

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STAPELEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 16 MARCH 2020 IN STAPELEY COMMUNITY HALL, PEAR TREE FIELD,
STAPELEY, NANTWICH**

PRESENT:	Councillor J Hillman	In the Chair
	Councillor J Davenport Councillor S Ford	Councillor M Docker Councillor P Groves
APOLOGIES:	Councillors J Davenport, K Nord and M Theobald	

137 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.

Councillor Gwinn declared a personal interest in planning applications Nos. 20/0696 and 20/0697 based on her friendship with the applicant's daughter.

No other declarations were made.

138 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

139 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance.

140 CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Borough Councillor Peter Groves' report included the following matters:

- Flexi-bus operation between 9.30 am and 2.30 pm.
- A new Bus Strategy Document was due to be issued in late Summer 2020. This would be subject to consultation with Borough Councillors.
- Potholes on Wybunbury Lane had now been repaired.

141 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Councillor Peter Groves and the Clerk reported on a positive meeting with Katy Ellison, Senior Community Development Officer, Cheshire East Council. Although there was currently no funding available to proceed with the Connected Communities franchise, it was expected that there would be an opportunity later in the year.

At an appropriate time, Ms Ellison would be invited to attend a Council meeting to report on progress and to outline any requirements from the Parish Council.

142 CASUAL VACANCIES

It was reported formally that Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle had resigned as a parish councillor. A notice advertising the vacancy had been displayed in the notice-board as part of the notice advertising the vacancy caused by Elizabeth Boughey's resignation.

Both vacancies had been referenced in the newsletter.

If no election was called, the Parish Council would be able to co-opt to both vacancies.

143 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved.

£243.90	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's salary and employer's NI
£1,074.60	Crystal Clean South Cheshire	Cleaning the Community Hall (£895.50 net and £179.10 VAT)
£20.00	Target Windows	Cleaning of Community Hall windows. 0602
£20.00	Target Windows	Repair of guttering adjacent to the MUGA.
£195.00	Jof's Mowing	To early March 2020

144 BENCH AT TALBOT WAY

There was no further report in respect of anti-social behaviour experienced at Talbot Way.

The Clerk and Councillor Peter Groves had both contacted the local Police, including the PCSO about this, but had yet to receive a response.

The Parish Council had already decided that the bench should remain in place until further information was available about the activities at Talbot Way.

In the absence of information from the Police, a decision could not be taken at this time.

145 PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Clerk was awaiting the Chairman's report for the newsletter, following which it would be issued to Johnson's the Printers for design. A copy would be issued to Members prior to placing the order for printing.

Members agreed that in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the newsletter should feature a prominent article, either as part of the Chairman's message or separately, giving information about sources of support for local businesses and vulnerable people in the parish which included those in self-isolation who may need additional support.

Councillor Hillman tabled an exemplar of a one-page document which could be prepared and distributed around the parish by councillors who were aware of residents who may need support.

No specific decision was made, but individual councillors would assist in preparing and distributing information to residents.

146 PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council was invited to submit observations on the following planning applications by 18 March 2020.

20/0779N 71 Broad Lane, CW5 7QL
Removal of 5.8 metres of existing hedgerow, create new access and driveway complete with turning area to allow vehicles to enter and depart in a forward motion.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council supports -

- (a) The Conservation Officer's views in respect of birds in hedgerows; and
- (b) The closure of the former access and replaced with a new access, on the grounds that an additional access would be detrimental to highway safety.

20/0696N New Dairy House Farm, Batherton Lane, CW5 7QH
Installation of four x air source heat pumps.

20/0697N New Dairy House Farm, Batherton Lane, CW5 7QH
Listed Building Consent for Installation of four x air source heat pumps

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council support applications Nos. 20/0696N and 20/0697N on the basis that the proposal was environmentally friendly.

147 INFORMATION REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following information matters.

1) Town and Parish Councils Conference

A provisional date of 12 May 2020 had been agreed as the date of the next Town and Parish Councils conference.

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

There was no further update in respect of these two projects. A response was awaited from Hall Smith Whittingham.

3) Land at Talbot Way – Conservation Area

The Clerk met on-site with a representative from CES to discuss the arrangements for the commencement of work on the conservation area. Work would start in the near future, and an invoice would be issued in April for the whole year. There was an option to pay monthly, and in view of the Coronavirus pandemic, this might be pursued as a better option.

All foliage removed would remain within the site to provide, for example, insect hotels and other habitats for wildlife.

148 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.

149 REQUEST FOR APPROVED ABSENCE FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

(Reason for exclusion: Relates to personal matters about an individual and it is not in the public interest to disclose the details.)

The Parish Council considered a request from Councillor Matthew Theobald, for an approved absence of six months for the reasons given.

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that if a member of a local authority failed throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his or her last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, the member '*shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.*'

Councillor Theobald's last attendance was 17 February 2020 and he would be unable to attend meetings until later in the year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Theobald's request for an absence of six months be approved.

150 COMMUNITY HALL

(Reason for exclusion: Likely to reveal the name of an individual)

The Parish Council considered a change in policy for the hire charges for regular clients of the Community Hall. The current practice for regular clients was to make a charge of £6 only where they varied their hire periods and reduced some of them to a half hour only.

RESOLVED: (a) That the minimum hire charge for regular clients be £12 per hour, or part thereof; and

(b) That this policy change be implemented from 1 April 2020.

151 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20 April 2020¹

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and concluded at 8.45 pm

¹ After the meeting, the country was placed in widespread quarantine and the Parish Council would not be able to meet until further notice.