



Little Stanney & District Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 25 May 2021 in Little Stanney Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs David Astbury, Linda Carter, Peter Hartshorn, John Jones, Clive Lipscombe and Michael Todd

In attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk) and six members of the public

Councillor Michael Todd in the Chair

21.27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Paul Carter, John Glazzard, Roy Greenwood and Judith Thomas.

Cllr Peter Mountford was absent from the meeting.

Apologies were noted from Ward Councillors Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker

21.28 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Michael Todd was proposed by Cllr Linda Carter and seconded by Cllr Clive Lipscombe. There being no further nominations it was RESOLVED that Cllr Michael Todd be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2021-22. Cllr Todd signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and remained in the Chair

21.29 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Deferred to the next ordinary meeting

21.30 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

21.31 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

A letter had been received from a resident of Meadow View, Little Stanney regarding the increase in traffic on Stanney Lane. He asked that it be discussed in Public Speaking Time as he was unable to attend the meeting in person. He cited the lack of proper signage on the M56 slip road to direct drivers into the correct land for the Outlet Village, leaving them to turn next right into Stanney Lane and u-turn, and difficulty in accessing the various eateries since the modification of the Kinsey Road/A5117 junction which also left drivers to turn into Stanney Lane and u-turn. He also cited drivers taking a short-cut and speeding along Stanney Lane to avoid queues and the increase in commercial activity at Lime Tree Farm which had increased traffic flow and produced more parking along both sides of Stanney Lane. Overall, the problems were additional traffic on Stanney Lane, revving engines, rat-runners, horns honking and more parking at the roadside.

The problems at this location had been raised on several occasions and had been discussed with Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) Council Highways officers, the Highways Agency and McArthur Glen. The issues raised in the letter would be put to these agencies again in the hope that something could be done to alleviate the problems.

A resident of Parkside Court, Stanney Lane, Little Stanney presented a letter to the Council in which Lime Tree Farm was proposed as the cause of increased traffic and noise on Stanney Lane. He also said that Stanney Lane was being used as a 'race track' by boy racers who gathered on the Outlet Village car park and that vehicles had been noted travelling at excessive speed in both directions on Stanney Lane.

A resident put forward a proposal to plant trees in the grass verges along both sides of Stanney Lane which would help to stop vehicles from parking on the verges and would improve the visual amenity of the road. The Clerk said she would have to seek permission from CWaC to plant trees in this location. The Mersey Forest were currently offering free trees through their Trees for Climate programme and, if permission was given by CWaC, an application would be made to the Mersey Forest for an agreed number of trees.

Other members of the public attended the meeting to raise issues in relation to Lime Tree Farm on Stanney Lane and boy racers emanating from Cheshire Oaks onto the streets around Stanney Lane and using the traffic lights as “starting guns”.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The issues relating to Lime Tree Farm be raised with the Chief Executive of CWaC;
- (2) The issues relating to boy-racers be raised with the Chief Constable, the Police & Crime Commissioner, McArthur Glen, the Director of Environment and Communities at CWaC and the two Ward Councillors

21.32 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

21.33 ANNUAL AUDIT

RESOLVED: That an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council be held on 22 June to receive the Internal Auditor's report, complete the Annual Governance Statement, approve the Accounting Statement and sign the Exempt Authority form for submission to the External Auditors

21.34 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED; That a decision be deferred to the next ordinary meeting to enable Councillor Greenwood to be asked if he would be prepared to continue as the parish Council's representative on the Protos Community Forum.

21.35 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Some issues did not require the input of all Councillors but could be undertaken by a committee of four or more (four being a quorum) or by the Parish Clerk. A draft Scheme of Delegation was discussed.

RESOLVED: That the draft Scheme of Delegation be adopted and be included in the Council's list of Policies and Procedures.

21.36 INSURANCE

A renewal quotation had been received from the Parish Council's current insurer, Zurich. The premium this year would be £360.81 which was £6.93 more than last year for the same cover.

RESOLVED; That the quotation from Zurich be accepted.

21.37 RECEIPT OF AGENDA ETC BY EMAIL

RESOLVED: That the Parish Clerk notes those Councillors who are willing to receive agenda, minutes and background documents by electronic means and those who wish to receive paper copies of the documents.

21.38 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

The recent flooding events caused by Storm Christoph had highlighted the importance and need for Community Resilience. The Joint Cheshire Emergency Planning Team (JCEPT) was helping Local Councils with the creation of Community Emergency Plans.

RESOLVED: That JCEPT be invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

21.39 TREES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Funding was available for tree planting projects as part of The Mersey Forest's Trees for Climate Programme, to help create the woodlands of the future and offset carbon emissions. Grants were available to fund the purchase of trees, their planting and tree guards including advice for ongoing tree care and maintenance.

RESOLVED: That CWaC be requested to approve a scheme of tree planting in the verges along Stanney Lane and three Mountain Ash trees be requested for Stoak Nature Park.

21.40 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

- (1) Drainage: There were issues with drainage in both Stoak and Little Stanney. Cleaning the gutters and removing built up silt could help to alleviate the problems.

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to CWaC for resolution and action

- (2) Bridleway, Whitby Lane: It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Ward Councillor Simon Eardley to find out what was happening with this bridleway. Ward Councillors Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker to be copied into correspondence.

21.41 PLANNING

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The following applications received for comment be noted

21/01700/FUL	Two storey and single storey rear extension and single storey side extension at Belvidere, Strawberry Cross, Whitby Lane, Backford, Chester CH1 6PH
21/01562/FUL	Erection of rear detached garage at Hepple House, Shotwick-Frodsham Road, Little Stanney, Chester CH2
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 There was some concern expressed by Councillors about the proposed development at Belden, which was considered to be excessive. The creation of a roof terrace at this location would potentially overlook other properties in all directions. The Clerk would report the Parish Council's views to CWaC
21/01934/TPO	Various works on various trees including felling of Lime (T1), Oak (T4), Ash (T5), Beech (T6) at Lime Tree Farm, Stanney Lane, Little Stanney, Chester CH2 4HT Concern was expressed about the need to fell all of the trees at Lime Tree Farm. If it was necessary for them to be felled, CWaC should be asked to ensure the planting of appropriate replacement trees on the site, the trees to be of a reasonable size and not just saplings.

- (2) decisions made by CWaC on the following applications be noted

21/00841/HHE	Erection of single storey rear extension at Croughton House, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester CH2 4DA – PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED
21/00664/DIS	Discharge of conditions 4 (bird box) and 5 (lighting) or planning permission 219/01562/FUL at The Lodge, Croughton Road, Croughton, Chester CH2 4DA – APPROVED

- (3) the following application awaiting a decision be noted

20/04644/FUL	Conversion of existing outbuildings into 6 dwellings and erection of two garage blocks on land at Little Stanney Lane, Stoak, Chester
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21.42 PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE PARK

- (1) It was reported that vandals were “wrapping up” the chains on the swings in the Play Area. Fortunately, Cllr Jones had been able to undo the damage caused.
- (2) Double white lines were requested outside the gate to the Playing Field to prevent vehicles parking and obstructing access/egress.
- (3) A new Notice Board was requested to replace the existing Notice Board which was no longer fit for purpose. The two Ward Councillors had agreed to pay for the Notice Board out of their Members budgets.
- (4) There was a substantial drop between the old and the new Canal bridges which needed some form of barrier to prevent accidents
RESOLVED: That CWaC be requested to take urgent action on this matter
- (5) Bollards were needed to stop vehicles parking on the grass by the old Canal bridge
- (6) Scottish Power had removed some fencing when doing work on overhead cables and had promised to replace it when the work was finished. However, they had not returned, and the fencing had not been replaced.
RESOLVED: That Scottish Power be requested to replace the fencing

21.43 **PROTOS COMMUNITY FORUM**

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2021 had been circulated to all Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received and noted

21.44 **CONSULTATIONS**

(1) **Local Authority Remote Meetings – Call for Evidence**

The Government was gathering evidence about the use of the current arrangements for local authorities to meet remotely or in hybrid format, as set out in the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020 under powers granted by section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. It was recognised that Councillors would be likely to have different views so it would be difficult for the Parish Council to reach a meaningful consensus.

RESOLVED: That Councillors put forward their own views on this consultation.

(2) **Dog Control – Public Spaces Protection Order consultation 13 May 2021 – 4 July 2021**

In October 2018 CWaC had introduced a wide range of measures covering the control of dogs and encouraging responsible dog ownership, which were now due for review. CWaC recognised that the vast majority of dog owners were responsible and kept their dogs under control while they were out. For animal welfare reasons it was also beneficial for dog owners to be able to exercise their dogs off lead in open spaces. The consultation asked for views on the current measures as well as seeking views on additional control areas. The Parish Council's view was that the Public Spaces Protection Order should be extended to specifically cover football pitches.

RESOLVED: That CWaC be informed of the Parish Council view about the inclusion of football pitches and that Councillors be encouraged to put forward their own individual views on this consultation.

21.45 **FINANCE**

RESOLVED: That

(1) Income received since the last meeting be noted as follows:

Date	Payer	Amount
08.04.21	Cheshire West & Chester Council – Precept	10,000.00

(2) Expenditure since the last meeting be noted as follows:

Date	Method	Description	Amount
29.03.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner – wages March	322.40
29.03.21	SO	Parish Clerk – salary March	194.82
31.03.21	Bank	Service Charge	18.00
13.04.21	BACS	Amenity Cleaner expenses March	47.25
28.04.21	SO	Amenity Cleaner – wages April	322/40
28.04.21	SO	Parish Clerk – salary April	199.96
30.04.21	BACS	Amenity Cleaner – expenses April	37.80

(3) The balance of £23,775.28 in the bank on 25 May 2021 be noted.

21.46 **ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION/NEXT MEETING**

No issues raised.

21.47 **MEETINGS IN 2021-22**

RESOLVED: That, subject to the availability of Little Stanney Village Hall, meetings be held on the following dates in 2021-22

2021: 27 July, 28 September, 23 November

2022: 25 January, 22 March, 24 May (Annual Meeting)