

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Don Stockton, Cheshire East Council
Jen Birch, National Trust
Members of the public

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor S Parker

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:
None

3 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2020. Proposed by Councillor Highfield, seconded by Councillor Dixon. RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting was accepted as a true record

4 INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chairman welcomed Ben Gray to the Council and hoped he would enjoy working with everyone. Ben will sign the Acceptance of Office form and return it to the Clerk

5 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Lisa Gamble provided the following report by email

- **Burglary**
No Reports
- **Criminal Damage**
No Reports
- **Suspicious Activity**
Dec 2020 Report of vehicle parked up for 2 days Clarendon Cottages. Reported to Cheshire East Council as abandoned
- **Theft of motor vehicles**
No Reports
- **Theft**
No Reports
- **Theft Other**
No Reports
- **Trucam**
04/01/21 Hollin Lane 15 Activations
08/01/21 Styal Road 11 Activations

News about Lisa

Lisa is pregnant and goes on maternity leave in February her temporary replacement will be PCSO Issy Yates. Issy's email address is: Yates@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
The Clerk will write a letter of congratulations to Lisa and a welcome letter to Issy

6 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

Jo Hudson, from the NT, provided the following report via email

- **Key Message**
The key message across the National Trust will be to stay local and that our sites are open to help to fulfil a physical and mental wellbeing need in line with government guidance.
- **Annual Maintenance**
The Mill has been closed for the annual maintenance week this week and will reopen with the changes described below in place from Saturday 9th January.
- **Facilities**
The parlour in the mill yard will remain open with a very limited food and beverage offer but all other outlets will close. We will be keeping the toilets open in both the mill yard and the garden.

- **Main Car Park and Grounds, including the Gardens**

The main car park and grounds, including the garden, will remain open to provide access to green space for local people in line with our purpose as a charity and for daily exercise permitted by government instruction.

- **Visitor Numbers**

The NT will do its best to control numbers on site by limiting capacity in the garden – the only area of the site which can be fully controlled – through pre-booking, however, the public rights of way can result in larger numbers across the estate. It is important to keep the main car park open for local walkers and hope that this will reduce the impact on Altrincham Road and the village. The village car park will remain closed. The NT requests the public's in encouraging people to use the main car park if they are taking their daily exercise.

These arrangements remain under constant review and changes will be made where needed to ensure staff, resident and public safety.

- **NT Staff**

Approximately 50% of staff will be furloughed again and only a small number of volunteers will be staying on to support the delivery of essential health & safety tasks and maintenance to keep the site safe, again in line with guidance.

There will be a team present to staff the parlour and garden entrances, keep on top of Covid safe hygiene practices and meet minimum staffing levels for opening. The gardeners, rangers and facilities team will all remain in work but some of the broader team will work from home on some days.

It is the NT's hope that the public will follow the guidance, stay local and only visit for exercise in their household bubbles or following the rule of two. Hopefully a combination of the new double yellow lines on Altrincham road, the main car park remaining open and messaging will help to reduce the impact on the village. All of the senior team will be working during this period and the Mill's phone lines and email address will be covered.

- **A request**

Booking numbers have been reduced to further facilitate socially distanced daily exercise in the Quarry Bank garden for local people – part of the Mill's charitable purpose. However, this does not limit/control those people parking on Altrincham Road and taking a walk through the woods.

To try to encourage to park in the main Quarry Bank car park, new signage is being produced and flyers have already been printed with the same wording. These will be distributed to those parking on Altrincham. The signs will be placed in appropriate locations to highlight to walkers the importance of them using the car park and that it is free to all.

Some of the walkers may not realise they are actually Quarry Bank visitors so it is important to spread the word about the free car park. It is hoped that spreading the word plus the new signs will have a positive impact in reducing the number of cars parked on Altrincham Road.

Jo is happy for people to contact her if you have any questions about any aspects of this report. The best number to use is 07785 723068 any messages will be passed on

7 PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 Planning Applications to be Considered

To discuss current planning applications

7.1.1 20/5439M Threacre Cottage

| | | |
|----------|---|------------|
| 20/5439M | Threacre Cottage, 55, Moss Lane, Styal, SK9 4LF 1 no. detached, single storey dwelling, to replace existing outbuilding and new vehicular access | 15/01/2021 |
|----------|---|------------|

Styal Parish Council objects to this planning application on the following grounds:

- no application form has been submitted, thus there is insufficient information about various aspects of the proposal
- the proposal is for a new detached 3 bedroom dwelling in the greenbelt but there have been no associated special circumstances.
- a new vehicular access point is to be made into Moss Lane seemingly without any risk assessment
- it is not a replacement for an outbuilding - the outbuilding and the new dwelling are in completely different locations on the site
- according to the plans it appears that the new building and its grounds would become a wholly independent site rather than a part of Threacre Cottage

7.1.2 20/5610M Beech Cottage

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| 20/5610M | Beech Cottage, Altrincham Road, Styal, SK9 4JE Listed building consent for removal of existing chimney and supporting chimney breast. | 04/02/2021 |
|----------|--|------------|

Styal Parish Council objects to this proposal on the grounds that it destroys an intrinsic part of a Grade II listed building

Comments:

The Design and Access statement includes:

'Beech Cottage has two chimney stacks visible whereas Fern Cottage only has one.....

....The second chimney serving Beech Cottage is located on the west elevation of the property but there is no corresponding chimney visible on Fern Cottage'

It is Styal Council's contention that the 2nd chimney stack on Fern Cottage was removed without planning consent to accommodate a single storey extension. Thus the removal of the Beech Cottage chimney stack would only serve to compound the problem

The officer's report for the Fern Cottage application (10/3721M) clearly states that the listing details for this property (and the adjoining house known as Beech Cottage) are as follows:

'Mid-late C19 with some C20 additions. English bond yellow brick, red tile roof with some fish scale bands. 2 brick chimneys with 3 tall diamond stacks. H-plan, 2-storey symmetrical 4-bay front. End bays step forward under gables with pierced barge boards and 2 bands of blue brick diapering. 5-light wood mullioned windows, with moulded flat hoods and applied lead glazing. Similar windows in central bays below and 3-lights-in timber framed gabled dormers above. Doorways in lean-to porches at either end. Listed for group value only.'

Plus:

'The proposed works would not affect any features of the building noted in the listing'.

The associated drawings do not show the chimney stack but, nonetheless, there was no permission sought to remove it.

7.1.3 21/0002M Beech Cottage

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| 20/0002M | Beech Cottage, Altrincham Road, Styal, SK9 4JE Rear single storey extension | 11/02/2021 |
|----------|--|------------|

Styal Parish Council objected to this planning application on the following grounds:

- The proposed extension is very large and out of proportion with the original building which is in a greenbelt conservation area
- The new doors and windows are of a modern design and out of keeping with the traditional existing doors and windows. The new doors and windows are to be constructed in timber and powder coated aluminium which is not in keeping with the cottage's listed status
- It is proposed that a polymer flat roof, of an unknown colour, is to be installed rather than a tile and/or slate roof as is installed on the rest of the building.

7.1.4 21/0003M Beech Cottage

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| 21/0003M | Beech Cottage, Altrincham Road, Styal, SK9 4JE Listed building consent for a rear single storey extension | 11/02/2021 |
|----------|--|------------|

The comments at 7.1.3 apply in their entirety also apply to this application.

7.2 Planning Applications Already Considered**7.2.1 20/4690M Constable House**

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| 20/4690M | Constable House, Altrincham Road, Styal, SK9 4JE Proposed rear and single storey extension and proposed 2 storey rear extension | 25/11/2020 |
|----------|--|------------|

Styal Parish Council noted that this planning application is virtually the same in proportion as a previously refused application 20/1843M.

Styal Parish Council's objections to this planning application 20/4690M were on the following grounds:

- It is an overdevelopment of the site in that the existing building has already been extended to more than twice size of the original house
- The site is in a wash over greenbelt conservation area in the heart of old Styal Village
- Currently there is a very overgrown and high hedge at the site boundary. The hedge has the effect of masking any buildings from public view. There is a concern that, should the hedge be cut back thus allowing sight of the building, it will probably be regarded as out of character with the surrounding area
- the extension could cause a loss of privacy to the cottages at the rear of Beech Cottage.

8 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

8.1 Restricted Parking on Altrincham Road

The new restricted parking on Altrincham Road has generally been well received although the nursery has complained that it has caused problems for them. Residents would like the restrictions to apply to weekends as well as during the week

8.2 Altrincham Road / Moss Lane

8.2.1 O'Connor Utilities

There have been a number of reports about the damage to roads, especially Moss Lane, caused by the heavy lorries belonging to O'Connor Utilities. Also other issues relating to the company. For example:

- Altrincham Road and Moss Lane Junction
 - *'repairs' from damage by lorries was poorly executed such as tarmac being left unsealed leading to cracking*
 - *drains not sitting correctly - water pools and will not drain*
 - *grass verges torn up making a mess on the road*
 - *the lorry drivers travel at high speeds and show no consideration for pedestrians and drives, even round bends*
- Moss Lane/Hollin Lane
 - *Lorries (and sometimes cars) doing a U-turn at the junction of Moss Lane/Hollin Lane have damaged the road and it needs to be repaired*

Councillors advised residents to either report problems themselves via the Highways online reporting system or inform the Clerk who will report it on their behalf. Reporting through the Clerk often gets a quicker response. It is important to provide a precise location and photographs wherever possible

The Clerk has been asked to contact Cheshire East Highways

8.2.2 Flooding on Moss Lane

This is an ongoing problem which no organisation appears to take responsibility. In addition there are conflicting reports about the origin of the flooding and/or if there is more than one source.

It is completely unacceptable for residents to endure this constant flooding.

Much of the blame has been following the creation of a new car park with (as it is perceived) inadequate drainage.

The Council will attempt to get the relevant organisations together to try to thrash out a solution. At the very least Cheshire East and the Airport should have a dialogue

The Clerk will pursue this matter.

8.3 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.

Unfortunately for the Council, the CEC officer who was in charge of this matter has since moved on to a different department and it has been difficult to identify his replacement. The project cannot progress until CEC have conducted a site visit to assess the potential sites for the SID

8.4 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

9 FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.1 Authorisation of Payments

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

| | | |
|----------|---------------|---|
| £312.00 | Ashley Waller | Christmas tree |
| £ 56.00 | Craig Buckley | Thank you presents for assistance with Christmas tree |
| £ 25.00 | ChALC | Zoom Training |
| £180.00 | HMRC | PAYE Q3 |
| £200.00 | S McDonald | To be converted to cash for the petty cash fund (see 9.3) |
| £ 194.39 | S McDonald | £180.00 Reimbursement for HMRC PAYE Q2 £ 11.99 + £2.40 (tax) Monthly Zoom Account |

9.2 Precept 2021-2022

Councillors agreed that the precept would remain the same as last year i.e. £9,200. Proposed by Councillor Highfield, Seconded by Councillor Buckley

9.3 Petty Cash Policy

Councillors discussed the draft petty cash policy and agreed that it should be adopted. It was further agreed that the initial float of £200.00 could be paid at this meeting. Proposed by Councillor Novak, seconded by Councillor Highfield

9.4 Other Financial Matters

None

10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Highfield reported that the group had had some online training from Tom Evans from CEC.

The group is intending to get some quotes from Neighbourhood Plan consultants to ascertain the likely cost of assistance with developing and publishing the plan. There is a possibility that the final bill could go over the initial £10,000 grant.

Councillor Buckley described an environmental survey that could provide baseline data about Styal

Moving forward Councillor Highfield stated that there would need to be the village would have to be canvassed again to ascertain the latest opinions.

11 VILLAGE MATTERS

11.1 Terry Mitcheson

To report the sad news that Terry died on 8th December 2020.

Terry was a regular attendee at Council meetings and will be sadly missed.

His funeral cortege was very apt because it was on an appropriately decorated trailer being pulled by a tractor across one of his fields

11.2 Free Bus

Styal village is without a bus yet again

The D&G T2 free bus to Handforth Green stopped at three places in Styal:

- Opposite the prison
- Outside the railway station
- Outside the Car Park (doesn't say which car park)

Styal Parish Council was not advised that the bus route no longer encompassed Styal - the Council discovered this following a query from a new resident.

The route now starts in Knutsford, goes through Mobberley & Wilmslow to Lacey Green and on to Handforth.

Councillor Don Stockton has tabled a member's question on Styal's behalf

11.3 Waste Bins and Dog Bins

It is a fact that there are insufficient waste bins and dog bins in Styal. Although most comments relate to bins on Altrincham Road, there are issues elsewhere, such as on Moss Lane

This has been discussed many times before with no resolution. The main problem is one of who owns what. For example, Cheshire East, the Airport and possibly the National Trust, have responsibility for different parts of Altrincham Road.

Placement of the bins is probably not an issue although emptying them would be

On roads where CEC has responsibility it should be easy to lobby for new bins. The reality is that CEC have stated that they do not have any spare ones.

It had been suggested that Styal Parish Council could buy some bins but realistically the Council would be responsible for emptying them which would cause the precept to increase, possibly by many thousands of pounds, in order to employ a contractor on a regular basis

There needs to be a meeting of minds with the various organisations to facilitate a solution

The Clerk is actively pursuing this issue as is Councillor Stockton via Member's questions

11.4 Other Village Matters

None

12 SHARED ITEMS

12.1 Styal School

The new head teacher of Styal school wants to ensure that the school enjoys a good relationship with residents and wants close contact with the village

13 QUESTIONS POSED BY RESIDENTS

Residents raised the following issues:

- **Train Passes**

What has happened to the train passes and how can they be obtained when Earlams is closed due to Covid?

The train passes are no longer valid as they are outdated and it is believed that they are currently held by the train company

- **People Gathering Outside Earlams**

Concern was expressed about people gathering outside Earlams and thus breaking social distancing rules

The general feeling among the Councillors was that this was an unusual situation as none of them had seen such a gathering. If it becomes a regular situation then the Council would consider advises Earlams to erect a sign but this would be overkill at the present time

- **Litter Bins**

- **We need more bins!**

The Council could not agree with this statement more but as previously mentioned in these minutes (11.3) but there are issues surrounding responsibility for both acquiring and emptying the bins.

- **Other Questions posed by Residents** (added to the Agenda under the appropriate item)

- *O'Connor Utilities 8.2.1*
- *Highway in poor repair, also under 8.2.1*
- *Flooding on Moss Lane 8.2.2*
- *Rubbish on Moss Lane 11.3*

14 CORRESPONDENCE

Emails: forwarded to Councillors

Post:

Scottish Power Advisory leaflets regarding how to deal with electricity cuts safely
Commercial Mail shots

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Zoom Meeting - March 22nd 2021

16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To be announced: Covid-19 restriction permitting

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 22nd March 2021