

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor D Stockton, CEC  
Jen Birch, National Trust  
Lisa Macleod, National Trust  
Vicky Naylor, National Trust  
Jen Birch, National Trust  
Members of the public

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gray and Parker

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

**2.1 Declarations Of Interest**

Councillor Novak - Item 7.1.1 in Planning (non pecuniary)

**2.2 Dispensations**

None

**3 MINUTES**

The minutes for the previous meeting were unavailable and will be approved at the next meeting

**4 POLICE REPORT**

No representative from the police was available to attend and, unusually, no email report was received

**5 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT**

Jen Birch, from the NT, explained that the report for this meeting would concentrate on the Green Recovery Fund initiative and she introduced Lisa Mcleod who is the Local Partnerships Coordinator for the Fund and Vicky Naylor who is the Area Ranger for the same Fund.

**5.1 Green Recovery Fund**

Lisa stated that her background was in Local Partnerships Community Relations for the Manchester Airport Group.

She went on to explain that the Green Recovery Fund is a Defra initiative which concentrates on three themes:

- nature conservation and restoration;
- nature-based solutions
- connecting people with nature

These are quite ambitious plans aimed to combat flooding and adapt to climate change across Quarry Bank Mill, Lyme, Dunham and the Cheshire countryside.

Lisa explained that her job is to connect local communities and engage with the wider public to inform them of the need for this work. She went on to say that her work was solely to do with engagement.

Lisa then asked Vicky to step in to describe the essential technical work which has to be undertaken.

Vicky explained that the technical side of things included improving access, rhododendron control and bringing arable fields back into rotation. Soils will also be looked and improved where necessary.

It is an opportunity to improve nature by looking at ponds, bulking out and restoring hedgerows, planting more fuel trees, improving the wildflower meadows and looking at field boundaries in terms of wild life.

There were fields with potatoes which had been left to grow and which need to be dealt with. Rye grass has been planted to compete with the weeds which in turn will allow for the tacking of potatoes as they come up. In the autumn arable mixes will be planted but these will be specifically for wild life. However, for financial reasons, the two larger fields will be left as pasture.

Lisa stepped in to extend an invitation to Councillors to attend a get together at Quarry Bank on 10th July at which Vicky will illustrate work in progress and explain the rationale behind some of the actions

*Councillor Dixon asked over what period of time would the project extend*

Lisa stated that it had to be done by March of next year.

## 5.2 General Report

Jen stated that she had not prepared a comprehensive report for the meeting as she wanted the majority of the time to be spent describing the Green Recovery Fund.

She went on to say that Quarry Bank had been severely impacted financial due to Covid-19 and the Green Recovery Fund project is very positive in terms of what can be done conservation wise. Had Quarry Bank not had funds from Defra it is unlikely that the work could be carried out.

We are currently working towards recovery and almost everything is now open with the exception of the village, the house in the village and Quarry Bank House. These will be reopened as soon as restrictions are lifted, hopefully in the summer holidays.

*Councillor Novak Dixon was concerned about the problem of dog and horse excrement which, he believed, had not improved. Not all horse riders keep to the bridle paths and some go down Apprentice Lane. Would it be possible to install a gate which would allow most pedestrians, bike riders etc but prevent horses from entering? In addition some dog walkers dump the bags wherever they choose leaving a mess for the responsible people to clear up.*

Jen explained that Quarry Bank was doing all it could to control the problem but it is obviously very difficult at times when there is nobody about.

## 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents raised the following issues and comments:

- **Speed on Hollin Lane**

A resident of Hollin Lane who lives close to the speed Indicator device (SID) which flashes 30 sign is ineffective and is constantly activated by speeding traffic sometime at 50 and 60mph. The post box is on the other side of the road from the houses and, because of the nearby bend, it is dangerous crossing the road. It is also extremely dirty and partially obscured.

Is there anything else that could be used to slow traffic down?

*The Chairman asked Councillor Don Stockton to respond.*

*Councillor Stockton explained that the problem with SIDs is that people (especially locals) get used to them so they become less effective over time. The only sure equipment for catching speeding motorists is via an average speed device but these are extremely expensive to implement. However, these would only be implemented where there is a very high accident rate. Other, affordable, measures designed to slow traffic will eventually meet with apathy.*

*The only really effective method for slowing traffic is to get the police involved. Councillor Novak thought it important to mention that Styal's PCSO Issy Yates is very proactive in using the Trucam to catch speeding motorists.*

The resident asked if it would be possible to have signs in Styal similar to those in Handforth which ask drivers to drive slowly through the village

*Councillor Novak replied that the difference between Handforth and Styal is that Handforth had a constant 30mph speed limit throughout whereas Styal had a number of speed 'jumps' e.g. It was 60mph on Station Road. In addition, for some reason, Hollin Lane and Styal Road are designated as emergency service routes Surely emergency vehicles would not use the road to get to the airport.*

*Councillor Bullock stated that the route into the airport for emergency vehicles is wholly dependent upon where, on the airport, an incident had occurred.*

*Councillor Stockton added that he believed that all the roads off Hollin Lane should have restricted speed limits because Hollin Lane is their only point of access.*

- **Speed on Station Road**

At the moment the school bus stops outside Clarendon Cottages and there are children who come on to the road from the station, this happens twice daily. Children are crossing Station Road near its junction with Hollin Lane where cars constantly speed round the corner. It is an accident waiting to happen.

*Councillor Novak wished to point out that the last speed survey on Station Road was carried out in 2019 - the results of which he tried to appeal because the report erroneously stated that there were no houses facing the road nor were there any children who needed to access the road. These inaccuracies led to the conclusion that there was no reason to reduce the road speed. Councillor Stockton added that he had put in a request to CEC for a review of the speed limit. There are, in fact 36 primary school aged children who live between the bend and the junction with Hollin Lane.*

**7 PLANNING MATTERS****7.1 Planning Applications to be Considered**

To discuss current planning applications

**7.1.1 21/2995M 18 Station Road**

21/2995M	18, Station Road, Styal, SK9 4JW Retrospective planning application to retain timber screen in rear garden	30/06/2021
----------	---	------------

Councillors had neither objections or comments on the application

**7.1.2 21/3207M Wythenmead, 91 Hollin Lane**

21/3207M	Wythenmead, 91, Hollin Lane, Styal, SK9 4JJ Demolition of existing conservatory and new single storey rear extension with raised patio area to the rear	14/07/2021
----------	--	------------

Councillors had neither objections or comments on the application

**7.1.3 21/3265M April Cottage, Holly Lane**

21/3265M	April Cottage, Holly Lane, Styal, SK9 4JL Proposed Extension and alteration to the Dwelling	14/07/2021
----------	--	------------

Styal Parish Council objects to this planning application on the grounds that it is a substantial increase in the size of the property which is in the green belt..

Contrary to the information provided on the application form Styal Parish Council has it on very good authority that there will be tree removal and/or pruning along the property boundary.

It is essential that an environmental survey be carried out prior to building or tree work commencing.

**7.2 Other Planning Matters**

The Clerk went on a Planning refresher course and will provide written feedback at some stage

**8 HIGHWAYS MATTERS****8.1 General Highways Matters**

A CEC Highways officer had agreed to do a walk round of Styal with two Councillors to identify problem areas such as potholes, overgrown trees, flooding et al. Councillor Bullock has volunteered and both Councillor Highfield and Councillor Novak had stated they could attend depending upon date and time.

The meeting is provisionally set for 5th July or 9th July. It was noted that only two Councillors would accompany the Highways officer so it would be Councillor Bullock and one of Councillors Highfield and Novak.

Councillor Dixon pointed out that the Clerk had had complaints from residents about the state of Holly Lane and Moss Lane regarding potholes and the road surface plus the fact it is unsafe to be a pedestrian on these roads.

Councillor Bullock stated that the hedges are becoming so overgrown that drivers were moving to the middle of the road and causes a hazard.

Councillor Stockton added that some yellow lines near the Ship had been painted around an overgrow hedgerow!!

**8.2 Speed Indicator Device (SID)**

The Council had hope to install a SID on the south Side of the village and had been discussing it for some time. CEC had initially stated that they would no longer permit SIDs to be installed. The Clerk and Councillor Stockton had jointly requested an update and received the following:

*We ask that SID signs only display the speed and maybe the words 'Slow down' within the led display and NOT 'Your Speed' or smiley faces etc, only one colour shown preferably white LED and NOT to be left out for more than two weeks at any one location. These should be freestanding battery powered SIDs and can be secured by chain adjacent to fixed street furniture as long as they are not an obstruction or distraction at a critical point i.e. at a pedestrian crossing or junction/bend where it may take the drivers attention off the road ahead. They can only be placed on roads up to 40mph with a suitable location for the person placing it out to park their vehicle safely and not be at risk to themselves or other road users whilst maintaining the unit.*

*We no longer erect posts for the fixing of SID units to be placed on them permanently.*

This would clearly be nonsensical for Styal because the site for the SID is quite remote. For example, a welcome to Styal sign made from heavy metal with its posts embedded in concrete was stolen from a nearby

place. The thieves even took the concrete encased posts. On this basis a SID would be comparatively easy to steal.

Councillors pointed out that there were many SIDs in the local area which had been in situ for many years. Nobody could recall any of them ever moving to a new location. The reason CEC were being so particular is because some Councils had installed them without reference to CEC and some were inappropriately placed. The Clerk added that SIDs were heavy especially with a battery and moving them every two weeks would require two people manoeuvre it.

The Clerk was asked to write a strong letter of complaint to Cheshire East

### 8.3 Ownership Issues - Closed Part of Altrincham Road

The Clerk and Councillor Stockton has been working together and they have made some progress. They have identified an officer in Cheshire East who has a lot of experience with stop up orders and has also has a long standing career in Highways.

The officer discovered that there is information regarding the stop up notice in a library in Manchester but he cannot access it as the library is closed due to Covid-19. Once he has access to the information, he will investigate further.

All information received by Styal PC has been forwarded to him and he is amenable to meeting the other interested organisations ( CEC, MAG, NT and MCC), but only once he has identified and assimilated as much information as possible. This also includes flooding.

The officer concerned has requested that his name is not made public at this time. He wants to ensure he has all the facts to hand before his name is circulated so that he can answer questions based on fact not opinion. .

### 8.4 Moss Lane Flooding

Councillor Bullock explained that there was little to report from the last meeting although CEC had visited the Wilkins Lane to examine the trench which had been illegally dug out. Hopefully this will lead to a resolution to prevent flooding in future.

Cheshire East Public Rights of Way (PROW) are responsible for Wilkins Lane and will be sending an officer out to examine the trench and advise on remedial action.

Manchester Airport is still investigating the flooding from their perspective. Obviously Covid-19 has slowed progress considerably.

### 8.5 Other Highways Matters

General concern was expressed about the overgrown state of many of the hedgerows in Styal. It was confirmed that these will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting between the Highways officer and two Styal PC Councillors.

Councillor Novak raised the dangers near Wilmslow Albion where the pavements are so overgrown that pedestrians and mothers with prams have to walk in the road. The pavements in this area are very overgrown as are the hedgerows. It is impossible to walk to directly to Wilmslow from Styal without having to go into the road.

## 9 VILLAGE MATTERS

### 9.1 Village Signs

It was agreed that the informational signs for the village should be ordered. Proposed by Councillor Novak seconded by Councillor Bullock.

### 9.2 Notice Boards

Councillor Buckley stated that he and Councillor Bullock went to look at the three signs already installed and to identify possibly new locations.

They had a chat about the notice boards and came to the conclusion that the one on the horseshoe on Hollin Lane was no longer fit for purpose and should be written off. The one near Earlams is high profile and needs replacing in the near future. The third notice board is not really in the best location so either that location is also written off or the Council negotiates with Quarry Bank to see if it could be relocated near to the Cross.

Maybe a discussion should take place about sharing space in the notice boards.

The composition of the notice boards had been discussed and although wood was traditionally used it was comparatively high maintenance whereas the composite and/or metal ones required much less attention.

### 9.3 Litter Pick

Thirty-six volunteers turned up for the Styal litter pick which proved to be a huge success. Styal Village Association are to conduct a smaller litter pick on the last Sunday of each month. Earlams are also involved and volunteers who turn up there at 9.00am for the litter pick will be provided with litter picking equipment, a bacon butty and a coffee.

The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Paul Arrowsmith who litter picks on a regular basis.

**9.4 Other Village Matters**

The Scarecrow Competition is happening in 12th July for two weeks. The theme is Children's books, films and literature

Prizes would be donated by Earlams, the Nursery (and Styal PC?).

**10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN****10.1 General Report**

Councillor Highfield provided the following report:

The group has reached agreement on producing a questionnaire to canvass the village on a variety of topics relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It is intended to also canvass some non-residents such as frequent visitors to the village. In terms of timetable is hoped to get this underway by the middle of July.

It is intended to have a banner which will inform people that there is something happening with the Neighbourhood Plan. We are also intending to do some leafleting to ensure that everybody in the village has some idea of what we are trying to achieve and how residents can help.

It is intended to do as much as possible online especially completion of the questionnaire although it is accepted that will not suit everybody so there will also be paper copies. John Novak, from Earlams, has kindly agreed for Earlams to be a pick up and drop off point for the paper copies.

We hope that this process will be completed by the end of summer. Once this is complete it is hoped that an application for funding can be made.

It was decided that the NP would have its own web site rather than piggy backing on the Council's web site. The website address is <https://www.styalnp.com/>

**10.2 Training**

The Clerk added this item to the Agenda in error.

**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	HMRC PAYE Q1
£ 159.60	J Keep	Village Posters (£133.00 + VAT)
£ 144.00	S Luff	NP Web Hosting and domain name
£ 25.00	ChALC	Training Course

**11.2 Revised Budget**

The budget has been revised as follows:

Notice Boards	£3,000
Hedge Cutting	£ 750
Room Hire	£ 300

Proposed by Councillor Highfield, seconded by Councillor Bullock - the revised budget was unanimously agreed.

**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**

Some additional information is required from Councillor Buckley in order to add him to the Council's bank account as a signatory. It has since been received by the Clerk.

**12 COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE****12.1 Facebook**

Unfortunately Councillor Gray was unable to attend the meeting so a full update cannot be given.

Councillor Buckley stated that he has seen the Facebook page and it looks ready to go.

**12.2 Website**

Similarly, an update report is not available due to the absence of Councillor Gray.

**13 BUS SERVICE IN STYAL**

The Clerk sent an email to Councillor Craig Browne requesting that he explains why Styal was not included in talks regarding the 130 bus service.

The Clerk asked why the bus could not do a simple 1 mile diversion each way so the bus could travel to the Quarry Bank bus 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.

The Clerk has been asked to invite Councillor Craig Browne to one of our future meetings.

**14 SHARED ITEMS**

It was announced that due to work and family commitments Sarah Parker has regrettably resigned from the Council and all Councillors wish her well for the future.

The Council has now got a vacancy for a new Councillor. The Council can co-opt a new member but has to advertise first.

**15 CORRESPONDENCE**

**Emails:** forwarded to Councillors

**Post:**

Lloyds Bank	Information on Business Banking conditions
Commercial	Mail shots

**16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 MINUTES)**

Residents raised the following issues and comments:

- **Isolation of Styal**

Is there any other village like Styal which has no bus service? People from the village cannot walk out of the village because of the dangerous roads.

The Clerk explained that her home village, Ashley is the same and walking out of the village presents dangers from inadequate pavements.

- **Children's Play Area**

The saga continues. The licence has been signed but nothing has happened since.

The results of the questionnaire about the bowling green was 100% positive. This has been forwarded but still no response. Andrew Hewitt offered to cut the grass but, yet again, no response. ato Is there any other village like Styal which has no bus service? People from the village cannot walk out of

- **Notice Board at the Horseshoe**

This notice board is in use and should not be removed.

Maybe the notice board from Pickmere could be used to update it?

**17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 2nd August 2021 at 7.30pm in Earlams Log Cabin

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman 02 August 2021