

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF STAPELEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 23 JULY 2013 AT STAPELEY COMMUNITY HALL, PEAR TREE FIELD,  
STAPELEY, NANTWICH**

**PRESENT:** Councillor S Gwinn-Freemantle Chairman  
Councillor R Samra Vice-Chairman

Councillor J Hillman Councillor P Groves  
Councillor M Malbon Councillor K Nord  
Councillor D Willetts

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors S Clough, J Davenport and M Docker

**82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to make any declarations of interest. No declarations were made.

**83 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Order No.1, members of the public were able to submit a question, either in writing prior to the meeting, or orally at the meeting, or to make a statement.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**84 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That in accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

**85 COMMUNITY HALL**

The Parish Council was invited to consider the Clerk's report which updated Members on Cheshire East Council's review of the lease on the community hall, and the arrears owed by a regular user.

**85.1** Following the Parish Council's decision under Minute No. 81.2 (4 July 2013), the Clerk had written to the regular user requesting that the arrears be paid. An amount had subsequently been received, but not the full amount as the user had disputed the contract period and the rate of hire. The Parish Council was now invited to consider its next steps.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the regular user referred to in the report be given two weeks' notice to vacate the premises;

(b) That the Clerk write to the regular user requesting payment of the arrears from 1 April 2013;

(c) That a copy of the regular user's signed contract with the Parish Council be provided to them as a reminder of their obligations;

(d) That the regular user be reminded of the full amount due; and

(e) That, based on legal advice, the regular user be informed that the Parish Council was willing to accept the lower, unauthorised amount which they had been offered by a non-Parish Council representative.

**85.2** The Parish Council had deferred a decision in respect of the longer-term use of the hall (Minute No. 81.2 - 4 July 2013) until Cheshire East Council had reported on its review of the lease. This review had now been undertaken and Members were informed of the steps which would be required to bring about the changes which had been proposed by the Parish Council. In view of discussions earlier in the meeting, this might no longer be necessary.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the Head of Assets (Cheshire East Council) be invited to meet with Members to offer advice on use of the hall in the longer term; and

(b) That at its next meeting, the Parish Council consider arrangements for re-launching the community hall.

**86 PUBLIC INQUIRY (MULLER HOMES PLANNING APPLICATIONS)**

Mr Bob Hindhaugh, of Hindhaugh Associates, had been asked to instruct the barrister who was to act as advocate on behalf of the Parish Council at the Public Inquiry later in the year.

Owing to licencing difficulties, this instruction must now come direct from a solicitor. The Clerk had met with the Parish Council's Legal Adviser to brief her on the background to the applications and to ask her to act on behalf of the Parish Council. Members were invited to consider if the Legal Adviser's role should be limited to an instruction to the barrister or broadened to encompass a facilitative role representing the interests of the Parish Council.

Members agreed that before making a decision on this, it was important to meet with the Cheshire East Council Principal Planning Officer, who was the Case Officer on both of the Muller planning applications, to discuss Cheshire East Council's strategy at the Public Inquiry and to avoid duplication of evidence. Following that meeting, Members would make a decision in respect of instructing the barrister.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk invite the Cheshire East Council Principal Planning Officer to meet with Members of the Parish Council, at an early opportunity, to discuss evidence to be offered at the Public Inquiry.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and concluded at 10.15 pm