

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STAPELEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2019 IN STAPELEY COMMUNITY HALL, PEAR TREE FIELD,
STAPELEY, NANTWICH**

PRESENT: Councillor J Hillman In the Chair
Councillor M Docker Councillor G Gwinn
Councillor S Gwinn-Freemantle Councillor K Nord

APOLOGIES: Councillors E Boughey, J Davenport, S Ford, P Groves and M Theobald

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public

82 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.

83 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

84 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Order No. 1 members of the public were able to ask a question or make a statement.

There was one member of the public in attendance, representing a group of residents on London Road and they wished the Parish Council to consider (a) either including grass cutting of the triangle at the junction with Second Dig Lane/London Road into the Parish Council's grounds maintenance schedule; or (b) moving the seat on the triangle and installing it at another location in the parish.

The basis for the request was that the residents complained that the area had become overgrown, and they considered that the seat was not in a suitable location.

The resident was thanked for attending and Members agreed to consider the suggestions as part of the budget proposals for 2020-2021.

85 CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

There were no Borough Councillors in attendance.

86 FINANCIAL MATTERS

86.1 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised.

£243.90	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's salary and employer's NI
£34.50	Shires Payroll	Cost of payroll service
£927.00	Crystal Clean South Cheshire	Cleaning Community Hall
£20.00	Target Windows	Cleaning of Community Hall windows.

£3,057.66 Carol Jones Reimbursement for payment, in full, of the Water Plus account.

On 13 November 2019, the Clerk received a phone call from a Water Plus engineer to inform her that he was going to disconnect the water supply at the community hall, immediately. The only way to avoid this was to pay the account in full as the matter had been referred to Engage, a debt collection agency.

The Clerk made a personal cash transfer and the account is now at nil balance.

The agency has provided e-mail confirmation that the bill has been settled in full.

£11.99 C Jones Purchase of diary for Community Hall bookings 2020-2021

86.2 BUDGET PROPOSALS – 2020-2021

This was the Parish Council's second consideration of the draft budget proposals for 2020-2021. There were no significant amendments made at the October meeting, but minor amendments had been made. The Clerk's revised report was submitted together with the Budget Monitoring statement (as reported to the September meeting) and draft budget proposals for 2020-2021

The Parish Council would be asked to approve its budget at the December 2019 meeting.

Members discussed the schedule as follows.

Line 22	Member training	Increase from £200 to £300
Line 25	£1,000 contribution to Nantwich Town Council for allotments for residents of the parish.	Check if there is a proposed increase in the contribution in 2020-2021.
Lines 28/29	Speed Watch Equipment	Information was awaited from TWM Traffic Management regarding the most appropriate speed unit for installation, i.e. VAS or SID.
Line 33	Cleaning community hall/opening and closing for private events.	Increase from £7,500 to £10,000.
Line 51	New seats in the parish.	Figure changed to £2,000. Provide a seat at the bus stop near to Bishop's Wood, and an additional seat on Peter de Stapleigh Way.
#	Add a sum for maintenance of all the seats in the parish (purchased by the Parish Council).	No figure included.
Line 52	Reinstatement of hedgerows.	As there were no costings for this project, nor were there suggested locations for the hedgerows, it was agreed that this should be deferred to 2021-2022. This would allow research to be carried out during 2020-2021 to enable a fully costed project plan for the next financial year.

Line 53	Four litter-bins	Add a sum of £1,600 (approximately £400 each). SPAG to be asked to suggest locations for the bins.
Line 55	Conservation Projects	Ask Sue Sherwood for an estimate of the costs, but possibly defer to the next financial year.
#	New line: Ceiling-mounted projector for community hall.	£500

RESOLVED: That the Clerk recalculate the budget proposals and submit a revised report and schedule to the next meeting.

86.3 SPEED WATCH EQUIPMENT (VAS or SID)

This matter had been discussed as part of the budget proposals.

87 PLANNING APPLICATION

The Parish Council was asked to submit observations on the following planning application:

19/5181N 2 Newland Way, Stapeley CW5 7JH
Proposed ground floor extension on side of detached house to form garden store.

RESOLVED: That no observations be made in respect of planning application No. 19/5181N.

88 PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION (CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL)

Cheshire East Council is consulting on its budget for 2020-2024. The document is 96 pages long and is not enclosed, but the link to access it is given below. The consultation commenced on 1 November 2019 and concludes on **6 January 2020**. Members are, therefore, able to formulate comments at this meeting, or decide at the December meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council decline to comment on the Cheshire East Council Pre-Budget Consultation.

89 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL)

Cheshire East Council (CEC) was conducting a review of town and parish council governance arrangements across the Cheshire East Borough to *ensure that these continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government*.

The Borough Council had undertaken some preliminary analysis of each of the town/parish council wards within the borough. A small number of requests had been received from parish councils asking for their specific governance arrangements to be considered.

Cheshire East Council was created on 1 April 2009 and had yet to carry out a full review of town and parish council governance. It was considered good practice to carry this out every 10-15 years.

It was expected that the review would be concluded well before the May 2023 local elections.

The Parish Council was invited to submit comments by **31 January 2020** and was specifically invited to consider (a) how effective the current governance arrangements are; and (b) are there any changes required, and if so, what changes, and the reasons for those changes.

RESOLVED: (a) That Members decline to comment on the Community Governance Review at this meeting; and (b) That a formal response be prepared at the December 2019 meeting.

90 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY - 2019-2024 (CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL)

The Parish Council considered Cheshire East Council's Draft Environmental Strategy. It set out the strategic goals and priority actions the Council will take to respond to the global challenge of climate change, and to protect and enhance the local environment.

The Borough Council was now consulting on this strategy, seeking views by **1 December 2019** on how it could be improved and whether the Parish Council could support the wider community to reduce its carbon footprint.

RESOLVED: (a) That the general ethos of a carbon-neutral future as enshrined in the Cheshire East Council Draft Environmental Strategy 2019-2024 be supported;

(b) That it be noted that as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, Cheshire East Council had removed some of the Parish Council's policies; and

(c) That it be noted that as there was no detail on how the aims could be achieved, no comments could be made.

91 PLAQUES FOR BENCHES

At the previous meeting, Members discussed if plaques should be added to the benches already purchased. Reference was also made to a specific dedication on one of the benches.

It was agreed that this be discussed again at this meeting.

92 CLERK'S INFORMATION REPORT

• **Ponds in Stapeley**

As requested at the October 2019 meeting, the Clerk had contacted the Duchy of Lancaster about the pond area adjacent to the Clarendon Court on Beechwood Close. A response was awaited.

93 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 transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

94 QUOTATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA, TALBOT WAY

(Reason for exclusion: Commercially sensitive)

The Clerk had contacted a total of four organisations inviting them to quote for the maintenance of the conservation area at Talbot Way.

Two responses were available, one of which the Parish Council considered at its July 2019 meeting.

Both quotations were submitted for information only. It was expected that the remaining two quotations would be available for the meeting in December. In the meantime, the Clerk had included an appropriate sum in the draft budget for 2020-2021.

95 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16 December 2019