

**CLERK'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2015
(FOR INFORMATION)**

Meeting to be held on 16 February 2015

1 INTRODUCTION

The report is for information only, but Members can seek clarification on any item.

2 STAPELEY PARISH ACTION GROUP (SPAG)

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2015 are appended to this report.

3 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL MATTERS

Members will be interested in the following, which Borough Councillors Peter Groves and Andrew Martin will reference during their own report.

- On 22 February 2015, the Council will be setting its budget for 2015-2016; there are no planned reductions in service for the forward year.
- Unemployment in the borough has reduced to 1%.
- 70 jobs have been created at Redsands (the former children's centre in Willaston). The future use of the site is not yet public knowledge.
- Progress is being made on the scheme to generate long-term, renewable energy from geothermal power, branded as 'Fairerpower for All' and is expected to result in costs which are 67% below the mean average of the top six energy providers.
- The Council is currently preparing a number of policy documents which will be rolled-out to town and parish councils; one of the documents will refer to the possible merger of schools in the Borough to address the issue of falling pupil numbers.

4 POLICE CLUSTER MEETING

Councillor Mike Docker attended a recent Police Cluster meeting. There are no specific matters to report.

5 SPEED WATCH – PRESENTATION OF DATA

Although the presentation of data downloaded from the vehicle-speed display units is acceptable to the Police, it is understood that some parish councils are forwarding the information in a different format.

The Police will be investigating how they can manipulate their own systems to harmonise the data.

6 CHESHIRE EAST HIGHWAYS

Cheshire East Highways Officers have made contact with town and parish councils to introduce themselves.

Phil Grocott is the Local Highways Officer for the Crewe and Nantwich LAP area and has offered to discuss highways matters during the Summer months.

Wayne Ashdown is the Network Management Team Leader and has offered guidance on new legislation which came into force in October 2014.

Both Officers are willing to attend a parish council meeting later in the year, but have indicated that as there are 40 town and parish councils in the Crewe and Nantwich Area, it will be a few months before either can attend.

7 LAND AT TALBOT WAY

Members will see elsewhere on the agenda that there is an invoice from Greenspaces, South Cheshire for the maintenance work on the wildlife area. Councillor Hillman continues to inspect monthly and reports by exception.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence have been forwarded as and when they were received.

9 ELECTIONS – 7 MAY 2015

9.1 Timetable

The following is the broad timetable for the elections on 7 May 2015. This applies to Parliamentary, Borough and Town and Parish Councils.

- Publication of notice of election Not later than Monday 30 March 2015
- Delivery of nomination papers (ie by candidates for election, to be delivered to Borough Council Head Office in Sandbach) Any working day during the hours stated on the Notice of Election until 4.00 pm on Thursday, 9 April 2015
- Publication of Statement of Persons nominated 10 April 2015

All councillors retire together at midnight on Monday, 11 May 2015. The annual meeting of the Parish Council must take place on the fourth day after the date of the elections (11 May 2015) or within fourteen days thereafter (by Monday, 26 May).

The Parish Council's Annual Meeting is Thursday, 21 May 2015.

9.2 Briefings

Cheshire East Council is arranging briefings to remind candidates of the nomination procedures and other election matters. Anyone interested in reserving a place should contact the Elections Team either by phone on 685922 or by e-mail at: electoral.information@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Briefings will be held on the following dates:

Date	Venue	Start Time	Type of Election Briefing
20/02/2015	Sandbach Venue to be notified on booking	10.30am	Parliamentary
		2.30pm	Parliamentary
23/02/2015	Crewe Venue to be notified on booking	5.30pm	Borough
		7pm	Town and Parish
24/02/2015	Macclesfield Venue to be notified on booking	5.30pm	Borough
		7pm	Town and Parish
27/02/2015	Sandbach Venue to be notified on booking	10am	Borough
		11.30am	Town and Parish

Date	Venue	Start Time	Type of Election Briefing
2/03/2015	Nantwich Venue to be notified on booking	5.30pm	Borough
		7pm	Town and Parish
4/03/2015	Congleton Venue to be notified on booking	5.30pm	Borough
		7pm	Town and Parish
5/03/2015	Macclesfield Venue to be notified on booking	5.30pm	Borough
		7pm	Town and Parish
6/03/2015	Crewe Venue to be notified on booking	5.30pm	Borough
		7pm	Town and Parish

Carol Jones
Clerk
6 February 2015

APPENDIX

STAPELEY PARISH ACTION GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT BRINE LEAS SCHOOL ON 26 JANUARY 2015

PRESENT: Noel Wagstaff, Val Ingram, Bob Walker, Sue Sherwood, David Ingram, Angus Graham

APOLOGIES: Rob Morton, John Davenport

ACTION

1. **MINUTES** of the previous meeting were received and accepted.

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Finalisation of annual accounts

The treasurer, Rob Morton to be reminded to sign accounts and send a copy to Carol Jones Parish Clerk. The report is also to be circulated to all members of SPAG.

RM

All other matters arising taken under main agenda items.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Stapeley Parish Council

No correspondence received from Carol Jones.

CVS

An invoice had been received from CVS Cheshire East for £45 for 15 months membership (previously free). After some discussion it was agreed that the secretary should write a letter of resignation.

SS

4. **FINANCIAL**

Bank Account Mandate

All paperwork had now been completed.

Grant applications

An application had been made for development of a trim trail on land currently owned by Bovis. No reply had been received from Bovis to the question of timetable of land transfer to Cheshire East Council despite repeated enquiries from NW.

NW

Stapeley Parish Council Budget 2015

VI had contacted Sarah Baron, Cheshire Community Action, re funding for insurance costs for playground equipment. A reply had been received from Claire Jones who suggested that this may be covered through the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance or they could perhaps help with a small annual donation. Alternatively she suggested two possible sources of community grants.

VI

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Litter Group

No organised litter picks had taken place in December/January but individual members of the team had continued litter picking. Organised picks would restart in February in early evenings and /or weekends.

NW

Dog Watch

Leaflets, cards and tubes of collection bags had been distributed. Residents were asked if the situation had improved on the Cronkinson Farm estate since the scheme had been implemented. This would be posted on Facebook.

AG

ACTION

S.106 Agreement Land

Entrance to Hawksey Drive

NW was in contact with Taylor Wimpey and expecting a response from in the near future re progress in the transfer of this land to Cheshire East which had been delayed.

NW

Peter de Stapleigh Way Street Lighting

Lack of lighting along the footpath on Peter de Stapleigh Way affecting pedestrian safety was highlighted in the responses to the preliminary Neighbourhood Planning questionnaire and had been raised with Cheshire East Council by Peter Groves. A response was expected.

Footpaths

After discussion of signposting of pedestrian routes from Stapeley Gardens and Cronkinson Farm estates into Nantwich it was agreed to walk the routes and assess their accessibility, map the routes and obtain improved signage where necessary.

NW, DI, SS

Trees

Concern had been raised by a member of the public over felling of two prominent trees adjacent to traffic lights at London Road/Peter de Stapleigh Way junction.

6. RECREATIONAL

Hastings Road S.106 monies

There were 3 years remaining to use the money. One suggestion was to use it as match funding on the trim trail project.

Additional play areas

VI to make follow up visit to Stapeley Gardens proposed play area site.

VI

Playground fence banners

NW had discussed the authorisation and potential income of advertising banners placed on the Community playground fence with the Head Teacher of Pear Tree School. It had been agreed that Pear Tree School would control the placing, size, content of banners and any income funds, with the understanding that banners should not obscure view of the playground and that SPAG would approach the school for any available funding should the need arise.

7. COMMUNICATION

After discussion it was agreed that AG would write updates on the following topics and put onto SPAG's Facebook page. Dog Watch, Litter picks, Speedwatch, Recruitment. This content would also be submitted to SPAG's page on the Parish Council website.

AG, NW

8. TRANSPORT

The problem of lorries parking in restricted areas to access the shops and takeaways next to the Cronkinson Farm Pub was discussed.

Speedwatch

All suggested monitoring sites had now been approved by Tony Hall. DI and NW volunteered to carry out speed checks and log data during the working day.

DI, NW

AG would ask Facebook users for suggestions of sites to be monitored.

AG

Graphs of previous Speedwatch data were available from PCSO Nick Jarvis.

NW

ACTION

9. PUBLIC SERVICES

Community Hall

The Parish Council planned to install metal fencing to replace the wooden barriers around the hall.

It was suggested that lighting be installed behind the MUGA.

Police Alert System

This was operating in the area. Participants could be notified of incidents by email or text.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

VI reported on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. A preliminary questionnaire had been circulated to school children, parents and on line. The five main themes identified from the responses to this survey were Housing, Traffic, Green Spaces, Amenities and Community. Questions had been drafted on these themes as well as Vision Statements for including in the next questionnaire which would be distributed to every household in the Parish.

SPAG's Feedback on the draft statements was that the housing questions were not representative of all potential views, and some of the language used was too emotive. The questionnaire produced should not be seen as being biased, for example it appeared to limit development to 300 houses. There was no mention of local economy and employment. It was also suggested that the individual statements and responses should be scored to give an indication of the importance given to them by residents.

VI would take this feedback to the Neighbourhood Plan meeting at 8.00pm.

VI

11. SPAG FUTURE PROJECT PLANS

Bulb planting

Planting plans would be drawn up in the spring. Planting could involve children from Pear Tree School.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AG reported that a volunteer had been found who was willing to run a youth club in the Community Hall.

Date of next meeting Monday 23 March 7.00pm Brine Leas School.