

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Highfield proposed Councillor Dixon as Chairman, which was seconded by Councillor Novak and unanimously agreed. RESOLVED: Councillor Dixon was elected as Chairman and the Acceptance of Office form was signed.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Bullock proposed Councillor Novak as Vice-Chairman, which was seconded by Councillor Dixon and unanimously agreed. RESOLVED: Councillor Novak was elected as Vice-Chairman and the Acceptance of Office form was signed.

3 APOLOGIES: None

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None

5 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting on 22nd March 2021. Proposed by Councillor Novak, seconded by Councillor Highfield. RESOLVED: The minutes were accepted as a true record

6 POLICE REPORT

No report from the police was available

7 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

No representative from the National Trust was available but Jo Hudson apologised and she sent an email report which was read out by Councillor Dixon:

In line with Government easing of pandemic restrictions, we have been working hard over the last weeks to make sure that we are able to re-open more of Quarry Bank components, whilst adhering to those restrictions remaining in place.

From Monday 17th May, visitors will see the following changes at Quarry Bank:

- The one way system around the garden has been removed and the path from the Lower Garden to the woodlands has been opened.
- We have opened the main café in the Mill Yard together with the Upper Garden Café for indoor seating as well as outdoor seating.
- The Mill has re-opened with a one way system in place – as we had when we opened last September.
- The Apprentice House has opened for the first time since March 2020. It's been newly re-presented and a new guided tour is in place.
- All visitors, staff and volunteers in these indoor spaces are asked to wear a face covering – not a visor, in line with Government instruction – unless exempt and of course when eating.

Following the redundancies made last year as a result of the pandemic, we have significantly fewer resources on site than previously. This means that we have fewer guided tours available in the Apprentice House. The Gardens are still in recovery mode – we have prioritised areas to work on and are moving around these as soon as we can – but we're asking for patience please. To be honest, it'll probably take us a couple of years to get back to where we were pre-pandemic with the presentation of the Garden.

We're still advising visitors to book their visit, but again to be frank, with the exception of weekends visitor numbers are significantly down. My message for Quarry Bank based on our current experience is that to guarantee entry please use the booking system, but if you want to visit Mon – Friday outside of school holidays, there really shouldn't be a problem with regards to coming on to site and to the car park without booking.

We continue to experience plant theft from the garden. We report this via the police online reporting system.

Styal resident passes – can you please advise residents to continue to use the passes they had from 2019? These will continue to be accepted for the remainder of this year. If a resident has lost theirs or it's become worn and they need a new one, can I please ask that they email Quarrybank@nationaltrust.org.uk

and we'll get a replacement out to them. If they can make their current pass last a further year, that would be very helpful. Thank you. (Please ask new residents to get in touch with us via the same email address and we can get a pass out to them by exception.)

Our flood mitigation work continues and we are in very early discussions with Cheshire East and UU with the aiming of joining up efforts to achieve a better result for all.

With regards to the DEFRA funded work I referred to at the beginning of this note, I'd like to say too that we have a new member of the team joining us from the 19th May. Her name is Lisa Macleod and she will be working with Colin Gerner and the Ranger team, Jen Birch and Jo on the Green Recovery Challenge funded work. Lisa will be working across Quarry Bank, Lyme and the wider Cheshire Countryside, and we're likely to see her fairly regularly. (Her role is being funded by DEFRA)

Councillor Novak raised the issue of dog and horse excrement. He stated that there is a lot of horse manure in Holt's Lane, much of it in the middle, and it is virtually impossible to step over it. Although it is a bridle path there is no excuse for irresponsible riders to ignore the rights of other people. They continually ride down Apprentice Lane because the gate is open at the moment. Jo had stated that the gate would be opened for the beer festival but, outside this time the gate would only be open for school drop off and pick up

8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

8.1 Risk Assessment Statement

Acceptance of the Risk Assessment Statement for 2020-2021 was proposed by Councillor Dixon and seconded by Councillor Highfield. It was unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

8.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020-2021

The Council is invited to approve and sign the following forms for 2020-2021.

The items below were unanimously approved after due consideration and discussion

8.2.1 Certificate of Exemption

The Certificate of Exemption for 2020-2021 which states that Styal Parish Council's gross income and expenditure did not exceed £25,000 was unanimously approved, proposed by Councillor Dixon and seconded by Councillor Highfield. It was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

The figures were: Gross Income	£9,200
Gross Expenditure	£5,107.36

8.2.2 Governance Statement

The governance statement for 2020-2021 was unanimously approved, proposed by Councillor Dixon and seconded by Councillor Highfield and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

8.2.3 Accounting Statement

Acceptance of the accounting statement for 2020-2021 was unanimously approved, proposed by Councillor Bullock and seconded by Councillor Gray. It was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. Details are:

Balances brought forward	£11,527
Precept	£9,200
Other Receipts	0
Staff Costs	£3,600
Loans	0
All other payments	£5,107
Balances carried forward	£15,620
Total value of cash (i.e. Bank)	£15,620
Total fixed assets	£3,984
Total Borrowings	0

Questions asked and points raised::

1 What types of asset are there?

It includes items like the planters and the village signs

2 Does it includes the notice boards?

No, because they were gifted to the Council. Any future notice board purchases will become assets

3 Presumably there is depreciation?

No, the assets are not depreciated. It has something to do with the simple input and expenditure accounting system. The Clerk's knuckles were rapped for applying depreciation.

8.3 Budget 2021-2022

The Council was invited to approve the budget for 2021-2022 proposed by donations which, if approved, will be authorised for payment this evening. Proposed by Councillor Dixon, seconded by Councillor Novak and unanimously approved

Administration		
Clerk's Salary	£3,600.00	
Clerk's Travel Expenses	£32.00	
Administration	£150.00	
		£3,782.00
Insurance/Audit		
Insurance	£300.00	
External Audit	£0.00	
		£300.00
Projects		
Notice Boards Maintenance	£1,500.00	
N Plan (safety net until funding awarded)	£500.00	
Speed Indicator Device	£3,500.00	
Hedge Cutting	£180.00	
Christmas Tree	£300.00	
		£5,980.00
Fees and Grants		
ChALC Membership	£210.00	
CCA Membership	£20.00	
Grants & Donations	£3,000.00	
Room Hire	£200	
		£3,430.00
Website		
Maintenance	£120.00	
Website Hosting	£48.00	
Changes	£75.00	
		£243.00
Training		
Councillor	£70.00	
Clerk	£35.00	
		£105.00
	GRAND TOTAL	£13,840.00

- 1 *Shouldn't Petty Cash be included??*
No because petty cash fund is, in effect, dead money. It is accounted for elsewhere
- 2 *Where is the hedge that is included in the budget for cutting?*
The hedge is on Hollin Lane on the boundary of a field which has 88 plots, the majority of which are owned by different people. Some years ago when the hedge grew dangerously high the Council decided to cut it back and it has historically been cut back every year.
- 3 *Shouldn't all resident be given the same opportunity to have their hedges cut back?*
Yes, but it must be stressed that this is only cutting back the height. Home owners are firstly responsible for their own hedges so they should cut back the width and height under normal circumstances. If they refuse then Cheshire East will be informed and they may cut back the hedge and charge the home owner.
- 4 *It was agreed to increase the hedge cutting budget to £750 to accommodate other hedge heights that may need to be reduced.*
- 5 *It was also agreed that the budget for new notice boards would be increased to £3,000*
- 6 *The figure for room hire should be changed to £300 i.e. 10 meetings x £30 per meeting*

8.4 Authorisation of Payments

Proposed by Councillor Dixon, seconded by Councillor Novak. RESOLVED: The following payments were unanimously approved:

£ 43.88	S McDonald	Zoom Fee, Petty Cash Box
£ 72.00	Earlams	Room Hire £60.00 + £12 VAT
£207.00	ChALC	Annual Subscription
£200.00 (estimate)	C Buckley	The cheque will be issued but there will only be one signature until the final amount is known at which point the second signature will be added

8.5 Additional Signatories

It was agreed that Councillor Buckley would become a signatory on the Council's bank account. Proposed by Councillor Novak, seconded by Councillor Highfield. RESOLVED and unanimously agreed.:

8.6 Petty Cash

To report that the Petty Cash fund stands at £178.00 but will be replenished by the £22.00 payment approved at this meeting (part of the £43.88 payable to S McDonald) above.

8.7 Other Financial Matters

None

9 PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 Planning Applications to be Considered

9.1.1 21/2134M Birch Farm Cottage

21/2134M	Birch Farm Cottage, 3, Hollin Lane, Styal, SK9 4JH Proposed new roof structure over the existing rear infill extension, open up the internal rear wall of the house to connect the spaces and replace two windows on the rear elevation	10/06/2021
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The Council had no objections or comments

9.1.2 21/2135M Birch Farm Cottage LBC

21/2135M	Birch Farm Cottage, 3, Hollin Lane, Styal, SK9 4JH Listed Building Consent for proposed new roof structure over the existing rear infill extension, open up the internal rear wall of the house to connect the spaces and replace two windows on the rear elevation	10/06/2021
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The Council had no objections or comments

9.1.3 21/2164M Norcliffe Grange

21/2164M	Norcliffe Grange, Altrincham Road, Styal, SK9 4LH An oak frame, timber clad car port adjacent to the existing dwelling	20/05/2021
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Styal Parish Council objects to this planning application on the grounds that the proposal is supposedly for a car port but the proposed structure is, in fact, fully enclosed on three sides, has garage doors to the fourth side and there a plans for a first floor. Under no circumstances could the proposed structure be described as a car port.

9.1.4 21/2259M Dean House

21/2259M	Dean House, Stanneylands Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 4HB Replacement of existing balcony with a new balcony with small walled patio.	02/06/2021
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The Council had no objections or comments

9.1.5 21/2374M 20 & 20b, Moss Lane

21/2374M	20 & 20b, Moss Lane, Styal, SK9 4LG Single storey rear extension to two existing properties	09/06/2021
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The Council had no objections or comments

9.1.6 21/2590M Dean Barn

21/2590M	Dean Barn, Stanneylands Road, Wilmslow, SK9 4HB Proposed Home Extension	09/06/2021
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The Council had no objections or comments

9.1.7 21/2721M Marlow

21/2721M	Marlow, 24, Hollin Lane, Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4JH Demolition of an existing conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension to an existing detached property	17/06/2021
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Styal Parish Council has no objections to this application per se but does make the following comment: The proposal implies that a conservatory is to be demolished and an extension is to be built in its place. However, the proposed extension is significantly larger than the conservatory

9.2 Other Planning Matters

None

10 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**10.1 Moss Lane****10.1.1 Flooding**

Councillor Bullock stated that there was not a lot to add since the last meeting. The airport has been doing some investigations to look at the wider picture regarding flooding. Unfortunately Covid-19 has hit the airport hard because many of its staff have been furloughed. In addition contractors to conduct surveys have not been available for the same reason. He is hoping that once things improve, activity will pick up. Fortunately there has been little rain so flooding is not an issue at present.

One of the problems appears to be that there are no drains outside the cottages even though there is main drainage further down the road. Two CEC officials came out approximately 18 months ago but nothing has been heard since. It is believed that cost is a major factor in CEC's reluctance to do anything about the drainage.

Other contributory factors include the unauthorised erection of buildings and stables with a concrete base but without planning permission, plus a company who filled in a pond. All these factors affect the water table.

Additionally the land at Wilkins Farm was drained by pumping out the water on to Moss Lane.

The airport has been investigating how it can improve drainage and Andrew Murray of the airport has gone above and beyond expectations and deserves the Council's thanks.

It is apparent that this is a complex problem and no one solution will solve the issues.

10.1.2 Potholes

There is nothing scheduled for repairs to potholes which is very disappointing. The Clerk suggested that it might be advantageous to invite a Highways official to Styal to do a walk round of the village to illustrate the various issues that need attention for CEC.

10.1.3 Overgrown Hedges

This matter had already been dealt with at Item 8.3 Budget 2021-2022

10.2 Ownership Issues - Closed Part of Altrincham Road

Councillor Parker wanted to know if Esther McVey and the interested parties had been contacted about this issue. The Clerk had to sincerely apologise because she had not taken this action. The Clerk will do her best to rectify the matter.

The Clerk had recently discovered that there had been a land transfer between Manchester City Council and the National Trust. A copy has been requested from the Land Registry. Its contents are currently unknown but it is about 50 pages long.

10.3 Other Highways Matters

None

11 VILLAGE MATTERS

11.1 Parking in Styal and Parking Enforcement

The Council contacted the Parking Services at CEC and was provided with the following information

The department keeps patrol logs both electronic and written and the following was ascertained:

Officers were in Styal (these are just give the last couple of visits) on 22/4/2021 & 26/4 /4/2021 both visits incorporated school patrols and issued a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) on 20/4/2021.

The wardens are in Styal every couple of days or so.

It would be useful if the traffic wardens visited at later times during the day

11.2 Notice Boards

Councillor Buckley explained that the notice boards from Pickmere need a bit of TLC and Councillor Bullock volunteered to help refurbish them.

He explained that the Council needed to pick out a design for the new notice board.

It was probably a good idea to let the one in the horseshoe on Hollin slowly fall into disuse. Also maybe a notice board could be placed near the closed part of Altrincham Road which gets a lot of footfall.

Councillor Buckley thought that too many notice boards could present problems in its own right especially as they were quite expensive. His thoughts were to purchase good quality metal ones which would cost more in the short term but would require virtually no maintenance unlike wood which is maintenance intensive.

It was agreed that Councillor Buckley would select a suitable model to present to the Council. The Clerk pointed out that ideally three quotations for the supply of the notice boards should be obtained

11.3 Village Litter Pick

The litter pick will take place on the 30th May 2021 meeting at 9.00am for bacon butties or meeting there at 9.30am if bacon butties are not wanted.

11.4 Waste and Dog Bins

Environmental Services contacted the Council and stated the following:

There is a current waiting list for the placement of litter bins and your request has been passed on to the street cleansing team leader who is collating the list. Due to the level of demand we do not anticipate the provision of additional litter bins for a considerable time.

We understand that there is a litter bin sited in the vicinity of Earlams, which can be used for dog waste???. New location requests will be reviewed as follows

Review litter bin request list and compare with current bin provision and littering reports gained of intelligence from our crews and the local clean teams.

Identify additional locations from crew reports and clean team feedback of known routes with no litter bins.

There are problems with dog excrement all over Styal and especially in the closed part of Altrincham Road. It is so bad there that owners have bought their own bins which they empty into their household bins and the owners should be commended. It was suggested that perhaps Styal PC could buy two or three bins for the area and the owners would empty them. Although a good idea in principle, Styal Council is unable to help due to public liability because, if there was an accident, the Council would be liable.

Councillor Buckley explained about the enormous amount of rubbish being dumped along the airport wall. He stated that he filled a flat bed truck with rubbish. The airport needs to erect a sign saying something like keep this area clean or lose it.

11.5 Other Village Matters

The Risk Assessment Statement for 2020-2021 was unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman

12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The group has been working via Zoom and has made some considerable progress determining the next steps which are - in no particular order:

- The creation of a questionnaire to present to the village, what they like and dislike etc.
- How we communicate with the village
- How to inform residents about what a NP can and cannot do
- Looking at a web presence
- Looking into grant funding and what work is required to be completed before applying. It is necessary to know quite a lot about the policies that will be created
- The group is looking into getting the questionnaire out as soon as possible, hopefully before the summer holidays
- It is hoped that a considered approach will result in more than the 20 plus responses which were obtained from an earlier attempt at creating a Neighbourhood Plan

13 COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

13.1 Facebook

Councillor Buckley explained that the Council's facebook will be simple but effective and there will be nothing too difficult. It will be a closed group to prevent inappropriate posts.

It is at the stage where it can be launched for a 'suck it and see trial'

13.2 WhatsApp

The Clerk's understanding of WhatsApp was completely misunderstood how the Council's group would be used. She had thought it was to be used for Council business rather than less important information that is peripheral to any Council business.

13.3 Website

The Clerk is finding it very difficult to update the website due to a lack of information. For example she didn't get advance notice of the litter pick.

It was suggested that the Council Website should be fully limited to Council business only and any other news/events would go on the Facebook page.

The Clerk had reservations about this because she felt it was limiting people's options.

14 BUS SERVICE IN STYAL

No response since receiving the letter stating that CEC had chosen not to include Styal in the discussions on the subsidised 130 bus service. The Clerk will email Craig Browne again.

15 SHARED ITEMS

Nothing was raised

16 CORRESPONDENCE

To report on correspondence received since the last meeting.

Emails: forwarded to Councillors

Post:

Chalc Annual subscription Invoice

HMRC End of year informatio

Commercial Mail shots

17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 MINUTES)

Residents raised the following:

- Earlams Litter Picking
If anyone wishes to do some litter picking, Earlams will provide the equipment and anybody taking part will get a free coffee when they return
- Newsletter
At Earlams management meeting it was agreed that Earlams and the SVA are discussing introducing a quarterly newsletter..

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 28th June 2021 at 7.30 pm in Earlams Log Cabin

19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 2nd August 2021