

PRESENT: Councillor R Dixon, Chairman
Councillor C Buckley
Councillor P Highfield
Councillor S Parker

IN ATTENDANCE: Jo Hudson, National Trust
Members of the public

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor C Novak

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

None

3 MINUTES

To approve as correct records, the minutes of the meetings held on 20th February 2020 and 16th March 2020. Proposed by Councillor Highfield, seconded by Councillor Dixon. RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings were accepted as true records

4 ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

It was recorded that, due to the Covid-19 epidemic, there would be no annual parish or annual parish council meetings in 2020. Thus, Councillor Dixon would remain in office as Chairman and Councillor Novak as Vice-Chairman until May 2021

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME (10 MINUTES)

Residents raised the following matters:

- **Gratitude to Organisations who Donated Time and Goods**

A number of Styal organisations had donated time and goods to people who might otherwise have suffered during the Covid-19 epidemic. The organisations included:

- Volunteers at Earlams
- The Ship
- Styal School

The Clerk will write a letter of thanks to each organisation

- **Car Boot Sale**

A resident queried whether car boot sales could be held during the Covid-19 epidemic.

Councillors had no definitive information on this matter but believed, if social distancing rules were obeyed, that holding and/or attending a car boot sale would be a matter of personal choice

- **Train Service**

The usual train service that stopped at Styal had been temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 epidemic. This left Styal residents without any form of public transport to travel outside Styal. It had been reported that there was no intention to resume the service in the near future. Is it possible for other train services which pass through Styal to temporarily stop?

The Clerk was asked to contact Northern Trains

- **Speed Watch**

Will Speedwatch be resumed?

Councillor Dixon explained that Styal Village Association would be taking responsibility for Speedwatch. The speed gun is currently in safe keeping with Mr J Novak

- **Overgrown Trees**

There are a number of overgrown trees on Holly Lane which are creating hazards for pedestrians and traffic alike

The Clerk will contact Highways

6 VILLAGE MATTERS

6.1 Christmas Tree

Councillors discussed whether to acquire and plant a Christmas tree or continue to purchase a felled tree each year. The option of having a Council owned tree would be cost effective in principle but there were potential problems associated with ownership - such as maintenance, requiring authorisation for its siting and electricity supply etc.. It was agreed that the annual purchase of a felled Christmas tree was the most practical option.

7 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

Councillor Audrey Davies resigned from the Council just prior to this meeting. Everyone on the Council is very sad to see her go as she has been a popular and clear thinking person who made many valuable contributions to Council proceedings. Her quiet yet considered approach to Council and Styal issues ensured that Audrey's deliberations were always well received. To say she will be sorely missed is an understatement..

Councillor Andrew Hewitt also resigned from the Council as from 19th May 2020. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, it has not been possible to record his resignation until now.

Andrew was a founding member of the Council and he was born and bred in Styal so he is passionately protective of Styal and its residents. He, like Audrey, provided valuable contributions over the years and was a genial and popular member of the Council. His happy and cheerful outlook on life is definitely missed.

8 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Following confirmation from Cheshire East that there was no requirement for an election to fill the two Councillor vacancies, the Council agreed to co-opt Ben Gray and Simon Bullock on to the Council. Proposed by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Highfield. RESOLVED: Ben Gray and Simon Bullock will serve as Councillors as from the meeting in September 2020

9 LODE HILL**9.1 Scam Parking Investment Companies Shut Down**

Two companies that persuaded clients to invest more than £25 million in parking spaces close to Manchester and Glasgow airports have been wound up by the courts

Investigators uncovered that Drake Estates began trading in October 2016, selling parking spaces at Lode Hill for £25,000. The site was not owned by Drakes Estates.

Funds received were used to purchase the Lode Hill site in the name of an offshore company acting as trustee for Drake Estates. The property, however, was subject to a unilateral notice and the transfer of the property's title to Drake Estates' trustee has still not been registered with the Land Registry

Investigators established that, between October 2016 and December 2019, Drake Estates and Aston Darby Group sold circa 456 car park spaces at the Lode Hill site in Manchester for close to £11.5 million. In addition Aston Darby Group sold more than 630 car park spaces at the Harbour Road site in Glasgow between April 2017 and December 2019 for more than £14.3 million

9.2 Car Parking Operation

Unfortunately the winding up of the above companies does not affect the off airport parking operation as they are separate entities. The Lode Hill operation is not on the list of Manchester Airport's approved off-site car parking companies.

Although this means that the problems on Altrincham Road are set to continue, investigations by other organisations are ongoing. The Council will advise residents as soon as there is anything to report

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS**10.1 Authorisation of Payments**

The following payments were authorised for issue. Proposed by Councillor Dixon, seconded by Councillor Parker:

£257.60 Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Premium
£207.00 ChALC	Annual Subscription
£180.00 S McDonald	Reimbursement for PAYE Q1
£ 20.00 CCA	Annual Subscription
£ 38.96 S McDonald	Reimbursement - PPE Equipment
£ 2.02 e-on	Electricity for Christmas Tree

10.2 Risk Assessment Statement

Councillors approved the Council's Assessment Statement for 2019-2020 which was signed by Councillor Dixon, as Chairman, and the Clerk

10.3 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

To approve the following forms which comprise the Council's return for 2019-2020

10.3.1 Certificate of Exemption

Councillors approved the Certificate of Exemption for 2019-2020 to certify Styal Council's income or gross expenditure is below £25,000. The form was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

10.3.2 Governance Statement

Councillors approved the annual Governance Statement for 2019-2020 which was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

10.3.3 Accounting Statement

Councillors approved the annual Accounting Statement for 2019-2020 which was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

10.4 Other Financial Matters

None

11 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**11.1 Restricted Parking on Altrincham Road**

Cheshire East Highways are currently in the process of getting the order for the restricted waiting sealed, and a site visit will be undertaken next week just to clarify the positions of the posts and signage. Once this has taken place the Construction team will programme it into the works to be completed,

The Clerk will be informed when the programme date is available.

11.2 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The Council had previously agreed to purchase a SID and had decided on one of two sites for its installation, both of which are slightly south of the entrance to Quarry Bank. Councillors are awaiting advice from Highways as to which (if either) of the chosen sites is appropriate. The Highways officer concerned is currently not in the office thus no updates are currently available

12 PLANNING MATTERS**12.1 Planning Applications to be Considered**

To discuss current planning applications

12.1.1 20/2659M Fairbourne

20/2659M	Fairbourne, 90, Hollin Lane, Styal, SK9 4JJ Single story side extensions to existing dwelling	29/07/2020
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Councillors had neither objections nor comments on this planning application

12.1.2 20/2659M Land between Clay Lane and Sagars Road

20/2659M	Land between Clay Lane and Sagars Road, Handforth Non-material Amendment to approval 19/2202M for Reserved Matters approval for 224 dwellings	No date assigned as yet
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Councillors did not comment on the planning application

12.2 Issue Regarding the Land between Clay Lane/Sagars Road

Councillor Stockton, of Cheshire East, submitted a member's question regarding this issue and requested clarification of why the land, which is clearly in Styal has been allocated as a Handforth site and also the burning question about the S106 awards. Councillor Stockton will receive a response in due course and will, in turn, inform the Council of the results

13 SHARED ITEMS**13.1 National Trust Resident Passes 2020/2021**

Normally new resident passes (those passes to Quarry Bank for local residents who don't receive a tenants' pass) would be issued at this time of year but Jen Birch, of the National Trust, has stated that due to Covid-19 restrictions the National Trust will accept the current year's passes (2019/2020) for another year.

Jen has some spare passes for any resident who had not received a pass or the pass had been lost.

13.2 Parking in the lay-by of the Disused Bus Stop

The Clerk contacted a Highways officer regarding the problem of parking in the lay-by which has caused problems for nearby residents.

The Highways officer has requested that everyone is patient whilst investigations are under way and an update will be provided as soon as possible

14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME (10 MINUTES)

Residents raised the following issues:

- Waste on Wilkins Lane**

There is a lot of waste on Wilkins Lane and nearby roads including fly tipping. It is believed that the problem has been exacerbated by the closure of a number of CEC tips

- **Lime Trees on Hollin Lane**

Concern was expressed that the Lime trees Hollin Lane had rotten roots. Water is seeping up from the verge and pooling on Hollin Lane itself. The water is present even when there has been no rain.

Councillor Buckley, who is a senior ranger with the National Trust, doubted that the roots were rotten based on the visual good state of the trees but added that Cheshire East carry out surveys of the trees in its area and would identify any problem trees

- **Breached Hedge on Holly Lane**

Off-road bikes had been creating a nuisance on the field which is now accessible due to the breaching of the hedge on Holly Lane.

Councillors explained that, unfortunately, there is currently little that can be done because the field is privately owned by multiple owners who are not resident on site and cannot, therefore, complain about the issue. The police are similarly powerless for the same reason

- **Water Ingress at Clarendon Cottages**

Water is flowing from the land just before the Cenotaph and is going into garages.

It is understood that Cheshire East is aware of the issue and is dealing with it

15 CORRESPONDENCE

Emails: forwarded to Councillors

Post:

Wilmslow Town Council
Manchester Airport
Commercial

Wilmslow's Countryside: A Landscape Character Assessment
Departure and Arrivals Brochures
Mail shots

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th September 2020 at 7.30pm in Earlams Log Cabin

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 7th September 2020