

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STAPELEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2020 IN STAPELEY COMMUNITY HALL, PEAR TREE FIELD,
STAPELEY, NANTWICH**

PRESENT: Councillor M Theobald Chairman
Councillor J Davenport Councillor M Docker
Councillor S Ford Councillor J Hillman
Councillor P Groves Councillor K Nord

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor A Martin

APOLOGIES:¹ Councillors S Gwinn-Freemantle and Georgina Gwinn

124 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and in respect of disclosable interests, to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item.

No declarations were made.

125 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

126 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance.

127 CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Borough Councillors Peter Groves and Andrew Martin reported on the following matters:

- A new Chief Executive had been appointed (Lorraine O'Donnell)
- HS2 was to go ahead.
- The current Cabinet system at CEC was to be retained until May 2021 when the governance arrangements would be reviewed.
- Various Nantwich Town Council matters relating to unoccupied business premises.

128 FINANCIAL MATTERS

128.1 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised.

£243.90	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's salary and employer's NI
£221.92	HMRC	This was an outstanding amount owing to the non-payment in August 2019, which was the Parish Council's recess.
£883.20	Crystal Clean South Cheshire	Cleaning the Community Hall (Invoice 1285) (£736.00 net and £147.20 VAT)
£20.00	Target Windows	Cleaning of Community Hall windows.

¹ In receiving apologies, it was reported that Councillor S Gwinn-Freemantle had resigned.

£225.00	Jof's Mowing	Grounds maintenance work – September 2019 – February 2020
£590.00	C M Jones	Under-payment of salary as a consequence of the Royal Bank of Scotland failing to implement the bank mandate in May 2019.

128.2 BUDGET-MONITORING – TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Clerk had been unable to prepare a budget -monitoring statement for the period to 31 December 2020. This would be submitted to a future meeting.

129 CASUAL VACANCY

It was reported that the vacancy caused by the resignation of former councillor Elizabeth Boughey, had been notified to Cheshire East Council.

In view of Councillor Gwinn-Freemantle's resignation, the Notice of Vacancy would be amended to reflect the two vacancies in the parish.

130 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning applications for consultation.

131 BENCHES IN THE PARISH

Members had already agreed that the bench on the triangular area of grass at the junction with the A51, London Road should be removed and installed on Peter de Stapleigh Way. The Clerk was awaiting a quotation from ANSA for this work.

In the meantime, a second complaint had been received and this was in respect of the bench in the fenced lawned area at Talbot Way. The resident who complained had stated that there was significant drug activity and anti-social behaviour taking place at this location and it was causing great disturbance to the area.

The Clerk had contacted PCSO Alexis Barrington about this, and Councillor Peter Groves (in his capacity as a Borough Councillor) had raised this with Nantwich Police.

The Parish Council was asked to consider if the bench should be removed and re-located elsewhere in the parish. As this land was owned by the Parish Council, the removal of the bench did not require permission from Cheshire East Council, but its location to a new site would require permission.

If it were to be re-located, Members suggested that the most appropriate location would be either the bus stop close to Bishop's Wood, or on Peter de Stapleigh Way.

RESOLVED: (a) That, on balance, the bench remain at Talbot Way, pending further information from the local Police; and

(b) That the Police be asked for advice to enable the Council to reach a decision.

(Borough Councillor Andrew Martin withdrew from the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

132 DRAFT NEWSLETTER

The first draft of the newsletter was submitted, and the following comments made.

- A map be provided to accompany the article on flooding in the parish.

Arising out of discussion of this item, it was reported that Cheshire East Council would be putting pressure on landowners in the next few months, urging them not to fill in ditches on their land as this was a principal cause of flooding.

- Victorian Orchard Restoration. Sue Sherwood was preparing an article for the newsletter.

133 CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY – DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Parish Council was invited to comment on Cheshire Fire Authority's draft Integrated Risk Management Plan by Friday, 20 March 2020. The final plan would be approved on 22 April 2020.

The plan provided information on the risks facing Cheshire Fire Authority and detailed how the organisation was structured and operated to mitigate these risks. It also detailed how the Authority was funded and outlined key prevention, protection and emergency response plans over the next four years.

RESOLVED: That no observations be made on the Cheshire Fire Authority – Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan.

134 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

It was reported that although CVS had sent official confirmation that the Parish Council had satisfied the requirements of the GRIPP assessment, Cheshire East Council which awarded the franchise had now written to say that the franchise was to be withdrawn. This was owing to the time lapse between making the grant offer and progress on the governance arrangements. Its view was that the Connected Community Centre was *not a priority for Stapeley Community Hall*.

CEC was reviewing the initial phase of delivery of Connected Communities and would, in due course, discuss this with the Parish Council once its next phase of the strategy is launched.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Peter Groves and the Clerk arrange to meet with Katy Ellison the Cheshire East Council Senior Community Development Officer and report back to the Parish Council.

135 INFORMATION REPORT

The following information matters were reported.

1) Title Search on Victorian Orchard and Pond adjacent Clarendon Court

The Clerk was required to submit personal formal identification documents to Hall Smith Whittingham before any investigation could be undertaken. This was to comply with the Money Laundering Rules which required clients to provide up-to-date identity documents for each transaction.

These had to be presented in person at the solicitors' office. The Clerk was presenting these on 18 February 2020, following which the investigation would proceed.

2) Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire – Elections 7 May 2020

It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner elections were to be held on Thursday, 7 May 2020 and the community hall was to be used as a polling station.

3) Connected Communities

The note on the agenda was incorrect and the up-to-date information was given in Minute No. 134 above.

136 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16 March 2020

Draft

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and concluded at 8.40 pm