**STOKE & HURLESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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Minutes of Meeting held on 6th September 2021 @ 7.30pm

 **Nantwich Vets, Hurleston .**

**Councillors Present**: Mrs Valerie Pickford (**VP**) (Chair), Mike Kosh (**MK)** (Vice Chair), Christine Bowen (**CB**)**,** Ken Hough (**KH**), John Doherty (**JD**), Mrs Helen Exley (**The Clerk**), Borough Councillor Sarah Pochin(**SP**)Left after pt 5

|  **Point**  | **Agenda point** | **Raised By** | **Action** | **Due Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | **Apologies: -** Robert Darlington (**RD**) |  Chair | Clerk | 06/09/21 |
| 2. | **Declaration of Councillors Interests:**-There were no declarations registered from any Cllrs present. | The Clerk | The Clerk | 06/09/21 |
| 3. | **Matters arising from previous Minutes & Approval:** -The Minutes of 17/05/21 Annual Parish Meeting, proposed as accurate by **MK** 2nded **CB,** Annual Parish Council Meeting, proposed as accurate by **CB** and 2nded by **MK**, Quarterly parish meeting proposed as accurate by **VP** and 2nded by **MK****Matters arising:-** none |  Chair | N/A | 06/09/21 |
| 4. | **Open Forum:-**No members of the public were present. | General Public | The Clerk | 06/09/21 |
| 5. | **Borough Councillor:-**Signage on roundabouts – CEC proposing that advertising will be put on the Wardle roundabout by Green Lane/Wardle estate. Planning to be put forward for this to take place. Questions raised by **JD**:-* What is the level of income raised to CEC by putting this advertising in place?
* Speeding issue on the road – will it create more of an issue?
* Very small roundabout – Health & Safety issue.
* Potential vision blocking.
* Who is responsible for maintenance?

**SP comments:-*** feedback that S&HPC are NOT in favour of this proposed advertising.
* put forward the option of consideration of merger with Wardle PC. (See minute 11 below)
* Traffic survey – results need to be discussed with the 4 PC’s on the A51 and the use of the 106 money and how it is spent. Meeting to be scheduled to discuss with all 4 Parishes. **SP** to facilitate the meeting. (see Minute 6 below)
* Report to be sent to Clerk on further CEC issues.
* Question raised about e mails being directed only through the Chair to **SP** – **SP** will respond to any e mails from all councillors.
* Request to **SP** to help the PC get the hedge by Old Chester Road cut. This has been an ongoing issue for several years and CEC have not responded.
 | The Clerk | SP | 06/09/21 |
| 6. | **Highways Update**: -* **Closure of A51** for 16 weeks. There is no contact for CEC for reporting misuse of the back lanes of diverted traffic on recent flyers. Not enough signage displayed regarding the use of HGV’s not to use the back lanes. **SP** has asked for “NO HGV” signs to be displayed. Public cannot be stopped using these lanes, but encouragement required to stop the misuse.
* A51- sign by Barbridge turning is completely overgrown and cannot be seen. Photo to be taken (again) and resent to CEC Highways and ask to be cutback.
* **JD** raised the issue of lack of public transport due to road closure – people living on boats and vulnerable residents that have no means of getting into town in this current situation. Request that CEC should offer some help. Look at Flexibus option. **JD** to look into this and investigate.
* **Traffic Survey –** See attached (Appendix 1) analysis completed by **JD & MK**
* **Matrix signs –** to be discussed at the 4 way meeting and the purchase through 106 monies.
* **Agreed that SP would organise a meeting between the 4 parish councils on the A51 to discuss this data.**
 | Chair | MK/ JD/SP | ongoing |
| 7. | **Lengthsman duties:-*** Dog bins – ongoing issues with over filling. These are emptied on a weekly basis. More dog waste bags are now available. Replacement lock has now been supplied.
* More spraying of offending fouling to be carried out to highlight the issue again.
* Stickers have been ordered to be put on bins about not over filling and emptied weekly. Are the bags being used and put in the bin? Clerk to check with Peter.
 | Clerk | Clerk/CB | ongoing |
| 8. | **Parish Council Noticeboard:-**Councillorshave all agreed that the purchase of a noticeboard should now take place. **MK** & **VP** will now investigate and propose the most appropriate board to buy.Clerk to investigate suppliers and forward to **VP** & **MK**. Reconfirmed that the board will now be purchased. | Chair | Clerk | ongoing |
| 9. | **Clerk’s report:-**Website hits – investigation via web provider shows that the average is 6 hits per week.**JD** is keen to get involved in getting more people interested in using the website. Clerk to update **JD** on workings of the website before the next meeting. | The Clerk | The Clerk | 06/12/21 |
| 10. | **Planning Matters :-**Current:- *21/3338N 19 Old Chester Court Barbridge, CW5 6AY – single storey dining room extension to back of house – no comment**21/4643N 3 Canal Cottages, Old Chester Rd, CW5 6BA – PC will not support this application due to the light issue. VP will write to planning with the objection.* Past:*-**21/2505N – Stoke House, Old Chester Road CW5 6AY – single storey extension to rear/side – approved with conditions**21/1536N – Mill House, Old Chester Rd, Barbridge, CW5 6AY. 2 storey side extension. Approved with conditions**21/0580N – Park Farm, Chester Road Hurleston. Use of existing goods access as overflow for vehicle exit. – undecided* | The Chair | VP | 06/09/21 |
| 11. | **Cheshire East Governance issues and boundary changes:*** No suggestion within the Governance review regarding merger of Wardle and SHPC. Councillors do not believe that there will be a significant benefit to a merger. Councillors agreed that they would be happy to work alongside Wardle PC on common matters such as A51 issues.
* **VP** & **MK** attended a virtual meeting regarding the Governance review and the proposals around this.
* Poster sent from CEC regarding the consultation of the governance review to be displayed on noticeboard when purchased and website.
* Flyer to be agreed (wording), produced and distributed by SHPC and delivered within the Parish alerting residents as to the potential change and enabling them to have their say. Cllrs to distribute.
 | The Chair | The Clerk/CB | ongoing |
| 12. | **Draft Sustainable Drainage systems supplementary Document (SuDSSPD):**Discussion document regarding responsible drainage within new developments. Artificial drainage issues within these developments and the impact on natural drainage and surrounding areas and drainage issues. Looking at developing new marsh land/ponds/lakes to enhance new developments in the area to help with drainage/flooding issues.New planning applications should look at sustainability to drainage issues.**This document has been read, acknowledged & supported by SHPC.** | The Chair | The Chair | 06/09/21 |
| 13. | **CEC Bus Service Improvement Plan Towns & Parish Council Engagement:-****JD** summarized the plans for the service and improvement plan. **JD** has sent comments into CEC regarding this but has had no acknowledgement. See appendix 2 | The Chair | JD | 06/09/21 |
| 14. | **Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2025:-****MK & JD** have reviewed the CEC document but commented on the lack of data which made it difficult to assess. Both Councillors responded to the survey with their views and responded on behalf of SHPC  | The Chair |  N/A | 06/09/21 |
| 15. | **Review of Current Standing Orders:**Wording of “Chairman” to be altered to gender neutral. Chair Person**JD** proposed and **MK** 2nded the re – adoption of the revised S/O’s | The Clerk | The Clerk | 06/09/21 |
| 16. | **Payment of accounts:-** Cheques issued:- * Peter Wilson (550) £330.00
* Nantwich vets room hire (551) £ 50.00
* Helen Exley (clerks Fees) (553) £676.48
* Helen Exley annual Expenses (552) £ 68.78

   | The Clerk | The Clerk  | 06/09/21 |
| 17. | **AOB / items for next agenda:-*** **VP** wishes to donate the Christmas tree for the village. It was agreed the usual fee for the Christmas tree cost be donated to St Luke’s Hospice. The suggested amount is £120.
* **JD** raised the issue of grass that needs cutting on boundary of Wardle as it is affecting the boat owners along that stretch of canal. Contact with the Wardle clerk via **JD** to resolve the issue.
 | The Chair | Chair/JDCBThe Clerk | 06/12/21 |
| 18. | **Dates for 2021 meetings :-****6th December – 7.30pm** | The Clerk | The Clerk | 06/09/21 |

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed @9.42 pm

-------------------------------------------------------------------------**Chair** ------------------------------------------------------**Date**

**Appendix 1**

**Traffic Survey results analysis**

*Speed northbound*

7 day average speed 39 mph but 32.9% of vehicles were travelling over the speed limit and 9%were at the limit where police would prosecute ie 46mph.

*Speed southbound*

7 day average speed 46 mph with 87.8% travelling over the speed limit 42.4% were at the limit were police would prosecute, ie 46mph.

Averaged out for north and southbound, the 7 day average shows average speed of 42.5 with 65% travelling over the limit, while 25% could be liable to prosecution

Clearly the southbound speeding is a considerable issue but still 1/3 of northbound were over the speed limit even as they approached the village well past the restriction signs.

*Traffic volume*

Northbound weekday average 6547, 7 day average 6161, weeks total = 43,127

Southbound weekday average 6447, 7 day average 6232,weeks total = 43,627

Combined weekday average 12,994, 7 day average 12,393 weeks total= 86754

Looking at traffic spread across the day week etc some familiar patterns arise.

Northbound there is a surge around 05.30am then about 07.00am. Shift patterns at Boughey for example might explain some of this. The flow remains fairly constant all day until dropping off after 19.00pm.

Northbound traffic peaks on Friday afternoons in addition to the early day peaks and again on Saturday morning.

Southbound builds up Friday pm and again peaks late Sunday afternoon( on return from the seaside!

If we compare our results with the other two sites some inferences might be drawn.

Looking at our northbound daily average of 6547 vehicles by the time that traffic reaches Calveley the figure is 5810 ie 737 less in about a mile!!

Weekly total northbound is 43127, at Calvaley it’s 38658 Ie 4469 less in a mile?

Southbound is equally interesting with the daily average picking up 711 extra vehicles between Calveley and Barbridge thats per day!!!

John hits the nail on the head when he points to the industrial complex of Boughey, Rawlinson and NIck Brookes. The situation will worsen as the Wardle Airfield site builds and there is more land for sale near Rawlison being marketed as ideal for warehouse and distribution.

**Appendix 2**

**Subject:** **Cheshire East Bus Service Improvement Plan Towns & Parish Council Engagement**
﻿Thank you for offering opportunity to input into the NBS Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan  as per your email 16 August 2021 .

**Background**
I am a  Parish Councillor member (very new) for Stoke & Hurleston PC.
I have extensive experience managing highly complex pan global partnerships, enabling partnership transformation and behavioural change.
**Context**
I have read with interest the aforementioned document , additionally I have read in detail Cheshire economic recovery plan and Cheshire East Homelessness  strategy.
My comments below are an attempt to provide input and with positive intent to provide support to help develop a coherent response and to secure support as required from central government.

**COMMENTS**
Reference to partnership working is made throughout the document. This is encouraging  it will be helpful to understand which partnership model is being adopted, how organisations are aligned and within this how people are accountable for said activities.
I cannot see (of course this could be work in progress)  the level of detail required to ensure Cheshire East achieves its stated desired outcomes.
It is evident that Cheshire Est wishes to meet its obligations in respect of being in a position to secure government funding. With this in mind I am surprised that there appears to be no expressed impact on Cheshire Economic recovery plan . I would also expect to have see more detailed revenue to rural community support, particularly as over 50% of Cheshire East residents live in rural communities (source Homelessness strategy document) May I suggest consideration is given in to adding more context of the implications on business and communities if Cheshire East secures funding support.

**Patronage**
Passenger numbers are declining, is there any current research which provides causation data which will help understand the critical issue of declining numbers.
I note the comments made regarding the key difference between Enhance Partnership and Franchise being the former affords a greater role of Cheshire East. May I suggest this feels like the “fear of not being in control” and is “dated” thinking. I would strongly advise looking how partnership working can be effective (see above) and strong governance can address many concerns whilst savings in costs.
As an aside, the A51 is in the process of starting  From my understanding there will be no bus service provided for the duration of work (14 weeks) to areas including Wardle, Barbridge and Stoke. Whilst the roadworks are essential how does this play into Cheshire East wanting to provide a regular and sustainable bus services .
I do not notice any consideration being given to working in partnership with the likes of Cheshire West, I say this as bus operators will offer services that cross boundaries.
Regrettably, do nothing is an option should patronage continue to fall, I fall to see how the government would expect Cheshire East to run a loss making business unless the cost is picked-up by the wider community, is this part of the plan?

**Environment**
Carbon neutral by 2025 is a stretch. Public transport alone will not be enough. A strategy to drive patronage by motivating use is critical and I would suggest a commercial enterprise is better at being innovative at generating properties that will drive sustainable behaviour.  I assume that Cheshire East has a plan to become carbon neutral , if so is the bus strategy integrated into this plan and can a copy be shared.