

**CLERK'S REPORT – JULY 2014
(FOR INFORMATION)**

Meeting to be held on 21 July 2014

1 PLANNING MATTERS

○ **Muller Homes Planning Appeal**

The Secretary of State is expected to publish his report on or around 18 July and it is hoped that the outcome will be available for the Parish Council meeting.

○ **Land off Wrens Close (13/4904N) – full planning permission for 11 dwellings**

Following refusal of this planning application (by Cheshire East Council), the applicant has appealed the decision and an inquiry will now be held based on written representations and a site visit by a Planning Inspector.

Observations already made will be taken into account by the Inspector. When made, the decision will be uploaded onto the CEC planning portal.

2 COMMUNITY HALL

Notice-Board

The old notice-board has been removed from the wall of the community hall as it was broken and contributed to the neglected appearance of the hall. Councillor John Davenport is making arrangements to collect the board from the local resident who has kindly made it as a gift to the Parish Council. It is expected that it will be brought to this meeting for safe-keeping in the office until arrangements can be made for it to be affixed to the outside wall. This will be an opportunity for Members to view the notice-board.

Lease

It is understood that an amended draft lease has been forwarded by Cheshire East Council to the Legal Adviser for review before submission to the Parish Council. This does not present any problems as the Council continues to occupy the hall 'at will'. When the final lease is submitted, the Parish Council will be able to decide the terminal date of the new lease.

Interim Caretaking Duties

The Clerk has briefed the two staff who are to carry out interim caretaking duties and to date, Crystal Clean has opened and closed for two one-off events, at a total cost of £16.

Caretaker Post

There were 20 expressions of interest in the post of caretaker and at the time of publication of the agenda, there have been three applications with further applications expected. The Appointments Committee will be short-listing at its meeting to be held on 22 July 2014.

Grounds Maintenance

To report that following numerous requests, Cheshire East Council has now cut down the high weeds in the grassed area which surrounds the hall. The weeds have not yet been removed.

3 STAPELEY PARISH ACTION GROUP (SPAG)

The Minutes of the last SPAG meeting were sent by e-mail to Members on 24 June 2014. SPAG does not meet next until September. The following actions which impact on the Parish Council were noted.

- i. SPAG information on the Parish Council's website. SPAG is taking an interest in improving information for uploading onto the Parish Council's website. The last information provided by SPAG was from Bob Llewellyn, a founder member of the Steering Group. The Clerk has

asked the Secretary to provide information which can be uploaded onto the 'Parish Plan' page of the website.

- ii. Ordnance Survey maps. SPAG has requested an Ordnance Survey map of the parishes of both Stapeley and Batherton. The Clerk contacted Ordnance Survey to place an order for maps for both parishes. Ordnance Survey has responded to the effect that paper mapping is not provided; however, there are partner organisations which do provide paper maps and SPAG (as the Parish Plan Implementation Group) is entitled to place such an order in its own right. This information has been notified to the SPAG Secretary, and the Clerk has indicated that this cost could be met by the Parish Council as SPAG has no independent financial means.
- iii. Reference was made in the minutes to use of the 'speed gun' and this was addressed in the June report.

4 SPEED WATCH – ANALYSIS OF DATA

Councillors Mike Docker and Martin Malbon are in the process of downloading and analysing data from the vehicle-speed display units. Councillor Docker is e-mailing councillor colleagues separately to establish the most appropriate format for receiving the information.

This information will be presented to the October meeting to enable the Parish Council to establish the effectiveness of the scheme.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence have been forwarded to Members as and when they arrived.

Cheshire East Council

- New annual competition – launch of the 'Great British High Street of the Year Awards'. Deadline for applications is 1 August.
- Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review
The Borough Council is conducting a review of all polling districts, polling places and polling stations in the borough in the next few weeks. Representations are invited in writing by 15 August 2014. Such representations could include, for example, comments on the facilities offered by the existing polling stations, the need for additional stations.
- Community Hubs
Community hubs are to be established across the borough. These are to provide spaces, services and activities where people need them and will use them locally - using a network of well-connected community buildings.

The hubs will together in each locality to develop and deliver a shared vision and plan, which is designed and led by the community. The aim is to develop networks of Community Hubs across Cheshire East by 2017, starting with establishing five pilots in 2014-15, one of which will be in Nantwich.

- List of minor works in Nantwich – funded and non-funded. The schemes relating to the parish are as follows:

Scheme No.	Scheme/location	Notes made by Highways Officers	Cost £
Funded schemes			
580	Pear Tree Field – Implement parking restrictions	Proposal formally advertised: no objections and scheme was due for implementation on 30 June 2014.	3,000
815	London Road	Request from residents for pedestrian crossing point near Wrights Court – agreed with Ward Members. Survey required	1,000

Scheme No.	Scheme/location	Notes made by Highways Officers	Cost £
Non-funded schemes			
188	Cronkinson Farm Estate 20 mph throughout	Not recommended at this time. Data indicates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no collisions resulting in personal injury; • The estate would have been designed to standards at the time which aimed to have mean speeds of 20 mph. • To introduce 20 mph means additional signage throughout the estate; and • It would be unlikely to be enforced by the Police. 	Unknown
255	A51 - Reduction of traffic congestion on the by-pass. Review roundabouts and at Newcastle Road/Elwood way. Re-align kerbs and white lines to widen left-turn lane into Elwood Way.	Concerns were not raised as part of the A51 route review and it is recommended that no action be taken.	Unknown
350	A51 London Road, in vicinity of Stapeley Grange. Speeding issue	No concerns/issues raised as part of A51 route review. Recommended: no action	Unknown
717	Wybunbury Lane – from B5071 towards A51 at Stapeley	Parish Council request for speed limit review owing to speeding vehicles by-passing using Newcastle Road. Speed surveys at two locations indicated east-bound 40.8 + 37 mph and west-bound 39.3 + 40.1 mph. Possible 40 mph limit. Recommended to implement speed limit reduction. (Wybunbury Parish Council raised this as an issue and SDPC supported it.)	10,000

The remainder of this report is devoted to dog-fouling!

6 DOG-FOULING

The issue of dog-fouling is to be included in the next Parish newsletter. SPAG has recently agreed to carry on with the faeces-spraying scheme which was initiative by Councillor Jo Hillman. Elsewhere on the agenda, the Parish Council is asked to pay for the latest batch of spray-paint. To assist SPAG in its awareness campaign, the Clerk prepared an information note which could be used as a poster/flyer (given below).

In the meantime, Borough Councillors Peter Groves and Andrew Martin have been in contact with the Wistaston Ward Councillors (Margaret Simon and Jackie Weatherill) who, after discussing this problem with the Dog Warden, designed a leaflet based on one currently used by Preston City Council (see enclosed notice) and launched the community 'Dog Watch' scheme.

Staff from Hillside Veterinary Centre, together with the Dog Warden and the ward councillors, handed out leaflets to dog-walkers. Councillor Michael Jones (Leader of Cheshire East Council) provided some funding for this scheme and Borough Councillor Margaret Simon issued a press release.

Borough Councillor Peter Groves will be contacting Councillor Jones to enquire into the possibility of funding to initiate a similar scheme in Stapeley.

Notice prepared by Clerk for SPAG



Stapeley says “No” to dog-fouling

“Whoopsies” “doo-dos” and “poos” are some of the cute names which are used to give a pleasant name to what is an unpleasant subject.

Allowing your dog to foul on open spaces and failing to clear it up is irresponsible and potentially dangerous, especially to children.

Stapeley Parish Action Group (SPAG) is working to raise awareness of the health issues associated with dog fouling.

The local Council can issue dog control orders against individual dog-owners and can issue fixed penalties of £75. In very serious cases, magistrates can issue a maximum penalty of £1,000.

Dog faeces spread many diseases to human beings, and include the following:

- **Salmonella:** Salmonella bacteria are found in the gut and faeces of human beings and other animals.

People can be infected with salmonella through direct contact with their pets, or with their faeces. Proper washing of hands is essential after touching pets, or cleaning animal cages or after coming into contact with pet faeces.

- **Campylobacter:** This bacterium causes intestinal infections and can be transferred easily from dogs, especially puppies, to humans. This happens easily when people do not wash their hands properly after coming into contact with animal faeces, especially diarrhoea.
- **Round worm and ring worm (Toxocariasis or visceral larva migrans)** Toxocariasis is an infestation of human beings, usually children, with the larvae of *Toxocara canis*, a small threadlike worm that resides in a dog's intestine. This can trigger allergic reactions such as asthma but can also have more serious effects such as loss of vision, at least partially.
- The causes of roundworm infection follow the pattern of most worm infestations. Eggs of the worm are discharged in the stool of an animal or human. Eggs can be ingested directly if contaminated hands touch the mouth. The eggs hatch in the intestine, releasing larvae which can penetrate the gut wall, enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body.

Symptoms vary depending on a person's age, the intensity of the exposure and sensitivity to the larvae. Symptoms are varied and include pneumonia, coughing, fever, skin rash and liver enlargement.

- **Giardia and Cryptosporidium:** These are parasites called protozoa that can cause intestinal disease. Dogs can be infected with these parasites, without having any symptoms themselves. Direct contact with pets can cause people to be infected. For people who have a compromised immune system, this infection could be fatal.
- So.....please pick up after your dog and keep us all safe.

The press release issued by Cheshire East Wistaston Councillors Margaret Simon and Jacquie Weatherill is given below. This was accompanied by photographs taken with staff at Hillside Veterinary Centre and has given considerable publicity to the scheme which was launched in the 'Joey the Swan' area of Church Lane, an area which is frequented by dog-walkers.

PRESS RELEASE
ISSUED BY COUNCILLORS MARGARET SIMON AND JACQUIE WEATHERILL

Dog Watch aims to encourage responsible dog ownership by engaging both dog owners and members of the public. They are supported by Hillside Veterinary Centre, Crewe Road, Nantwich, who have donated hundreds of 'poo bag dispensers' for distribution to dog walkers. The Councillors, with Hillside Vet Nurse Bev Richards Community Warden Tim Beckett and Dog Warden Keith Massey, have put up 'Dog Watch' signs in the Joey the Swan area and handed out leaflets and wallet sized cards containing useful contact phone numbers enabling residents to report dog fouling incidents, report a straying dog, discuss dog related issues and a number of other Council services including general enquiries.

Margaret Simon says:

"Dog Watch is a very positive way of engaging the public and dog owners in addressing and taking responsibility for keeping our streets and open spaces free from dog fouling. I have two dogs of my own and, whilst I am out walking them, other dog owners often grumble about the amount of dog mess in certain parts of our local area. The idea of Dog Watch was mentioned to me by a fellow dog walker who was keen to see us implement an initiative to tackle the problem in a positive way. We chose to start at the Joey the Swan area because we have recently had a number of complaints about its public pathways. So far everyone who has taken the time to stop and speak to us about Dog Watch has been very pleased that we are doing something to try to reduce the problem of dog fouling. They have also suggested other areas close by that would benefit from Dog Watch. Clearly we are on the right track with this scheme."

Jacquie Weatherill says:

"Perhaps unbelievably, complaints about dog fouling are amongst the most common reason for residents to contact their Councillor. The Council often gets criticised for the small number of penalty notices it gives out for dog fouling but most residents would understand that our Wardens are unlikely to be 'on the spot' to witness every incidence. That's why we need to work proactively with our residents. Our Ward covers a very large area, we have the Connect 2 pathways in our Ward and also the linear pathways and open spaces by Wistaston Mill, we intend to roll out Dog Watch in those areas in the very near future."

Vet Nurse Bev Richards, from Hillside says:

"Everyone at Hillside is delighted to support Cllrs Simon and Weatherill in their Dog Watch scheme, responsible dog ownership is key to keeping our streets and open spaces clean. Picking up after your dog helps us to have clean and safe places for everyone to enjoy whether you are a dog owner or not. We are happy to donate the 'poo bag dispensers' to the Councillors to give away to dog owners. We would like to think that most dog owners already carry poo bags and we would also hope that all owners will have their dogs micro-chipped so that their pet can be returned to them if it gets lost or strays. Hillside is working with the Dog's Trust at the moment and is offering free micro-chipping for your dog until the end of the year."

Community Warden Tim Beckett says:

"I think Dog Watch is a brilliant way to engage the public in a positive way. Joey the Swan is the ideal area to start this scheme as it is widely used by children, families, walkers and dog walkers. I'm looking forward to working with Cllrs Simon and Weatherill when they roll Dog Watch out to other areas in their Ward."

Whilst we were on the Joey the Swan pathway we came across a lost dog. It came to Cllr Simon and her two dogs but we quickly realised that his owner was not with him. Fortunately, we were able to use the Micro-chip scanner on him and were able to start the process trying to reunite him with his owner. Bev's message about getting your dog micro-chipped is a very important one."

The important Cheshire East contact numbers contained in the Dog Watch literature are:

To report a dog fouling incident or
To report a straying dog or
To discuss dog related issues – 0300 123 5021
For all other enquiries 0300 123 5500

If you would like to have your dog micro-chipped free, under the Dog's Trust micro-chipping scheme, phone
Hillside Veterinary Centre on 01270 625310.

- End -

Carol Jones
Clerk
14 July 2014