**STOKE & HURLESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**www.stokeandhurleston-pc.gov.uk**

Minutes of Meeting held on 17th May 2021 @ 7.50pm

**Nantwich Vets, Hurleston .**

**Councillors Present**: Mrs Valerie Pickford (**VP**) (Chair) Mike Kosh (**MK)** Robert Darlington (**RD**), Christine Bowen (**CB**)**,** Ken Hough (**KH**), John Doherty (**JD**) Mrs Helen Exley (**The Clerk**)

| **Point** | **Agenda point** | **Raised By** | **Action** | **Due Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | **Apologies: -** Borough Councillor Sarah Pochin (**SP**) | Chair | Clerk | 17/05/21 |
| 2. | **Declaration of Councillors Interests:**-  There were no declarations registered from any Cllrs present. | The Clerk | The Clerk | 17/05/21 |
| 3. | **Matters arising from previous Minutes & Approval:** -  The Minutes of 08/03/21 were signed and agreed as accurate by all Councillors present. Proposed as accurate by **VP** and 2nded by **CB**  **Matters arising:-** none | Chair | N/A | 17/05/21 |
| 4. | **Open Forum:-**  No members of the public were present. | General Public | The Clerk | 17/05/21 |
| 5. | **Borough Councillor:-**  **Not present**  Update e mail attached as appendix but precises here to include:-   * Confirmation that virtual meetings end on 6th May * PPE Packs for Volunteers * Business grants update * Cheshire East Council is consulting on its homelessness strategy   *It was agreed that 2 Councillors would review this policy and submit comments on behalf of SHPC.*   * CEC has launched consultation on housing documents * Countdown to CEC's Committee System * Reopened town centres * Electric Vehicle Charging Points * Review of Parish Boundaries   , | The Clerk | N/A | 17/05/21 |
| 6. | **Highways Update**: -   * Matrix signs –**MK** e mailed **SP** for update on progress of signs. No progress to date. CEC have had the money since January 2020 and there should be some action. SHPC feel that CEC are ignoring us. **MK** will keep up the pressure stating that it is 15 months since the money was released for the purchase of the signs. * Traffic Survey A51 – no progress on when this survey will take place.   **SHPC is extremely disappointed in lack of progress in both these areas.** | Chair  Clerk | MK/ Chair  Clerk | ongoing |
| 7. | **Lengthsman duties:-**   * Dog bins – ongoing issues with over filling. These are emptied on a weekly basis. Litter issue with people leaving litter in these bins. Lock has been damaged due to over filling. * Spraying of offending fouling has been carried out to highlight it. * Additional bag has been left by the bin for overflowing. * Stickers to be put on bins about not over filling and emptied weekly. **CB** to provide supplier name for bespoke stickers/signs. * Dog Poo bag dispensers to be erected by the bins in the next 2 weeks. Hopefully this will reduce the issue of not picking up the fouling.   The PC are keen to do as much as possible to tackle this issue within the Parish. | Clerk | Clerk/CB | ongoing |
| 8. | **Parish Council Noticeboard:-**   * Enquiry to planning Dept regarding the siting of a new board is on hold as CEC planning dept are so behind in the application process due to lockdown. PC are no further forward with the purchase of a new board until they know where it can be properly sited. * Possibility of purchasing a noticeboard from another PC who are replacing them. Waiting to see if they are still available. * Question asked about how many hits happen on the PC website. Clerk to investigate. | Chair | Clerk | ongoing |
| 9. | **Clerk’s report:-**  Northwich Family events – Posters and notification to be put on the website. | The Clerk | The Clerk | 17/05/21 |
| 10. | **Planning Matters :-**  Current:-  *21/1536N – Mill House, Old Chester Rd, Barbridge, CW5 6AY. 2 storey side extension. – no comment*  *21/2505N Stoke House, Old Chester Rd – Storm porch - no comment*  Past:-  *21/0580N – Park Farm, Chester Road Hurleston. (Snugburys). Use of existing goods access as overflow for vehicle exit. –* no decision | The Chair | The Clerk | 17/05/21 |
| 11. | **Cheshire East Governance issues and boundary changes:**  Recent draft proposals forwarded on to councillors regarding possible changes to parishes within CEC.  Stoke & Hurleston recommendations - merge the 2 parishes of Stoke & Hurleston into 1 and look at possible name change and increase the number of councillors to 7.  It was agreed by all councillors that once the consultation period is advertised, a flyer be sent out to all parish residents to gauge opinion on possibility, or not, of a name change to parish. **CB** to do 1st draft of flyer. | The Chair | The Clerk/CB | ongoing |
| 12. | **Review of Current Standing Orders:**  To be deferred to next meeting. Councillors to review current standing orders for amendment and update as necessary. | The Clerk | The Clerk | 06/09/21 |
| 13. | **Parish Insurance renewal:-**  The Clerk has obtained additional quotes and Zurich, current insurers are best price. It was agreed by all Cllrs that we remain with Zurich.  **VP** Proposed and **RD** 2nded that the PC remain with Zurich. | The Clerk | The Clerk | 17/05/21 |
| 14. | **Clerk & Lengthsman payments:**  Agreed that current rate is sufficient for both the Clerk and Litterpicker. | Chair | Chair | 17/05/21 |
| 15. | **Payment of accounts:-**  Natwest bank mandate updatefor digital banking redone & to be sent off.  Cheques issued:-   * Peter Wilson (542) £200.00 * Experior Systems Accounts Ltd (543) £120.00 * CHALC fees (544) £ 97.20 * Helen Exley (clerks Fees) (545) £507.36 * Helen Exley annual Expenses & Zoom (546) £ 229.27 * Nantwich vets room hire (547) £ 50.00 * Richard Good year – fencepost mix (548) £ 22.82 * Zurich insurance (549) £ 213.89   **VP** proposed payments and **CB** seconded. | The Clerk | The Clerk | 17/05/21 |
| 16. | **Annual Audit:**  The Annual Parish accounts audit was agreed in line with the internal Auditors report. All relevant documentation was signed and witnessed.  All relevant documentation will be now sent off to the External Auditor by the necessary deadlines. | The Clerk | The Clerk/Chair | 17/05/21 |
| 17. | **Items for next agenda:-**  Standing orders. | The Chair | The Chair  CB  The Clerk | 17/05/21 |
| 18. | **Dates for 2021 meetings :-**  **6th September – 7.30pm**  **6th December – 7.30pm** | The Clerk | The Clerk | 17/05/21 |

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed @9.20 pm

-------------------------------------------------------------------------**Chairman** ------------------------------------------------------**Date**

**BUNBURY WARD CLLR REPORT May 2021**

**Confirmation that virtual meetings end on 6 May**

The High Court judgement regarding virtual council meetings has been announced. The application was dismissed, meaning that the Council will need to resort to ‘in-person’ meetings from 7 May onwards.

The court concluded that:

*"…. the Secretary of State was correct in November 2016 and July 2019 to say that primary legislation would be required to allow local authority "meetings" under the 1972 Act to take place remotely. In our view, once the Flexibility Regulations cease to apply, such meetings must take place at a single, specified geographical location; attending a meeting at such a location means physically going to it; and being "present" at such a meeting involves physical presence at that location."*

CEC has been working on arrangements for Covid-safe meetings after 7 May, reviewing room availability, room size etc.

The recently agreed calendar of meetings had been arranged to take account of the High Court application potentially being dismissed and only the most essential meetings have been scheduled to take place during the early weeks of the new Municipal Year.

Councils by law, have to hold annual meetings within 21 days following local elections, so many will now have to use very large external venues to allow all members of the council to meet in person.

Councils want to continue to have powers to hold online and hybrid meetings even when restrictions have been lifted. A recent LGA survey of its members revealed that 83 per cent of councils said they would be very likely or fairly likely to conduct meetings both online and in a hybrid way once the coronavirus emergency was over if they had the power.

The current flexibility has been paramount in allowing access for both councillors and the public into council meetings.  Many councils have, in fact, seen significantly increased participation by the public in meetings where important decisions are made about planning, housing and the provision of local services. Councils want the flexibility to continue to meet in this way and continue their business, especially in times of emergency such as when flooding occurs or if there is significant traffic disruption due to weather conditions.

The Government gave clear evidence at the hearing in support of allowing the option of online and hybrid meetings. Unfortunately, the judgement is clear that primary legislation is needed to allow councils to use technology to hold meetings.

**PPE Packs for Volunteers**

Cheshire East Council have PPE packs available for volunteers. Each pack contains:

2 packs of home testing kits

1 x box of gloves (various sizes available)

1 x box of face masks

1 x 500ml of hand sanitiser

Face screens/visors are available but optional.

Packs can be collected from Sandbach Enterprise Centre by calling Alan (07850078880), Steve (07734391520) or Toby (07814718401) and arranging a time to collect

**Business grants update**

The council is continuing to invite applications for the new Restart Grant, which supports eligible non-essential retail businesses and hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gyms with one-off grants of up to £18,000 to help them reopen safely. More than 680 applications have been approved and £5.2m has already been paid out.

Businesses receiving the Restart Grant are required to make a new application as central government is asking for additional information. A new online system will make the process quicker with tighter fraud security. Companies are advised to check that CEC has the correct information on file every 12 months so that it knows the business is still operating.

The first phase of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is closed to new applications and all funding has been allocated in line with the policy. The council has paid out just over 3,100 grants totalling £6.3m and businesses that are still required to close will continue to receive grant funding up until 21 June in line with the new roadmap out of lockdown.

The council has agreed a new phase two policy, which will see it provide additional funding to 487 businesses that were required to close, and assist a further 225 businesses that previously fell outside the ARG policy, including companies delivering in-person services and which were severely hit by the pandemic.

The council expects to have distributed the £11.1m in grants by 21 June under the new policies and also anticipates the receipt of £3.4m in government funding to give further support to businesses up to March 2022.

A phase three policy to cover this new allocation of funding is in the process of being developed and it will tie into the council’s economic recovery strategy

**Cheshire East Council is consulting on its homelessness strategy**

Cheshire East Council is putting together a plan for preventing homelessness in the borough and is asking its residents for their views via a consultation.

The council’s housing team has developed a draft homelessness and rough sleeping strategy for the next four years. At its heart is a vision to prevent homelessness and give residents the ability to access and sustain affordable housing with an improved quality of life.

The draft strategy is based on feedback collected from partners about progress made during the last three years and looks at areas that the council may focus on going forward. This initial review found that the council could:

• Identify the main reasons for the present and potential future levels of homelessness and housing need;

• Look at services in place to prevent homelessness and to provide accommodation and support to those in need;

• Identify resources available to provide support for homeless people through prevention activity diverting people away from becoming homeless

• Check for any gaps in provision

The council recognises that a mix of both generic and specialist services are required to address homelessness in Cheshire East and means the approach is more likely to fit the person rather than the person needing to fit the offer.

Many homeless people have had difficult lives, which are often complex and chaotic, however homelessness can happen to anyone. The council urges residents to seek support and advice as early as possible – it is not the case that only those with complex needs can ask for assistance.

The strategy is out for consultation for 12 weeks up to Wednesday 14 July.

You can read the draft strategy, and comment on it here: [https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/T3ODNZ/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fsurveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk%2Fs%2FT3ODNZ%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0u5cxB5x-UjryuChU6AQSGie9mKkDmpFn-nEMiZSvdr6RCoykKc_hHhyo&h=AT1yAv7VrxwCJS0zwNCnLS0OP0BIehbzoanhBJjT5amTfyqnf0qgH4tF1O7JA9FAAKnVzYCszLT749JrgWUfnWzEfzDGrc2YjIniNd2eSPBq7x4u9BG4WPNvPX1FNWpNt23m&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT35CiJ4av9KwjatgiidrNvwHktQz7B3zklKthJF6BFKuxyu6Ilccg7BzTHp3cE1lnNOzxaZdwzBDQqwkULsNVDprg_jDKAtqxgT67LKgmq0yH9KqAlQvzA8CPAkFGMgAtH-4oATWjTG5Szw4BBp_tUqkishaNTrWj37rNKw993OO00p_YuC02M3hWCEEWn2Q4qacJvO)

**CEC has launched consultation on housing documents**

Cheshire East Council is inviting comments on two housing documents that would provide further guidance to developers and property owners and support the authority in deciding planning applications.

Firstly, a draft Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been published for consultation.

If adopted, it will provide additional guidance on three policies within the Local Plan Strategy, which sets out the overall vision and planning strategy for development in the borough.

The policies refer to the ‘residential mix’ of developments, including making sure that supported housing and accommodation for the elderly is available, and the provision of affordable homes, including in rural areas.

An SPD is not part of CEC's statutory development plan but it is a recognised way of putting in place additional planning guidance and should be taken into account in deciding a planning application or on an appeal against a planning decision.

Secondly, the final draft of the council’s Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document (HMO SPD) has also been published for representations, marking the next step towards the adoption of this document.

The document provides more detailed policy guidance and, if adopted, will be used to assess planning applications for HMOs. It includes guidance on when planning permission is required and what information needs to be provided by applicants.

The final draft HMO SPD is accompanied by a report summarising the responses received during an earlier consultation and explains how they have been taken into account in preparing the final version.

Providing clear guidance up front about policy expectations should support developers and property owners when they are making relevant planning applications, as well as support the council in determining them.

If adopted, these documents would be a key component of ensuring that local needs are met, and the right type of housing is delivered in the right place.

Comments on both documents are invited between 26 April 2021 and 5pm on 7 June 2021.

To view the documents and to have your say, visit: [cheshireeast.gov.uk/consultations](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fcheshireeast.gov.uk%2Fconsultations%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1hU_H4vJ21Zw6yP38IrmNmPEyUqpdMoGpTyfLPc-m67zZwDAx43U_C93U&h=AT2giDDIdfYZ24NZCPxTEZahZz2R0O54aO9UowPIgrpYjjPEAReEloF30CbRtq7uIg0YWJOCq4ttIlI5PVIpRovsHkHuZEO8uMpLoUyVmfRNiUk7BJQFK-e__54QVYLwp4_Z&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT1mve945yMS1LjOZl4WVFN8HlaZiUM10XC2hhITH6iQqMa1jH6dTWMf8S8KwpchleQHqXJAqoojW-9AT9--UeTuqygNMZwir2NVVMDF5qHgN9sO5hY6fPEtQhzGIxn76CO4ng6wCXjITb9fuTKN1Q0w30pf3Sh2WfmZyF0iDZvpDTwR9q1I3W34MR3YfrRHgUtCNqAg)

Feedback can also be posted to: Strategic planning (Westfields), C/O Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ.

**Countdown to CEC's Committee System**

It is now just a few days until CEC moves from a cabinet to a committee system style of decision-making and on the 19th April, during a special meeting of Council, councillors voted to approve a new constitution for the council.

This is in preparation for the move to a committee system which will take effect from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Council on Wednesday 12 May.

While many people may not immediately notice the changes after the AGM, the new constitution is a really important document that sets out how important decisions will be made that affect the services CEC delivers and the policies that shape its work. The Constitution will now be finalised ahead of its publication.

You can view the draft papers that were considered by the Council on its website.

[http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/.../ieListDocuments...](http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=239&MId=8625&fbclid=IwAR3ybzet7qAN9QS2vKn7mQTbbNQQO1f4G-9iAfepgoz8Kc2zZU7Vlmzelwo)

Councillors have been attending training sessions over the last few weeks to prepare them for the committee system.

The move to the committee system is a significant event in the history of the council and Cheshire East will become one of the largest unitary councils to be governed this way.

**Reopened town centres**

To support businesses in welcoming back customers safely, the council launched a public information campaign, funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The campaign informed people of the Covid-19 measures in place to protect them and the precautions they need to take to aid the safe reopening of the borough’s 11 town centres, as well as encouraged them to support local businesses.

The council is also supposed to be proactively working with town and parish councils to utilise an additional recently announced stream of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF), through the ‘Welcome Back Fund’.

The funding is used to support activities and initiatives that help local businesses to prepare to reopen safely and successfully.

To support hospitality businesses, the council has amended its temporary pavement licence, making it free for businesses to apply.

The licences, also known as ‘alfresco licences’, are valid until September 2022 and grant permission to set up temporary outside seating to allow for social distancing measures.

The Council is keen to work in partnership to support Cheshire East’s town centres to thrive and is developing a number of Town Centre Vitality Plans, which will identify potential initiatives to support businesses and the local economy moving forward.

The council is also inviting applications for the government’s Restart Grant, having so far paid out more than £134m in grants to Cheshire East businesses to help boost their recovery and rebuild the local economy.

The Restart Grant scheme supports eligible non-essential retail businesses and hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses with one-off grants of up to £18,000 to help them reopen safely.

The council is also awaiting further details from government on an extra allocation of funding for the Additional Restrictions Grant to allow it to open another round of applications. A further announcement will be made soon.

More information on support available to businesses can be found at: Business ([cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://cheshireeast.gov.uk/?fbclid=IwAR0PVphKxEdFs-mYHmMd-1AbK1TEzClDGEfjSC_t_0UDvM1pk8wMtt4IViQ))

Further details regarding the Restart Grant and how to apply, visit: Coronavirus (Covid-19) help for Business Rates customers ([cheshireeast.gov.uk](file:///Users/sarahpochin/Library/Containers/com.apple.mail/Data/Library/Mail%20Downloads/CF11E893-8589-46EC-9C3A-7B887D0DB791/cheshireeast.gov.uk))

For further information about applying for a temporary pavement licence, visit: Pavement Cafes ([cheshireeast.gov.uk](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fcheshireeast.gov.uk%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2lGD-V_wbiKG09kMxv4m5_jkQ2rWi6p3JCGM4INdrGyAxrdxheSivwlUY&h=AT0vz3dVm5f0WH-KzdjNgc_SCCSMXpMKs3GRftlVDhs05eC8TJXNyrpXxmR_6YJ-SRdFi8Dyl3b_y6oibxSnMMAJuwgPjoIXtfJe6yf3PFf4KXQudyrE8mObF67WbeL1G_Es&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT3wwy8ffj5bCEpc4TpyetdnxSKcQU6pvhq6fYVl_yWsQeg7veOSjfl6LFbWcq0xrVFbugJFtBrKzZr_3uaHYvrjlv1Kg_OxsrmhZdjiIm1q4KJXbhy1FjgjOzYixn6dSN-fHwRB3rQK5akjjB0s4mt0KvGQdF6aVysmmNOfkGnd3pQ9Yfg))

**Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

The provision of electric vehicle charging points for new developments seems to be a hot topic at the moment and I thought it would be helpful to share up to date information about how this being addressed by Cheshire East Council.

Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Policy CO2 encourages the provision of recharging points for hybrid or electric vehicles in major developments, however it doesn’t set specific standards.

Policy INF 3 of the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) does propose specific standards for major developments. In summary, a charging point for every new dwelling and one charge point for every five car parking spaces in the case of new, non-residential buildings. This is in line with the Government’s 2019 consultation proposals to require charge points through additions to the Building Regulations.

The latest position given by the Planning Minister at the end of Feb is that the Gov’t will publish a response to the consultation by the summer and publish changes to the Building Regulations by the end of this year. Effectively this will become the means by which charge points are required in the future. Putting something in the SADPD (currently anticipated to be Adopted in 2022) was a fall-back position in case the Government delayed making changes to the Building Regulations. In the supporting text to Policy INF 3 it says that residential charge points must have a minimum power rating output of 7kW and be fitted with a universal socket that can charge all types of electric vehicle.

Approval will be sought from Full Council at its meeting on 19th April to submit the SADPD to the Government for the Examination process with an Inspector.

**Review of Parish Boundaries**

Recommendation:

That the draft proposals attached at Appendix B to the report be formally agreed for the purposes of consultation and consulted upon for a 12-week period, subject to any amendments required to reflect the response of Holmes Chapel Parish Council to the pre-consultation survey ........... Amended by adding:

and where there is a proposal to change the Parish name or alter the Parish Boundary Cheshire East Council will conduct a referendum reflecting the request of the Town or Parish Council and where electors vote for no change abide by that result.

The Formal consultation has not yet started!