

## **CRANAGE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Cranage Village Hall.

For the purpose of information for the public the Chairman submitted this report before the meeting.

### **Meeting with Sibelco 16<sup>th</sup> June HC Parish Office – Chairman and Clerk attended** **Chairman's Report**

Attendees - Parish Councillors and Clerks from Allostock, Cranage, Goostrey and Holmes Chapel, Mr Mike Hurley (Sielco Minerals Manager and Nicola Cole, Administrator).

Mike Hurley said that he had contacted Cheshire E and Cheshire W & C councillors and that Sibelco intended to have surgeries with residents. His job involved site finding, "scoping requests" (non-mandatory), i.e. determining what information Councils require, and site restoration. He said that Cheshire East had not given a link to the scoping document Sibelco had provided and hence this is why (in his view) why residents did not understand what was involved.

If permission is granted, the process will involve wet quarrying using electric dredgers which suck out the sand and pump it to a processing plant to be built, probably on a wooded area of land which Sibelco own on New Platt Lane, to include a private weighbridge. **There will be no entrance off the A50 opposite Woodside Golf.** The sand will be cleaned, most of the water removed (but essentially by gravitation and not using heat). The dredging times are likely to be 07.00-18.00 , Monday to Friday and 08.00-12.00 on Saturday with no work on Bank Holidays. Mr Hurley claimed that the greatest impact will be lorry movements with an average 50 lorries per day (each way gives 100 movements). It is anticipated that the lorries will travel along New Platt Lane to the A50 and turn left or right, with the majority turning left and going south towards J18 on the M6. He confirmed that silica sand will be extracted but claimed that it will remain wet (perhaps damp would be a better description). It will mainly be used for manufacturing green and brown bottles as the quality of sand is not good enough for clear glass but it is also used in the drainage of sports facilities and some is used for mortar production.

If the application is successful, dredging will take place over 12 years and will start in the East (because of the lie of the land and the water table) and finish near Goostrey Lane, extracting sand from about 4 hectares/year. It may take place up to 30-50m from houses and will result in a lake. The topsoil will be used to create screening mounds but (agricultural type) fencing will also be required for safety reasons (to prevent unauthorised access). In Mr Hurley's view it is critical that one local authority take charge of the project to avoid the sort of current confusion with Cheshire W & C posting no information and Cheshire East posting incomplete information. It should be noted that the biggest area of affected land is in Cheshire East.

It is Sibelco's intention to hold "surgeries" in about 2 weeks' time followed by presentations to Parish Councils/residents. If permission is granted, they envisage starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2017. Mr Hurley pointed out that that the Rudheath Lodge

Farm site was identified in the updated Cheshire Council Mineral Plan of 2006 and that Councils are required by law to provide a certain amount of sites for mineral extraction.

### **Public Forum**

8 members of the public present

Ms G Morgan had attended as she lived on Goostrey Lane and was strongly against the proposal of the sand quarry. She had completed some great research about the company and the potential impact from this imminent planning application. There was a great amount of supporters who would try and stop this going ahead and an action group had been formed.

Mr P Wilde was concerned about the involvement of Councillor J Halstead in the planning application at Woodside Golf Club. He had written to the Standards Board at Cheshire East to represent 10 residents within Cranage.

He also wished the Parish Council to resolve the land at Middlewich Road as it had been going on now for 2 years and the Parish Council had not resolved it.

### **Part 1**

**Present** Councillor M Hodge (Chairman), Councillor R Hurst (Vice Chairman) , Councillor D Hopley, Councillor D Madden, Councillor G Yarwood, Councillor A Kolker (Cheshire East) and the Clerk.

### **72/15 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor D Madden – land at Middlewich Road and 15/2615C

Councillor M Hodge – 15/2309S including the threat of the sand quarry at Rudheath Lodge Farm

### **73/15 Apologies**

Councillor J Halstead due to annual holidays and Tim Sheldon

### **74/15 Minutes**

The minute 61/15 is amended to ‘The new play area would be sited to the west of the Village Hall in front the bowling green’

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

### **75/15 Annual Parish Meeting**

The points raised on the questionnaire were discussed by members.

Footpaths – under review currently

Dirty signs across the Parish – reported to CE

Play area ideas – reviewed and acted upon

Boundary signs – Clerk will investigate and report back

### **76/15 Business Plan**

Due to CPC holding excessive capital reserves, after the decision to abandon the project in the River Dane, the PC had been instructed by the auditors to ensure a plan was devised to utilise a proportion of the holding funds in relation to the precept.

Councillor R Hurst requested the safety of school children walking to school was considered on Northwich Road.

**Resolved** the Clerk would report back an updated budget at the next meeting with predicted outgoings/running costs for the full financial year including a reserve and a £10,000 reserve for fighting planning applications.

The Chairman requested input from the public; it would also be put on the website.

### **77/15 Unregistered land behind Deans Cottages**

The Clerk had contacted Mr N Parsons from Dixon, Rigby and Keogh and he had been instructed by CPC to further investigate the options available to resolve the issue of the unregistered land being taken over by a local man.

### **78/15 Land at Middlewich Road**

The Fields in Trust option had failed. The option of a trust was still ongoing with JH but no information was available for members.

Councillor D Hopley had researched the option of planting established oak trees on the site. Developers would still have an encouragement to take down the trees and replace with more. A wildlife meadow would eventually be dominated by white daises and poppies unless seeds were regularly planted again. TPO's were not going to be granted.

**Resolved** the Clerk would investigate options available at the next meeting.

It was noted the Chairman would instruct JH not to pursue any other options at this time.

### **79/14 Play Area**

The background information the PC had conducted and the reasoning behind the venture had been disclosed to Pentagon in order to prepare the funding application.

The funding application should be submitted before the next meeting.

### **80/15 Land behind Village Hall**

Councillor G Yarwood expressed his concerns about the open space behind the Village Hall. Although it was in ownership of Cheshire East it was becoming more overgrown and trees growth was suffering. The Caravan club were also desperate for space. It was a potential open green space that could be used as a community asset.

Councillor R Hurst wished to raise concerns about drainage of the site and what was potentially under the ground. At this time there was a barrier area that nobody had re - visited, which looked like potential drainage issues.

**Resolved** AK would investigate and report back

**Resolved** the Clerk would investigate the options available to the Parish Council with a

view to improve the area and report back at the next meeting.

### **81/15 Parish Councillor Vacancy**

This vacancy would be put on all the notice boards.

The Clerk would put the vacancy in the Sandbach Chronicle

### **82/15 Cranage Bowling Club**

The re build of the clubhouse was now completed. The Clerk was concerned that the finish was not the specification of a new build. It still needed painting and tiles were missing in the toilets and the kitchen.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk could instruct the builder to complete the outstanding internal work.

The members did not wish the gate to be opened due to the threat of travellers. The local child minder would be offered her own key for access.

The Clerk had re directed the business rates to the bowling club.

Councillor D Hopley proposed a bench was sited behind the clubhouse.

The Clerk would invest gate options available.

### **83/15 Footpath and Tree Report**

- There has been an increase in dog fouling on the gravel pathways and tracks around the Cranage estate, especially in the area of the track through the football fields and the grass footpath surrounding the football pitch nearest to the A50. Dog faeces have even been left on the football pitch itself, even though it is fenced off. Some people regularly use this pitch for dog training.

**Resolved** the Clerk would contact the dog warden

The football association requested- if it is possible for Holmes Chapel Hurricanes to erect a small shed / crate (6 x 4 ft) in the vicinity of the football field for storage of nets, ropes etc. The structure would be of garden quality.

**Resolved** the Parish Council thought this was not appropriate for security and vandalism reasons.

A goal mouth of the pitch needs some remedial work to take place over the summer. A small area (approx 3 x 1 metre) requires either reseeding or some tuft laying, for damage that has accumulated over the last few seasons. With the second pitch now unusable (very poor drainage / mole hills) Holmes Chapel Hurricanes are keen to see the other pitch kept in good condition.

**Resolved** the Clerk would report to Ansa

### **84/15 Planning Applications**

- 15/2039C Poachers Pocket, 6 Northwich Road, Cranage CW4 8HL  
Proposed demolition of existing Dwelling and replacement with new.

**Resolved** No Objection .

- 15/2615C Caravan Court, Knutsford Road, Cranage CW4 8HJ. Proposed front and side elevation revision to add additional glazing to the first floor of the previously approved extension to existing services building to form two additional service bays, reception and ground and mezzanine floor offices and stock rooms.

**Resolved** No Objection with Conditions

The unloading of vehicles on this site should be stopped with immediate effect.

The A50 is a dangerous red route and the practice at this site is a hazard.

- 12/0682C Woodside Golf Club – The clerk had sent the letters as instructed and J Ashall has replied that there had been a misunderstanding. Mr Davagney had failed to respond at this stage.

A letter had been sent to Councillor J Halstead from Bowcock & Pursaill Solicitors instructing the PC to now seek legal advice.

**Resolved** the Council would take no action at this stage.

15/2390S Rudheath Lodge Farm, Knutsford Road, Cranage

EIA request for proposed industrial sand development.

The Parish Council noted all the comments from the public forum and would endeavour to keep as much information available to the residents to as assist with their objections.

No comment could be made at this stage until the planning application was submitted.

### **85/15 Accounts**

**To note the balance of accounts** – Leek United 8 £25,007.60 + Leek United 7 £67,666.96 + Natwest £14,184.40 = £106,858.96.

#### Payments

- £264.00 TCS Management
- £10,890.00 J & M Building Services
- £840.00 J & M Building Services
- £60.00 Acorn Technology (website maintenance)

#### RECEIPTS

- £670.00 Blunts Solicitors
- £106.00 Cranage Bowling Club
- £1,353.34 Leek United Interest
- £51.06 Leek United Interest

Leek United bonds will be reviewed in July.

**Resolved** the above payments be approved and signed for as above.

### **86/15 Highways**

- Accident at Leese crossroads 22.05.15

- Hedge cutting needs addressing at Leese crossroads
- Councillor G Yarwood had not yet obtained the quote for the grass quoting but would inform the clerk before the next meeting.

### **87/15 Cheshire East**

There is a new mayor and deputy mayor.

The AP club has still not been completed within Holmes Chapel

The speed on the A50 has been brought to the Parish Council. It concerns were acknowledged and it would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Holmes Chapel train station was now charging for parking.

The Local Plan was discussed. AK was particularly concerned about the infrastructure especially on the schools.

### Public Forum Time

One resident wished to express an interest in the current Councillor vacancy.

The grass cutting was a success along the A50 and thanks was given to CE.

There were concerns raised about the lorries and vehicular movement along Middlewich Road due to Cranage Haulage. It was causing excessive noise and the times of operation were a disruption.

*The Clerk left at 10.00pm*

### **PART 2**

**Resolved; "That in accordance with the public bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 as**

**extended by the Local Government Act 1972 section 100 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for discussion of the under mentioned item on the grounds that the publication of the matter would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted"**

## **Appendix 1**

The Clerks contract had been revised by Councillor R Hurst with guidance from SLCC.

**Resolved** The Council accepted the amendments. It would now be circulated for signing by all the Parish Councils and the Clerk.

**Resolved** the Clerks salary would be increase to SCP 23 from 09.04.15

The Clerk was to be instructed to find out some information about pensions for the next meeting.

The Clerks development review would be conducted by Councillor R Hurst over the next quarter.

The Chairman wished to thank Councillor R Hurst for all her hard work with the Clerks contract and salary.

**88/15 The next meeting would be the on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 @ 7.30pm in Cranage Village Hall.**

**Meeting closed at 10.25 pm**





