

PRESENT: Councillor R Dixon, Chairman
Councillor C Novak, Vice-Chairman
Councillor C Buckley
Councillor B Gray
Councillor P Highfield

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor D Stockton, CEC
Jo Hudson, National Trust
Members of the public

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor Bullock and Clerk Sue McDonald

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

2.1 Declarations Of Interest

None

2.2 Dispensations

None

3 MINUTES

To approve as correct records the minutes of the Council meetings held on 20th May 2021 and 28th June 2021. Proposed by Councillor Novak, seconded by Councillor Gray. RESOLVED: The minutes were accepted as true records.

4 POLICE REPORT

No report from the police was available

5 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Jo Hudson, from the National Trust, provided the following report:

QB has suffered from a spate of vandalism since February. This has consisted of various acts of vandalism such as fires, thefts of plants, damaged gates. The security patrols have been increased and the police have been informed.

Thatching work on numbers 9 and 10 Farm Fold will start 9th August and will last for 10 weeks. There will be scaffolding on these properties but arrangements have been made to address the impact on car parking and the scaffolding will not protrude too far.

There is a vacancy for an electrical tradesperson across Quarry Bank, Lyme and Dunham

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 MINUTES)

Residents raised the following issues and comments:

- 93 Hollin Lane, Styal
A resident who lives near this development of two houses believes that they are higher than the original plans. One house has large windows on the upper floor which look straight into the resident's front bedrooms.
Councillor Novak agreed with the resident that the actual buildings were higher and he added that there were more windows than those shown on the plans.
Councillor Stockton suggested contacting David Malcolm, Head of Planning, who would pass this on to Peter Hooley (Enforcement). Councillor Stockton also pointed out that, in addition to Styal PC contacting Cheshire East, individual residents can raise concerns about planning contraventions online via this link: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/planning_enforcement/planning_enforcement.aspx
The Clerk will contact Enforcement to ask them to check the conformity of the site to the original plans .
- Field behind the horseshoe on Hollin Lane
Concern was raised about the state of the field that is behind the houses in 'the horseshoe' part of Hollin Lane. The field is overgrown which affects a public footpath running across it and it is an eyesore.
It is believed Mann & Mann estate agents in Handforth are responsible for managing the land.
The Clerk will contact Mann & Mann about the current state of the land and footpath and also ask about if there were any plans for the land's future use.
Searches on the Internet does not produce any results for Mann & Mann in Handforth - need to know the exact name.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 Planning Applications to be Considered

To discuss current planning applications

7.1.1 21/3220M Styal House

21/3220M	Styal House, Altrincham Road, Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4LH Replace existing garage to create granny annex, pool, gym, storage, greenhouse and associated landscaping.	29/07/2021 extension. applied for
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Councillors had neither objections or comments on the application

7.1.2 21/3991M Oversley Lodge Farm

21/3991M	Oversley Lodge Farm, Altrincham Road, Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4LJ Erection of new timber and steel entrance canopy	26/08/2021
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Councillors had neither objections or comments on the application

7.1.3 21/4007M The Hayloft Barn, Oversley Lodge Farm

21/4007M	The Hayloft Barn, Oversley Lodge Farm, Altrincham Road, Styal, SK9 4LJ Erection of fully demountable metal framed and clad garage Proposed Extension and alteration to the Dwelling	26/08/2021
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The Council will comment to Cheshire East on the fact that the retrospective application is in the Conservation Area.

7.2 Other Planning Matters

None

8 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

8.1 General Highways Matters

Councillor Novak reported on the walk around Styal with Councillor Bullock and an official from Cheshire East Highways. It should be noted that the over-riding message was that CEC budget restrictions reduce what can be done to address various issues.

Councillors Novak and Bullock were very impressed with the officer's attitude and understanding of the issues raised which were as follows:

- Station Road
 - Speed Limit
There is a need to reduce the speed limit to 30mph particularly at the junction of Hollin Lane where there is limited visibility. Residents, especially schoolchildren are put at risk when attempting to cross the busy road
 - Road Surface
The road surface at the junction of Station Road and Hollin Lane is in a poor state of repair
- Overgrown Hedges, Foliage and Footpaths
 - Junction of Altrincham Road and Hollin Lane
There is limited visibility from the right when approaching Hollin Lane from Altrincham Road.
 - Altrincham Road from Hollin Lane Junction to Lode Hill
Hedges and footpaths are either overgrown or in poor condition. Pedestrians, people with prams etc. are forced to use the road.
 - Hollin Lane/Styal Road
In parts, when going towards Wilmslow, it is impossible to use the pavement due to the overgrown foliage and footpath which forces people into the main road. This road is both fast and dangerous.
- Potholes
A number of potholes were identified during the walk round in the following areas:
 - Junction of Station Road and Hollin Lane
 - Various points along Altrincham Road
 - Various points along Moss Lane and Holly Lane

All potholes are potentially hazardous to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists but the Highways officer stated that some on Altrincham Road were so dangerous they needed immediate attention.
- General Drainage
There appears to be a lack of maintenance of gullies and road sweeping which leads to silt build up and deterioration of road surfaces

- Flooding on Moss Lane and Wilkins Lane
The problems with flooding caused by defective or lack of effective drainage is ongoing. This is a long standing issue which, until recently, had not received the attention which was urgently required. An officer at CEC is currently dealing with the matter

8.2 Highways Top Up Initiative

This topic was not specifically discussed except in the wider context of budgetary constraints and how it appears that in some areas of CEC repairs are professionally completed whereas in Styal it seems that issues have been temporarily or inadequately repaired.

8.3 Flooding on Moss Lane, Wilkins Lane and the Closed Part of Altrincham Road

This was discussed within the context of the report relating to the walk round at Item 8.1 but nothing was added to these previous discussions.

8.4 Ownership of the Closed part of Altrincham Road

Neither Councillor Bullock nor the Clerk was available to provide an update

8.5 Station Road Speed Limit

This issue had been discussed as part of the walk round at Item 8.1. Further discussions included the lack of response to several requests for clarification of inaccuracies in CEC's speed survey. Neither Styal nor Councillor Stockton had received any response to date.

8.6 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The Clerk had sent an email about the rules which are nonsensical for Styal (move every two weeks etc.) to Member Services via Don Stockton and a response has not yet been received

8.7 Other Highways Matters

None

9 VILLAGE MATTERS

9.1 Village Signs

The cheque for the village informational posters had been authorised for payment at this meeting (Item 11.1). It was agreed that they should be delivered to Quarry Bank.

9.2 Notice Boards

It was unanimously agreed that the notice board identified by Councillor Buckley would be purchased. Proposed by Councillor Dixon and seconded by Councillor Novak.

The new notice board would be installed near Earlams. Once in place the Council will consider whether or not a second notice board should be purchased as a replacement for the one which used to be near the cross.

It was agreed that discussion on the notice board on the Hollin Lane horseshoe would be deferred to a later date.

9.3 Other Village Matters

None.

10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Highfield provided the following report:

A canvassing of the village is currently taking place and has been advertised by a banner which was erected on a frame by Councillor Buckley. As far as possible, flyers were distributed to every house in the village.

Councillor Gray reported that, as of today, 50 online questionnaires had been completed: 47 from residents, 3 from non-residents. In addition there are some completed paper questionnaires (number currently unknown) in a box in Earlams. The number of responses is significantly higher than the total received in a previous survey.

It is intended that completed questionnaires would be continued to be accepted for a further two weeks

Councillor Highfield set out the next steps for developing the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) once the complete questionnaires had been analysed:

- Apply for a Locality grant
- Engage a consultant to assist with development of the plan and policies arising from the survey
- Hold public meetings to provide feedback from the results of the survey and outline any policies identified from the analysis of the survey
- A second survey may be required to obtain feedback on the policies which may be included in the NP

11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

11.1 Authorisation of Payments

The following payments were unanimously authorised for issue. Proposed by Councillor Dixon, seconded by Councillor Novak

£ 257.60	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance
£ 159.60	GB Sign Solutions Ltd	Village Posters

11.2 Additional Signatory

Councillors Dixon and Novak signed that Lloyds Bank mandate amendment form to authorise Councillor Buckley as a signatory on the Council's bank account. Councillor Buckley added his signature to the form

11.3 Other Financial Matters

None

12 COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

12.1 Facebook

Councillor Gray reported that the Facebook page was live

12.2 Website

Councillor profiles on the Council's website had been updated

13 BUS SERVICE IN STYAL

There were extensive discussions regarding Styal's exclusion from the 130 bus route but it was acknowledged that these discussions were going over old ground.

It was agreed that the Council would await the outcome of a Freedom of Information request on the issue which was submitted by the Clerk.

14 SHARED ITEMS

None

15 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Councillors Dixon and Buckley interviewed the candidates for the vacancy but an appointment had been delayed because Cheshire had not confirmed that an election need not be called.

The requisite information was received from Cheshire East today and Councillor Dixon will contact the candidates on Tuesday August 3rd to inform them who would be co-opted on to the Council

16 CORRESPONDENCE

Emails: forwarded to Councillors

Post:

CEC	Letter regarding the Council vacancy
Commercial	Mail shots

17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 MINUTES)

Residents raised the following issues and comments:

- Lode Hill

More cars are being parked at Lode Hill as a result of increased activity at the airport and there was concern that there would soon be a return to the serious pre-Covid issues.

There was extensive discussion of the situation and both Councillors Dixon and Novak emphasised that this had been a constant problem which Styal PC had been trying to address for many years.

Unfortunately the Council is reliant upon the actions of other bodies including VAT Inspectors, HMRC, and Trading Standards etc., who will not necessarily inform Styal Council of any developments.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4th October 2021 at 7.30pm in Earlams Log Cabin

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 4th October 2021