

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Dixon, Vice Chairman  
Councillor D Busby  
Councillor A Davies  
Councillor A Gardiner  
Councillor A Hewitt  
Councillor C Novak

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Craig Buckley - National Trust  
Jennifer Birch - National Trust  
Sue McDonald - Clerk  
Members of the public

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor M Fox

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

**2.1 Declarations of Interest:** None

**2.2 Dispensations:** None

## **3 MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting on 10th October 2016. Proposed by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Davies. **RESOLVED:** The minutes were accepted as a true record

## **4 MATTERS ARISING**

All matters arising from the last meeting were either dealt with or added as items to this Agenda

## **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME (10 MINUTES)**

Residents raised the following:

- **Drainage**

A resident had complained to Cheshire East about the drainage and flooding in Farm Fold and on Altrincham Road. The response received was dismissive and unsatisfactory suggesting that flooding was not a problem.

*Councillors were aware of the drainage and flooding issue but things could not progress until it was determined whether it was a National Trust or Highways issue following completion of the current Quarry Bank restoration project*

- **1 Oak Brow Cottages**

The planning application for this property, which is in a conservation area, shows a proposed detached garage which is both too large and also out of keeping with the with the existing cottages

*Councillors would discuss this under Item 12 Planning of this Agenda*

- **Thank You**

Thanks were expressed to the Council for arranging the cutting back of the hedge on Hollin Lane and beautiful Christmas tree display

*Councillors were grateful for the comment and made special mention of the efforts of Councillors Gardiner and Hewitt*

## **6 COUNCILLOR STOCKTON'S REPORT**

Councillor Stockton was unable to attend the meeting

## **7 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT**

### **7.1 General Report**

Craig Buckley, Area Ranger of the National Trust provided the following report:

- **Jennifer Birch**

Craig introduced Jennifer Birch who is Quarry Bank's Volunteer and Community Involvement Manager and who will be attending Council meetings.

- **Car Parks**

Construction of the new car park is well under way. It is hoped that both car parks will be operational after refurbishment of the summerhouse.

A new welcome building in the car park will be completed by June

- **Accessible Path**

Funding has been obtained for a new accessible path will be created from the Chapel to the Oxbow and northern parts of the garden

- **Gardens**  
The newly restored gardens are due to open on 11th February
- **Mock Fire**  
A mock fire to check safety measures will be stage on January 31st
- **Quarry Bank House and No. 13**  
Due to open in the Autumn
- **Phytophthora**  
A destruction notice had been issued for the removal of affected plants and a significant number had already been destroyed  
Larch felling of larch trees, which were planted in the 1930s, will take place in the near future. Access will be temporarily be closed off to enable the felling to take place

## 7.2 Meeting of the NT and Styal Council on 17th January 2017

A walk to the woods preceded the meeting, which was very productive, and at which the following major points were discussed:

- **Car Parking**  
The new car park will be free  
Quarry Bank supports the idea of a maximum of a two hour stay on Altrincham Road  
It is intended that the village car park will become 'permit holders only'
- **Repairs to Farm Fold**  
There is some remaining work to finish before the repairs can commence dA mock fire to check safety measures will be stage on January 31st

*Councillor Davies remarked that she had found the tour of the woods most enlightening*

## 8 WEBSITE

### 8.1 General Report

- **Website Changes**  
The new responsive website is now live. In answer to a question about responsiveness, the Clerk explained that it meant that the website adapted its layout according to the size of the device it was being viewed on - from a smart phone to a PC screen
- **Website Updates**  
The website is currently out of date due to illness. It is hoped that the website will be updated in the near future. The Clerk requested that any information destined for the website be temporarily sent to her

### 8.2 Website Enquiries

- **Non-receipt of a resident pass to the Mill**  
Passed to the National Trust
- **Why doesn't Cheshire East Remove Wasps' Nests?**  
Informed resident that Cheshire East could not provide a specific answer, just that the service was stopped in 2011
- **Potential Breach of Planning on Hollin Lane (building without planning permission)**  
The complaint was passed to Planning Enforcement although no response had yet been received
- **Are There any Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) at Styal Station**  
The Clerk established there were TPOs in place but no details were available. Advised enquirer to contact Cheshire East directly.  
*It was commented that British Rail can do what they want for safety reasons*
- **Why is Earlams so Called?**  
Asked by a man called Earlam. The Clerk responded by explaining it was after a previous owner of the shop
- **Non-receipt of a Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire**  
Passed to the Neighbourhood Planning Team

## 9 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

### 9.1 SEMMMS A6 Relief Road

There was nothing new of significance to report.

The consultation on the bunds closed on 27th November 2017.

### 9.2 Speed, Parking and Speed Limits

In spite of a number of requests to Cheshire East, there had been no action on these issues which the Council found most unsatisfactory. The Clerk was asked to escalate the matter.

**9.3 Airport Parking in Styal**

Councillor Novak had been conducting research into illegal parking sites within Styal and had identified a number of sites which did not appear to meet the regulations. Councillor Novak had been advised not to provide details of the sites at the current time

Councillor Novak had been in discussions with Manchester Airport about parking issues and the Airport stated that any new applications for providing parking services from Styal would be declined

**9.4 Other Highways Matters****9.4.1 Drainage and Gully Emptying**

- Styal Road  
All carriageway patching, gully empty and replacement tops/frames were completed mid November  
The majority of the lining renewals have also been completed but, due to wet weather there is possibly some lining outstanding. These will be re-programmed as necessary.
- Altrincham Road  
All the gullies that had previously been parked over were completed mid November. There may be further work but no updates received thus far

**9.4.2 Station Road/Sagars Road**

The Clerk had received a complaint that the area at the junction of Station Road/Sagars Road was in a very bad state of repair due to cars using it as a turning circle

**9.4.3 Clink Sign**

The sign for the Clink restaurant had fallen down and was lying at the side of the road. The Clerk will contact HMP Styal

**10 VILLAGE MATTERS****10.1 Styal in Bloom**

Councillors Hewitt and Gardiner attended the Northwest in Bloom awards ceremony at which Styal was awarded silver.

It was suggested, and agreed, that the award certificate should be displayed in Croftland Garden Centre because of the exceptional efforts of the proprietors

Kate Leigh, who was in charge of the competition's pre-requisites, has stated that she no longer wished to carry on due to the significant amount of time and effort involved.

**10.2 Other Village Matters**

The light in Farm Fold is not working. Craig Buckley will report the matter to Quarry Bank

**11 FINANCIAL MATTERS****11.1 Payments Authorised Since the Last Meeting**

To record payments, exceptionally authorised due to illness, between meetings:

£180.00	HMRC	PAYE Q3
£170.00	Ivy Cottage Tree Farm	Christmas Tree

**11.2 Authorisation of Payments: None****11.3 Precept**

It was unanimously agreed that the precept for 2017/2018 would be £8,200, the same as last year:

**11.4 Grants**

Three grant applications have been received:

£1,000	Styal Primary School	Replace benches used by children as outside classroom
£1,000	Styal Tennis Club	Refurbishment of club house

Proposed by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Hewitt. Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the above grants will be approved for payment in March

£1,000	Styal Steel Band	To ensure the band does not fold
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Councillor Busby wanted additional information on the financial aspects of the application. The Clerk would contact the applicant for more details and the grant application will be discussed at the next meeting

**11.5 Donations**

To discuss matters relating to donations

**11.5.1 Donation Request**

The Council considered a donation request from the North West Ambulance Charity but felt that it was unable to contribute to large national charities, preferring to concentrate on smaller, local charities

**11.5.2 Donations Policy**

Had the Council agreed to make a donation it would have necessitated a change to the Council's donations policy. However, in view of the Council's decision not to contribute, no change was necessary

**11.6 Other Financial Matters**

The tax base for Styal PC's precept is £22.36 in Band D (1p less than last year!!)

A resident had enquired whether or not the Council had spent the precept wisely over the past 5 years. The Clerk explained major expenditure using the current precept tax base and number of residents

**£22.36 x 500 x 5 = £55,900**

Styal PC's precept is £8,200 x 5 = £41,000 of which:

Salary and Administration: £20,000  
 Grants & Donations: £17,500  
 Fees £ 3,000 = **£40,500**

£55,900 - £40,500 = £15,400 / 5 = £3,080 which is possibly for provision non-collection of Council Tax

**12 PLANNING MATTERS**

**12.1 Planning Applications Already Considered**

To record planning matters exceptionally considered, due to illness, between meetings

16/4867M	81, Moss Lane, Styal, SK9 4LQ  Proposed single storey rear extension to link to outbuildings and conversion of outbuildings to living accommodation <i>No objections or comments</i>	01/12/2016
16/5682M	1 Pownall Farm Cottages, Hollin Lane, Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4JH  Replacement of conservatory to side/rear with new single storey extensions <i>No objections or comments</i>	15/12/2016
16/5555M	1 Oak Brow Cottages, Altrincham Road, Styal, SK9 4JE  Alterations and extension to dwelling plus detached garage/store and garden room. <i>No objections or comments</i>	22/12/2016

Regarding the complaint raised in Item 5 Public Participation, Councillors explained that the closing date for comments had passed. It may be possible to make representation before the committee date. The Clerk will investigate

16/5606M	Quarry Bank Mill, Quarry Bank Road, Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4LA  The construction of a 8ft x 20ft aluminium frame (powder coated grey) propagation greenhouse to provide professional propagation facilities for National Trust Staff gardeners. <i>No objections or comments</i>	05/01/2017
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**12.2 Planning Applications to be Considered**

None

**12.3 Other Planning Matters**

None

**13 BOUNDARY CHANGES**

The consultation period on the proposed constituency boundary changes had closed

**14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**14.1 General Report**

Councillor Dixon reported that things were relatively quiet at the present time although there were plans to hold a residents' meeting in the near future

He stressed that it was important to preserve the greenbelt in Styal

**14.2 Neighbourhood Plan Boundary Changes**

The Clerk had written a letter to Handforth Neighbourhood Plan stating that Styal was not prepared to change its Neighbourhood Plan Boundary to relinquish the area at Sagers Road/Clay Lane.

The Council had already objected to the proposed development at the site

**15 COUNCILLOR SURGERY**

Nothing was raised at the last Councillor Surgery

The Clerk provided posters for the next Councillor Surgery on 4th February 2017 and Councillors Davies and Dixon volunteered to attend

**16 MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

**16.1 General Report**

No reports or updates from the Airport were available

The concert tickets were donated to the over 60s club

**17 CORRESPONDENCE**

Emails: Forwarded to Councillors

Post::

Manchester Airport

George Osborne

George Osborne

Wilmslow School

Cheshire East

Concert tickets

Letter about boundary changes

Christmas Card

Christmas Card

Precept Arrangements for 2017/2018

**18 SHARED ITEMS**

• **Emails**

The Clerk stated that BT was sometimes delaying the delivery of emails from the Council to Yahoo email addresses. This was out of the control of the Council

• **Phoenix Club Advertising**

The Clerk had received a request to advertise a Phoenix Club event on the Council's notice boards and the website. Councillors reiterated that the notice boards and the website were for Council business only although the Club could possibly place its advertisement on the SVA notice board

**19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 MINUTES)**

Residents raised the following:

• **Litter**

There is a lot of litter being dropped, often on a daily basis, in Moss Lane and Wilkins Lane.

*Councillors had great sympathy with residents but could not offer any suggestions for its removal, since there was no program in place for daily litter removal and the Council had no resources to help*

• **Parking and Speeding**

Parking and speeding in Styal is getting worse

*Councillors were in full agreement with this statement and is doing all it can to resolve the problems.*

*However, Cheshire East is ultimately the body to implement any measures - see Item 9 Highways matters*

• **Precept**

Can the precept be raised?

*The Clerk explained that the precept could be raised but there would be a rise in Council Tax to reflect any increase*

• **SEMMMS A6 Relief Road**

The bundings take up more of the greenbelt and would be better placed further up Styal Road as they are currently in the wrong place

*Councillors expressed thanks for the information*

• **CS49 Sagars Road/Clay Lane**

The Local Plan has been deferred but the development at Sagars Road/Clay Lane will go ahead.

Although the land at the site was greenbelt, it was of the lowest grade

*Councillors were grateful for these comments*

**20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 20th February 2017 at 7.30 pm in Styal Methodist Church

**21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

***The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 pm***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman 20th February 2017