

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STAPELEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2019 IN STAPELEY COMMUNITY HALL, PEAR TREE FIELD,  
STAPELEY, NANTWICH**

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>PRESENT:</b>       | Councillor M Theobald             | Chairman            |
|                       | Councillor M Docker               | Councillor S Ford   |
|                       | Councillor S Gwinn-Freemantle     | Councillor P Groves |
|                       | Councillor J Hillman              | Councillor K Nord   |
| <b>APOLOGIES:</b>     | Councillors E Boughey and G Gwinn |                     |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>        | Councillor J Davenport            |                     |
| <b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b> | Four members of the public        |                     |

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**67 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.

**68 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**69 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**69.1 Questions from the Floor**

Other than two invited guests (Matthew Nord and Stuart Deeley) there were no members of the public in attendance at this point in the proceedings.

**69.2 Presentation by Stapeley Speed Watch Co-ordinator**

Matthew Nord, the Speed Watch Co-ordinator for Stapeley, was in attendance and made a presentation to the Council in respect of suggested improvements to the speed watch system currently in place.

Members had received a copy of his email to the Clerk, setting out his detailed proposals.

In summary, Mr Nord suggested that rather than using the speed indicating devices (SID) the Parish Council should consider using vehicle activated signs (VAS). He explained that the technology had advanced since SIDs were first introduced and the VAS were more effective.

Mr Nord undertook to provide literature for Members who, in turn, agreed to consider this matter as part of its budget proposals.

The Clerk was asked to seek a quotation for repair of the broken sign at the junction of Bishop's Wood to be submitted to the meeting to be held on 18 November 2019.

(Note: Councillors Peter Groves and Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle joined the meeting during discussion of this item.)

### **69.3 Proposed move of Crewe & Nantwich Gymnastics Association to a site at The Vagrants, Willaston**

The Chairman of the Crewe & Nantwich Gymnastics and Community Activities Association (Stuart Deeley) was in attendance and presented his proposals for the development of a piece of land on the Vagrants site, Willaston. A copy of his PowerPoint presentation slides had been provided to Members.

Members were reminded of the need to be objective and must be wary of pre-determination as the planning application would, in due course, be submitted to the Parish Council for comment.

The Association had been offered a spare piece of land at the Vagrants and is at the stage of collecting relevant information to enable a planning application to be prepared. As part of this exercise, the Chairman of the Association presented the organisation's plans which included sport and community resources. They considered this would be a worthwhile addition to the Vagrants' site, providing a centre of excellence for gymnastics, fitness facilities for all ages and a meeting point for everyone.

Members were able to ask questions, and the Chairman of the Parish Council commented that the proposals may fit in well with the provisions in the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **70 CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Borough Councillor Peter Groves' report included the following topics.

- The expansion of Stapeley Broad Lane School was not going ahead.
- Public footpath from Stapeley Gardens to Peter de Stapleigh Way.
- Car parking in Nantwich. The unofficial car park on St Anne's Lane would soon cease to be a car parking facility.
- Footways on Beam Street, Nantwich were to be repaired by the Civic Society.
- CCTV coverage was to be expanded in Nantwich.
- A new Chief Executive was to be appointed at Cheshire East Council.
- The A500 was to be closed at night during the dualling of the road.
- Local Transport Review.

## **71 PONDS, STAPELEY**

A resident had asked the Parish Council to consider the following matter. He was in attendance to listen to the discussion.

Behind what was Clarendon Court Nursing Home on Peter de Stapleigh Way there was, what was formerly a healthy pond which was a habitat for the Great Crested Newt and insects such as damsel and dragonflies. There were also small carp in the pond. The pond had now dried up and was filled with detritus of various sorts.

The resident's understanding was that it had been a condition of the planning approval that the pond should be retained as a nature habitat.

The resident reported that conservationists and University College, London were planning to restore at least fifty ponds in the hope of attracting back rare wildlife such as the Great Crested Newt and encouraging insects which fed Swallows and other species.

Helen Greaves of UCL Geography Department said "*Ponds are a lifeline for Britain's wildlife providing food and habitat but they are in decline. It's a national crisis. We are calling on farmers and the public to help bring ponds back to life*".

The resident suggested that with the help of the Parish Council and maybe youth volunteers, or a project for Reaseheath Agricultural College, the pond could be restored with a seating area for residents to enjoy.

Members supported the notion but acknowledged that ownership of the land was unknown, and the Parish Council did not have the power to take any action. There were numerous pockets of land in the parish, particularly on the housing estates, where ownership was unclear.

The planning conditions could be checked to establish if there was a condition requiring the area to be maintained as a conservation area.

In the meantime, the resident was asked to contact Councillor Peter Groves direct, in his capacity as a Borough Councillor, and he would make enquiries.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact the Duchy of Lancaster to try to pursue this matter.

## 72 FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 72.1 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  |
| £240.00   | C M Jones                    | Reimbursement for payment of invoice from ASB Electrical to carry out the following work.<br>Supply and fit 4 x 11watt LED circular bulkhead light fittings to ladies' washrooms - £200<br>Supply and fit new dusk sensor to External Photocell switch - £40 |
| £1,116.00 | Crystal Clean South Cheshire | Cleaning Community Hall (£930.00 net and £186.00 VAT)  |
| £20.00    | Target Windows               | Cleaning of Community Hall windows.  |
| £60.00    | ASB Electrical               | Replacement light in Community Hall  |

### 72.2 BUDGET PROPOSALS – 2020-2021

The Parish Council considered the budget proposals for 2020-2021. The following documents were submitted.

- Clerk's covering report
- Budget Monitoring Statement (as reported to the September meeting), together with draft budget proposals for 2020-2021

The following changes were made:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Line 28 and 29 | Speed Watch - Combine the two as one item.   |
| Line 31        | Street lighting electricity. Include sum for 2020-2021.  |
| Line 37        | Need to review gas meter to establish gas usage and predict future spend from that. It was noted that since the Council had occupied the community hall (November 2012) no invoices had been received. |
| Line 39        | Electricity at community hall. Include sum for 2020-2021   |
| Line 45        | Fire Risk Assessment – community hall. Agreed that this should be undertaken every five years.   |

Line 56 Restoration of Victorian Orchard be renamed 'Conservation projects' to include any work which might be undertaken under Minute No 71 above.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk amend the budget proposals as agreed and submit a revised document to the meeting to be held on 18 November 2019,

### 72.3 INTERNET BANKING

The Parish Council considered the Clerk's information report on Internet Banking. The Clerk would be making further enquiries about the advantages and disadvantages of Internet Banking and would report to a future meeting.

### 73 PLANNING APPLICATION

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the following planning application, by 30 October 2019.

19/4547N 3A Talbot Way, CW5 7RR  
First floor side extension and single-storey rear extension.

**RESOLVED:** That no observations be made on planning application No. 19/4547N.

### 74 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

A resident who had complained recently about the overgrown grass on the triangle at the junction of Second Dig Lane with the A51, London Road, had asked if the Parish Council would consider including this as part of its regular grounds' maintenance schedule. This was an area of land on which one of the new benches had been fixed.

The resident contacted Cheshire East Council, but the response he received was that the land was not part of CEC's responsibility.

Subsequent to the complaint, the grass had, in fact, been cut, but the resident did not know by whom.

**RESOLVED:** That as ownership of the land on the triangle at the junction of Second Dig Lane with the A51 London Road, was unknown, no action be taken to include this area in the schedule of grounds maintenance work.

### 75 COMMUNITY HALL

The Parish Council considered a request from the Scouts which asked for a projector to be installed in the community hall, together with notice-boards inside the main hall.

The Scouts had commented that the lack of notice-boards within the main hall was a problem as they could not display any materials, posters, badge-work etc for the Beavers and Cubs. Other Scouts premises had materials on display which really helped their activities.

The Scouts had also asked if a ceiling-mounted projector could be fitted. Although they had used the screen in the hall, it caused a problem if they had to use a table on which to mount the projector.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the Parish Council consider purchasing a ceiling-mounted projector as part of its budget proposals for 2020-2021; and

(b) That the Scouts' request for additional notice-boards be declined on the basis that the hall was used for a variety of purposes and it would not be appropriate for notice-boards to be displayed in the main hall.

**76 PLAQUES FOR BENCHES**

The Parish Council considered the type of plaques which should be fixed to the six new benches recently purchased.

Reference was made to a resident who had died in the last year, and whether one of the benches should have a commemorative plaque.

As this was a sensitive matter, Councillors Peter Groves and Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle undertook to contact a relative of the deceased resident and report back.

**77 CEC WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Cheshire East Council was consulting on its Municipal Waste Management Strategy which had been in operation for 5 years ([Municipal Waste Management Strategy](#)).

The Parish Council was invited to submit observations.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council decline to comment on the CEC Waste Management Strategy, as a corporate body, but Members themselves could make comments as individuals.

**78 CLERK'S INFORMATION REPORT**

The Clerk's Information Report covered the following topics.

- Conservation Area – quotations
- Christmas Tree – ordered
- Connected Communities – Wishing Well Project had made direct contact to use the Community hall for a Youth Club on Saturday evenings.
- Community Hall – new activity. The Clerk updated the Council on this matter. The proposed activity was contrary to the lease and could not be accepted.
- Damaged steps adjacent to the MUGA.
- Police Cluster Meeting – 9 October 2019.

**79 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.

**80 COMMUNITY HALL – UNPAID FEES**

The Parish Council considered the Clerk's report in respect of (a) write-off action in respect of an unpaid fee by a client of the Community Hall; and (b) potential legal action to recover fees from a client who no longer used the Community Hall.

One of the debtors now had settled his account; the other remained outstanding but the debtor had undertaken to pay by 25 October 2019.

**RESOLVED:** That in the event of the debtor not settling the outstanding sum of £30.00, by 25 October 2019, the amount be written off.

**81 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**18 November 2019**

.....Chairman