

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

Meeting to be held on 16 March 2015

1 INTRODUCTION

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

2 STAPELEY PARISH ACTION GROUP (SPAG)

2.1 Minute No. 12 of the SPAG minutes of 26 January 2015, stated '*AG reported that a volunteer had been found who was willing to run a youth club in the Community Hall*'. At the Parish Council's request, the Clerk contacted SPAG to ask for further details.

SPAG has not yet identified a volunteer to run a youth club. This is an idea which is in its embryonic stage and the venue for such a youth club has not yet been decided.

2.2 The next meeting of SPAG is 23 March 2015; the minutes of that meeting will be submitted to the Parish Council's April meeting.

3 ELECTIONS – 7 MAY 2015 – REQUIREMENTS OF 'PURDAH'

Members are reminded of the 'purdah' requirements surrounding the local elections. This is not of significance to the Parish Council as there are no Members standing on a political 'ticket' but it is worth noting.

During the period described as 'Purdah' (from the date the Notice of Election is published until the day of the election) Councils must not publish or arrange the publication of any material which, in whole or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party; nor must they give financial or other assistance to a person for the publication of material which the authority is prohibited from publishing itself. Care must be taken during 'purdah' but that does not mean that a council must suspend its normal business until after the election is over. In the case of *R (Lewis) v Persimmon Homes* in the Court of Appeal in 2008, Lord Justice Pill discussed the 'purdah' issue in relation to planning applications and said, in effect, that councillors are elected to make planning and other decisions and that the proximity of a local government election will not, of itself, justify a delay.

4 SPEED WATCH – PRESENTATION OF DATA

Owing to technical problems, the Clerk is currently unable to download the data provided by TWM Traffic Control Systems. The software needs to be re-installed on the Clerk's computer and this will be carried out before the April meeting.

5 ITEM FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Councillor Docker has asked for an item to be placed on an agenda for consideration by the Parish Council on a future occasion. The Clerk is currently making enquiries of various sources (CEC S.106 Compliance Officer and Borough Councillors) and expects to be able to have some factual information available for the April or May meeting.

The issue:

The Parish Council will be invited to ask Cheshire East Council to consider purchasing a 1 metre strip of land from the landowners the full length of Broad Lane from Maylands Farm to Stapeley Broad Lane School, and possibly as far as Mill Lane.

Councillor Docker suggests that the new CIL (community infra-structure levy) from the David Wilson Homes' estate, be used to fund this.

Enquiries to be made by the Clerk:

- Check with the Borough Council to establish if any CIL funding could be made available. CIL money is usually due when a development commences and this will already have either been paid to CEC, or at least, any phased payments will have been agreed between David Wilson Homes and CEC.
- Establish who owns the land on the route. From a cursory inspection, it would appear that much of the land from No. 57 onwards up to Mill Lane belongs to various householders and they might not be willing to sell off part of their front gardens.
- Establish if CE Highways is likely to have any funding in its highways budget for 2015-2016 or 2016-2017 to fund the purchase of the land, if it is to be a stand-alone project.
- Establish with CE Highways if a major project such as this could be included within its schedule of works. Such a scheme might need to be submitted by Peter Groves and Andrew Martin as the Ward Councillors.

6 CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Minutes of the ChALC meeting held on 26 February 2015 are appended. The next meeting is 26 April 2015.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Carol Jones
Clerk
9 March 2015

CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
CREWE AND NANTWICH AREA MEETING

Chairman Cllr John Cornell 01270 820247
Acting Secretary Jackie Weaver 01948 871314
 email: nikkihewitt@chalc.org.uk

MINUTES

Meeting held on Thursday 26th February 2015

Present

Joyce Bond (Wistaston)	Bill Consterdine (Audlem)	Lord D Millington (Wistaston)
Ann Broom (Hough & Chorlton)	John Cornell (Chairman)	George Wood (Haslington)
Ian Burton (Hatherton)	Trevor Gill (Weston & Basford)	

Apologies

Roy Cartlidge (Crewe)	Sharon Gorman (Haslington)	Richard Hovey (Haslington)
Janet Clowes (Doddington)	John Hammond (Haslington)	Philip Jackson (ChALC)
John Densem (Weston & Basford)	Mike Hill (Audlem)	

Welcome

The Chairman, John Cornell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular the Speaker (Andrew Thomson) and the Clerk for the evening (Nikki Hewitt). A warm welcome was also extended to Ian Burton (Hatherton) to this, his first meeting.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to ensure that Richard Hovey and Lord Millington were included on the distribution list for papers in the future.

Speaker – Andrew Thomson (Thomson Planning Partnership Ltd)

The Chairman invited Andrew to address the meeting. Andrew introduced himself as a resident of the parish of Bunbury and someone with a lifelong interest in planning.

He was currently working on six neighbourhood plans throughout the Cheshire East Borough and was also engaged as a planning consultant by Cheshire Community Action.

He wanted to draw four items in particular to the attention of the meeting:

1. The local plan strategy submission 2014;

2. The Inspector's Letter of October;
3. The High Court Appeal; and
4. The Cheshire East Council Work Programme (timetable – enclosed).

Andrew went on to explain the difference between Green Belt and Green Gap and highlighted the Inspector's desire for more Green Belt provision.

Andrew also promised to make the Local Plan timetable available and this will be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.

He noted that there was a large increase in the number of houses planned for and invited questions from those present.

Joyce Bond inquired about the non-preferred sites being reintroduced and Andrew said they are looking at as many sites as possible.

Andrew encouraged parishes to work together on the development of their Neighbourhood Plans and gave the example of Bunbury where a proposal for 180 houses was being tested through the Neighbourhood Plan process.

John Cornell asked the Clerk if it would be possible for ChALC to be a formal consultee in the planning and development process. The Clerk indicated that this was something she would discuss with the Board but that historically ChALC had adopted a more strategic role and had seen its position as ensuring the relevant statutory consultees had the opportunity to make their comments directly.

Andrew indicated that the parishes working together would have more influence with Cheshire East Council when it came to the protection of Green Belt or Green Gap and agreed to draft a suitable letter to convey the parishes concerns to Cheshire East. The Chairman was authorised to sign this off and sent it out on behalf of the meeting. CHALC will circulate the letter to all members.

John went on to say that he had recently written to Adrian Fisher and to Peter Raynes regarding the planning concerns expressed by the combined parishes and suggested that the Area Meeting would form the ideal forum for consultation regarding Strategic Planning issues relating to the area bordering the south and East of Crewe and Nantwich.

A further letter as had been agreed at the December meeting of the Area had been sent to Eric Pickles – a copy of the letter is available upon request and an acknowledgement was received from Edward Timpson and Cheshire East.

Trevor Gill raised the issue of Land Banking and it was felt that there was a role for ChALC to play in raising awareness of the issues and looking to possible ways of addressing it in the future.

Joyce Bond expressed concern at her perceived weakness of Cheshire East Council around highways issues.

Minutes of meeting held on 11th December 2014

It was agreed that the minutes of the December meeting be approved as a correct record.

Chairman's Report

In addition to the points raised earlier in the meeting the Chairman indicated that copies of the correspondence referred to above and the Local Plan timetable referred to by Andrew Thomson would be circulated with the minutes.

Updates from Members

Bill Consterdine advised that Audlem Playing Fields Asset Transfer was progressing well and it was hoped that this would be completed by May 7th.

Joyce Bond referred to concerns regarding HS2 and the effect of the local area which was raised at a recent workshop that she had attended.

Joyce further raised concern at the distribution of Area Meeting papers and indicated that copies were not being sent to Wistaston's Clerk. It may be helpful to note that Wistaston's papers are being sent to the three nominated representatives, Joyce Bond, John Moore and Lord Millington.

George Wood reported the sad news that Mrs Judd had recently passed away. Members offered their condolences.

Report from ChALC Representatives

George Wood reported that the February Executive Board Meeting of ChALC had been quite short and that he only wanted to report that the recently re-created parish of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths was now fully operational.

The creation of a new parish for Macclesfield Town was being fully supported by ChALC and elections to the new Council would be taking place in May.

Members were invited to note that ChALC would be looking to move offices in the near future although it is not anticipate that this will cause any disruption to the services provided to members.

To note the date of the next meeting - **Thursday 16th April – at Wychwood Hall at 7.30pm**