

PRESENT: Councillor R Dixon, Chairman
Councillor C Novak, Vice-Chairman
Councillor C Buckley
Councillor S Bullock
Councillor B Grey
Councillor P Highfield
Councillor S Parker

IN ATTENDANCE: Jo Hudson, National Trust
PCSO Issy Yates
Ben Mortimer, TWM Traffic
Members of the public

1 APOLOGIES: None

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:
None

3 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2021. Proposed by Councillor Highfield, seconded by Councillor Bullock. **RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting was accepted as a true record

4 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Issy Yates introduced herself and explained she became Styal's PCSO in December. She provided the following report:

- **Burglary**
No Reports
- **Theft**
No Reports
- **Airport Parking Issue**
Ongoing issue had settled down due to the effects of Covid-19
- **Antisocial Behaviour**
There have been instances of nuisance caused by off-road bikers. The offences normally take place too late for Issy's shift but the police have spoken to the bikers and there are ongoing enquiries
- **Criminal Damage**
Oversley Lodge - trees chopped down
- **Trucam**
A lot of motorists have been caught by the camera but there appears to be a downward trend.

The Chairman thanked Issy for her report and offered her a belated welcome to the Council.

5 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

Ben Mortimer introduced himself and explained that he worked for TWM whose headquarters are in Manchester and his company is based in Winsford. Ben was going to demonstrate and describe the TWM Mini300 SID.

Ben demonstrated the SID's display and how its reaction in speed detection such as flashing lights, speed indication and messages. The following descriptions were relevant to the TWM Mini300 device which:

- is slightly smaller than the council ones but it does the same job
- is very simple to use, easy to connect to and very effective
- can be mains, battery or solar powered
- can be permanently placed or moved from place to place
- will start flashing when a vehicle is detected as going over a preset limit, will display its speed also display a happy/sad face or the legend 'slow down' depending upon the speed and the chosen parameters
- will thwart 'boy racer' drivers trying to 'beat' the SID. By setting an internal upper limit, e.g. 45mph, a driver travelling at, say, 48mph will not be given the car's speed but will simply see the display 'slow down'
- offers optional data collection which includes all relevant information.

At the end of his demonstration Ben asked for questions from the Council.

How much do the devices cost?

Solar version: c. £2,200

Battery version: c. £1,950

There is a 2 year free of charge after sale warranty plus an optional 5 year warranty.

Breakdown: LEDs last for 55,000 hours, solar panel 9-10 years plus. The radar unit can fail but, on the rare occasion it does, it happens within 3 months from new, is 1 in 1,000+ and is within the free warranty period.

How is the data accessed?

There are three ways to access the data:

- Remote transfer to a computer - very expensive and therefore not recommended
- Download via Bluetooth: £230
- Download via USB: £17.50

Simple software is provided which is compatible with Windows and Android but not Apple.

The report is raw data form which can be formatted into Excel, PDF etc. The data comprises date and time, number of vehicles, activation speeds, exit speeds plus the average and highest activation.

Is there a warranty?

2 year free of charge after sale warranty plus an optional 5 year warranty.

Breakdown: LEDs last for 55,000 hours, solar panel 9-10 years plus. The radar unit can fail but if it does it goes out within the first 3 months and it happens to 1 in 1,000+ and is within the free warranty period.

What about vandalism?

- Everything needed is at the front and nothing at back which is placed against the post and nothing has been ripped off the units in over three years
- Minor vandalism involving spray painting but never been over the radar unit and the paint can be cleaned off
- The only thing that has been stolen is the battery from a movable sign and this was from an area particularly vulnerable to thefts

If a lorry drove into a units it would, by design, spin rather than break unless it was a very serious collision.

The Chairman thanked Ben for attending and for providing a very useful demonstration.

6 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Jo Hudson, from the NT, provided the following report:

- **Covid-19 Compliance**

Quarry Bank followed government guidelines and has prioritised safety. The only pay for entry area open is the Garden. The Lower Garden, temporarily closed due to Storm Christoph damage, has now reopened. There are plans to get staff back from furlough (46 at the beginning of March) and to open more areas - depending on the status of Covid.

- **Easter**

Non-essential shops etc. remain closed with Quarry Bank Garden being the only 'pay for entry' place open. However, the Public Right Of Way paths through the woodland and around the site remain open.

Entry to the site can only be guaranteed by getting tickets via the Booking System. The overflow parking field will be opened if necessary (weather conditions permitting), to allow for maximum parking.

There will be a family Easter trail in the garden, limited in both the number of trails and chocolate treat prizes. A pre-booked garden ticket will be required to purchase an Easter trail.

The main car park will be staffed and visitors will be directed to different zones depending on whether they are walkers or doing the family Easter Trail. The NT car park in the village will remain closed.

- **Parking**

Since signs were erected asking drivers to use the main NT car park, there has been an increase in the number of cars parked there.

Some flyers regarding parking had been made produced which would be placed in the Ship, Earlams and similar places once these venues have reopened

- **Litter**

Daily patrols from Quarry Bank are clearing as much litter as possible and there have been group activities focusing on the latest main problem area i.e. around the back of the woods near the airport runways. Rangers and volunteers have been doing a fantastic job clearing litter and this activity will continue.

- **Antisocial and Inappropriate Behaviour**

Large numbers of people visiting Styal during Easter increases the risk of antisocial behaviour. The NT has limited powers to stop or prevent such behaviour and appeals to residents to offer support by reporting anything of concern directly to the police on 101.

Antisocial behaviour suffered by Quarry Bank in the previous six weeks includes:

- the garden compound being broken into and some supplies were set alight causing a small fire
- Heras fencing thrown into the river
- rocks thrown on to the glass roof of the boiler house, smashing the glass

Styal school also suffered antisocial behaviour at around the same time.

- **Police Involvement**

Quarry Bank will be inviting PCSO Issy Yates on site to update the police on future plans and expectations. It is considered important to flag these up to them in case there is a need for assistance.

The police force were thanked for their incredible support throughout the pandemic, and for doing it in a sensitive and appropriately way.

- **Easing of Restrictions**

It is hoped that, as of 12th April, the on-site shops will be able to reopen. In addition it is anticipated that the Mill and the Apprentice House will be able to reopen from the middle of May and Quarry Bank House will be open again in July.

More information about the plans will be issued once the dates are confirmed.

The Chairman thanked Jo for her report and asked Councillors for any questions or comments.

The parking signs, though good in themselves, were in the wrong place i.e. at the Cross and near the Methodist Church on Altrincham Road.

Jo responded by explaining that the choice of location for the signs was made because:

- their placement meant no permission was needed
- if the signs were on Altrincham Road drivers would not stop to read them. As they are people would have to walk past the signs which might encourage them to park in the car park - note there are also signs on the village car park

The signs on/near the village car park need to state that access is required for emergency services and no parking for visitors is allowed.

Jo was quite willing to have a discussion with Councillors about the placement of the signs if necessary

Councillor Novak observed that horse riders were not keeping to bridle paths and were also using Apprentice Lane. NT staff and residents had politely pointed out that horse manure was toxic to dogs and it was important to keep to the bridle paths. Unfortunately this advice was met with rudeness

Jo answered explained there were maps which clearly showed the bridle paths and included a request for riders to use them. She considered it now time to re-issue them.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents raised the following issues and comments:

- **Earlams**

Earlams would be open again as from Saturday March 27th and will offer a take-away menu.

- **Parking**

A number of points were raised about parking:

- The double yellow lines are doing an okay job but not all drivers obey the rules - there appears to be no enforcement

The Council had requested that the limited parking restrictions near Earlams and the Ship be in place 7 days a week but this had not happened.

There are 7 day a week double yellow areas and zones opposite the sports club and beyond the zig-zags at the school down past Lode Hill which have no restrictions

Note that traffic wardens no longer routinely patrol Styal. The Clerk will contact Councillor Don Stockton about this matter.

- Why weren't the yellow lines installed up to the cobbled road in Oak Cottages? With the car park shut, residents have use the cobbled road. Visitors, especially at weekends, park so far down the road that residents find it almost impossible to get out plus emergency vehicles cannot gain access
The Council accepts your point entirely. This is something that needs to be followed up with Cheshire East
- A couple of weekends ago a total of 125 cars were parked at the top of old section of Altrincham Road with the junction of Moss Lane and Holly Lane and all along the nasty bend. In addition cars park on all three sides of the T-junction coming out of Holly Lane and in front of the gate
On occasion it was impossible to get in or out of the wooden gate to access our homes. This, in spite of the sign on the gate stating 'airport security'. Is it possible that the new yellow lines are pushing drivers this way?
Councillor Dixon explained that the Council has frequently expressed concerns about parking opposite Lode Hill, and all along this area because it is considered a dangerous corner but, in Cheshire East's view, there is not a problem. Recognition is required that people who live along those places need some form of protection and the Council will see what it can do
- Issy was asked about the police's interpretation of dangerous parking and also if she had gained an appreciation of the parking problems along Altrincham Road

The police are aware of the parking problems on Altrincham Road and do sympathise but we can only get involved if a vehicle is causing an obstruction

- An ice cream van parks outside the car park most of the weekend with its generator on and some residents were experiencing diesel fumes floating into their gardens. Issy was asked if ice cream vans were allowed to park anywhere or if they required a licence
Issy replied that she did not know but would get back to the Council

- **Cobbles on the Road**

The cobbles on the road are being loosened - probably partially due to the large increase in traffic. Are they going to be mended and if so when?

Jo Hudson responded by saying both the cobbles and any potholes would be mended as soon as the National Trust can get contractors back on site. The areas to be mended will be Apprentice Lane, behind the school et al. The funds to do the repairs are available willed by a generous benefactor

8 PLANNING MATTERS

8.1 Planning Applications to be Considered

To discuss current planning applications

8.1.1 21/1150M Fortingall, 88 Hollin Lane

21/1150M	Fortingall, 88, Hollin Lane, Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4JJ Proposed 2 storey side and rear extensions, changes to external appearance and proposed garage	31/03/2021
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It appears that the extension of the ground floor extends its area by 50%, the area of the first floor by 150% and the volume by 150% (these figures are approximate). Councillors did not object to the application per se but did want to make a comment about the that the large size of the extension

8.1.2 21/1213M Manderley Mansion

21/1213M	21/1213M Manderley Mansion, Stanneylands Road, Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4HB Non material amendment on application 11/3568M - Proposal to remodel and extend the existing property into a luxury family home. Application to include remodelling works internally and 3 areas of extension / new build including; Pool house and 3 bay garage with accommodation over and remote garage with accommodation over. Both extensions to include a glazed link to the existing building.	Unknown
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Styal Parish Council had previously objected to planning applications for this property. However, there is no planning officer assigned to this application nor is there a closing date for comments. The Council has therefore agreed to defer full consideration of the application until there is a date to work towards.

8.2 Planning Applications Already Considered

8.2.1 21/0514M Candles, Moss Lane

21/0514M	Candles, 19, Moss Lane, Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4LF Side two-storey extension to an existing property.	03/03/2021
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Styal Parish Council had no objections but noted that there were solar panels in place which had been installed some time ago. The Council was unsure if the solar panels needed planning permission given the site's close proximity to the airport. Councillor Novak will contact the airport for advice.

8.3 Other Planning Matters

None

9 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

9.1 Moss Lane Flooding

Councillor Bullock, along with the Clerk, had been working on this issue with Manchester Airport and Cheshire East in an attempt to prevent future flooding. The Clerk acted as the main point of contact whilst Councillor Bullock did all the background work including providing images of affected areas. Manchester Airport and Cheshire East had a meeting and agreed a way forward. Some progress has been made but it is nowhere near completion.

At one stage Wilkins Lane was completely blocked with hardcore causing all the water to flow on to Moss Lane. Cheshire East Enforcement partially resolved this issue.

Surveys are being carried out along the Airport perimeter and into the field which bounds the closed part of Altrincham Road where there is water run off but progress has been hampered by Covid-19 and staff

furloughs. The results of the surveys will determine the best solution to the flooding. Andrew Murray of Manchester Airport has provided excellent support to the Council.

Councillor Parker stated that the field opposite the closed part of Altrincham Road was currently in a bad state. The last time a similar situation arose the pond was dredged and it made a significant difference. Could it be dredged again as soon as possible?

It was not known who did the dredging although Councillor Bullock thought it might be a company called Drainage Consultants from Hazel Grove. The Clerk will make enquiries.

9.2 Ownership Issues - Closed Part of Altrincham Road

Councillor Parker gave a summary of where the issue of ownership had got to:

- Altrincham Road was stopped up to allow for improvements to Manchester Airport. There is a stopped up order dated 2000 but it does not resolve ownership because it is a legally binding document signed by a magistrate which simply states that closed off portion of Altrincham Road can no longer be used
- It is basically a tug of war between Manchester Airport Group (MAG), Manchester City Council (MCC) and Cheshire East Council (CEC)
- The land to the left hand side is obviously NT's land up to where it borders Oversley Lodge whose owners have a piece of land on the left hand side near the crash gate. The land to the right is MCC land let out to MAG on a long term lease
- However, the road is not part of that. It cannot be registered at the land registry because it is too small in width and thus not notable enough to be registered. Therefore there is no record of who owns the road on the land registry
- CEC mended a sink hole which had been a public safety issue. CEC also collects the waste and residents pay their Council Tax to CEC. All this points to the road being under CEC's jurisdiction
- Fly tipping and litter has been an ongoing issue which CEC seems reluctant to resolve. Thanks are due to the residents who have been doing an excellent job of sorting these things out for themselves..
- There is nothing in writing about ownership of the road although the default position points to CEC

The Clerk suggested that a meeting with CEC, MAG and MCC could result in agreement about the status of the road, although Councillor Parker believed that this would only serve to waste more time. The Clerk also suggested writing to Esther McVey.

9.3 Other Highways Matters

Oak Farm Cottages are experiencing parking problems, as is most of Altrincham Road. There is no simple solution although greater advertising of Quarry Bank's free car park could improve matters

10 VILLAGE MATTERS

10.1 Parking in the Altrincham Road Area

10.1.1 Parking Issues and 10.1.2 Oak Brow Cottages

These matters were dealt as part of Item 7 Public Participation

10.2 Waste and Dog Bins

There are not enough waste and dog bins in Styal and it is an ongoing problem which the Council is actively trying to sort out.

Councillor Parker had observed a wheelie bin tied to a lamp post at the back of the runway near a crash gate. It is regularly emptied and is clearly marked Cheshire East Council. Could this not be replicated elsewhere?

Councillor Buckley had been working near the same area and explained that the bin had been put there following pressure from Wilmslow Town Council (WTC) because of the high volume of litter. WTC also employ a person whose job is to keep the area litter free.

The Council will explore if this is a viable option for the closed part of Altrincham Road.

10.3 Village Planters

Peter Ashley has kindly offered to put bedding plants in the village planters. No time scales as yet

10.4 Notice Boards

These need replacement and it would be beneficial for additional one to be installed near to the closed part of Altrincham Road. There is money set aside to replace at least one and it had been agreed that the notice boards would be replaced on a rolling annual basis.

Pickmere PC is replacing its notice boards and has generously offered its old ones to Styal PC. They are in sound condition but will need some tlc. If suitable Councillor Buckley will arrange to transport them to Styal

There had been the promise of a redundant notice board from Quarry Bank although the timescale is unknown. *Jo recalled this offer from some time ago and wanted to make sure the notice board was still fit for purpose*

10.5 Other Village Matters

10.5.1 Litter Pick

Councillor Buckley was hoping to organise a litter pick and involve the community similar to that organised by the SVA.

The National Trust had suitable equipment to use for collecting the litter bag and would assign an area for temporarily storing the collected bags.

It would be beneficial to get the SVA involved and to speak to John Novak - who has stated that Earlams would provide free bacon butties!!

A date for the litter pick is still to be decided

11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

11.1 Authorisation of Payments

The payment below was authorised for issue. Proposed by Councillor Dixon, seconded by Councillor Highfield

£180.00	HMRC	PAYE Q3
£164.39	S McDonald	Annual administration plus the fee for Zoom meeting
£ 60.00	Earlams	Log Cabin Hire

11.2 Grant Application

There was a grant application from Styal Tennis Club who had requested a grant towards refurbishing that club house. The Council had awarded two grants in the past plus, in the current financial year, the club had received over £12,000 in grants from other sources. Councillors were not convinced that the club needed the grant and that the Council's limited finances could be better spent elsewhere

The grant application was unanimously rejected. The Clerk will contact Styal Tennis Club with the outcome

11.3 Petty Cash

To report that petty cash has not been required and the fund remains at £200.00

11.4 Other Financial Matters

The Council received an invoice from E-on for £0.00 in respect of electricity for the Christmas tree lights

12 PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE & BOUNDARIES - CONSULTATION

Cheshire East Council will be conducting a public consultation on Parish Council Boundaries and the number of Councillors on the different Parish Councils. The date for the start of the consultation is still to be announced

It is proposed that Styal continues to be a Parish Council in its own right but that the number of Councillors be increased from 7 to 8.

Councillors disagreed with the increase in the number of Councillors as it gave the Chairman a greater possibility of having to use 2 votes. The Council would object to the change once the consultation is available..

13 COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

13.1 Facebook

The Council unanimously agreed that Styal Parish Council should have a presence on Facebook.

The Clerk stated that it should be a closed group to prevent silly posts and inappropriate adverts. In addition, although most people now have Facebook not everybody uses it so there is still a place for the website and other means to get information to and from the Council..

Councillor Buckley, who initially proposed this initiative, was in agreement with the Clerk and added that everything should be kept simple and let the Council ease itself into Facebook. He added that, going forward it will have positive effects such being able to advertise Council meetings and he stressed that there would be a need to keep the FB group positive rather than a forum for complaints.

Councillor Buckley suggested he and two or three Councillors discuss how to progress this project and what guidance to put in place.

13.2 WhatsApp

Councillors were generally in favour of starting a group because it would enable councillors to quickly communicate with each other.

The Clerk was adamant that she would not join a WhatsApp group mainly based on security concerns and how any conversations relevant to Council matters would be transferred to the Council's information repository.

There was disagreement with the Clerk about the safety concerns and it was stressed that unless everybody joined the group there was no point in its existence. It was also mentioned that there are alternatives to WhatsApp, such as Signal

It was agreed that Councillors Gray and Parker would look at WhatsApp and report back at the next meeting

14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

14.1 General Report

Councillor Highfield provided the following report:

Following the previously reported session with Tom Evans of CEC the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) group has had a couple of meetings to follow up some of Tom's suggestions. Included was the identification of potential issues relevant to the village, looking at how existing plans and regulations might have an impact plus and whether or not there is a gap that our neighbourhood plan needs to fill

The group has made progress on developing a new questionnaire to re-canvass the village and associated with that developing a communications plan to communicate what the NP group wants to do and to maintain a dialogue with the village which will include a web presence and meetings whether face to face or not. The group has been split into a number of subgroups to work on these different aspects.

There is to be a follow up meeting on Thursday of this week at which it is hoped a questionnaire, suitable for circulating around the village will be finalised, and have a discussion on how to achieve its circulation.

The group has looked into seeking grant funding and, in the first place, myself and Jen Birch of the National Trust looked at this. Currently it is proposed that applying for a grant should probably be postponed until there is a clearer idea of what is needed in the NP (probably from analysis of the results of the questionnaires) and what additional information may be needed. In this way it will be easier to cost up the grant application. Until this happens it is unclear what any grant money would be spent on, apart from knowing a consultant would be needed to assist in production of the final plan.

14.2 Training

The Clerk added this item to the Agenda in error.

15 BUS SERVICE IN STYAL

There is a 130 bus service which will go through Alderley Edge, Handforth, Wilmslow, the Airport and on to Wythenshawe Hospital. It is on an initial 12 month trial to test its success or otherwise. All the Councils along the route have agreed to pay varying amounts from their precepts to, in part, offset the cost to Cheshire East for the bus service. Styal was not invited to participate.

Currently there is neither public transport nor any health services in Styal. Residents need a means to travel to Wilmslow and other nearby towns to visit a doctor, dentist et al.

The bus travels along the A555 and it would be a simple matter for the bus to turn off and travel to the Quarry Bank turning circle, pick up passengers, and then return back down to continue its onward journey. This would add a total of 2 miles to the journey i.e. 1 mile there and 1 mile back.

The Council would have been happy to discuss giving some of its precept to this venture had the opportunity arisen. Not only was Styal Parish Council excluded from any discussion/consultation but the Council found out about this from a press report which is appalling.

The Clerk has been asked to send a strong letter to Craig Browne of Cheshire East

16 SHARED ITEMS

None

17 CORRESPONDENCE

Emails: forwarded to Councillors

Post:

Bill from E-on	Electricity bill for Christmas tree lights (£0.00)
Police Commissioner	Information regarding the forthcoming elections
Commercial	Mail shots

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

~~17th May 2021~~ Zoom or face to face

Subsequently amended to Thursday 20th May 2021

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 20th May 2021