, Youth Fund £20,000, Cheshire West Crowd Fund £90,000, COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund £47,885, Climate Change Emergency Fund £10,000 and Tackling Poverty Fund £9,865. With the Community Innovation Fund, a gold standard project would need to tackle more than one objective in the Council Plan, be an innovative idea, and be delivered in a high need area, such as rural communities, aimed at

tackling rural poverty, social isolation, or community transport. Workshops would be run by CWaC and Spacehive to help projects get ready for crowdfunding, with monthly support sessions taking place in local libraries from August to November 2022. The deadline for projects being added to the Cheshire West Crowd was Wednesday 2 November 2022. All projects would need to reach their crowdfunding targets by Tuesday 28 February 2023.

RESOLVED: That the above funding pots be noted, and the Parish Council considers whether it has any forthcoming projects that might benefit from them

22.120 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 25 October 2022 at 7.00pm – venue tbc