

Newsletter

Welcome Message

Dear Resident,

Welcome to our Spring/Summer edition of the newsletter. We start with an update regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic. At the time of editing this newsletter, we are now in week 5 of the lockdown and doubtless, residents will be fully aware of how to stay safe during the pandemic.

The situation is fast-paced and constantly evolving. As such it is important that you and your family are able to follow the latest information and advice.

The UK government, Public Health England (PHE) and the NHS www.nhs.uk/coronavirus are the best sources of information for individuals, families, communities and businesses.

The Borough Council (Cheshire East Council) also provides up-to-date information on its website (www.cheshireeast.gov.uk).

Cheshire East Council has launched a service to co-ordinate help in the community. This may be helpful to those who are seeking to do something themselves.

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/coronavirus/cheshire-east-people-helping-people.aspx

Alternatively, you can contact Cheshire East Council on 0300 123 5034 to register your information with a customer service operative. Once submitted, your details will be passed to Cheshire East Social Brokerage Team and an officer will contact you to assess your offer/need.

Dr Matt Tyrer, the Acting Director of Public Health (Cheshire East Council) said that the Borough Council is working with its partners to ensure the protection of the public and this includes working closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England to ensure that it is up-to-date with the very latest advice and that best practice is observed.

If you have any queries, please contact the Clerk.



STAPELEY & DISTRICT
PARISH COUNCIL

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Ward Councillors Representing the Nantwich South and Stapeley Ward

Councillor Peter Groves 07597 978 831
peter.groves@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Andrew Martin 07875 555 096
andrew.martin@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Please note this newsletter is also on the Parish Council's website:
www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

VICTORIAN ORCHARD RESTORATION

The Cronkinson Orchard (Victorian Orchard) has been highlighted by the Parish Council as being a worthy project for 2020-2021. A total sum of £5,000 has been allocated in the budget to enable the ownership of the land to be established, through a title search, and dependent on the outcome, the Council would then seek to reinstate the orchard for the benefit of the community.

If ownership can be identified, the Council would seek the landowner's permission to enable a survey to be carried out to ascertain the condition of the trees and to undertake the necessary work required to reinstate the orchard as an important asset to the community. This could involve remedial surgery to trees, as appropriate.

In the Neighbourhood Plan, the orchard was described as "A traditional orchard with numerous species of domesticated apple is located on the Cronkinson estate".

How many residents know of this traditional orchard or have sampled the fruit?

It is about ½ acre in size (0.18 hectare) and is adjacent to the footpath running between Hawksey Drive and the Community Hall.

It contains just over 30 fruit trees, the majority of which are apple trees, as well as four pear trees and two damson trees. When it was surveyed in 2013 by local residents, samples of fruit were taken from each apple tree, where possible, and preliminary identification obtained. Of the 19 apple samples identified, the majority were cookers, including the cultivars Grenadier, Newton Wonder, Lane's Prince Albert, and Arthur Turner. Fewer were identified as eating apples, such as Autumn Pearmain, Court Pendu Plat and Margil. Some were dual purpose apples so can be used for cooking or eating, and others such as Golden Pippin and Golden Spire can also be used to make cider.

Since 2103, the trees, most of which are very old, have continued to deteriorate; most contain dead, diseased and dying wood, and some have fallen over.

Although this dead wood creates a rich habitat for insects and fungi, we will lose a historic aspect of the local landscape if remedial work on the orchard is not undertaken.

We will keep residents informed of progress.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

There are two vacancies for parish councillors. These were notified to Cheshire East Council in February 2020 and although Notices of the Vacancies were published on the website and in the notice-board inviting registered elections to request a by-election, no election was called. It is, therefore, for the Parish Council to co-opt to the two vacancies, but in view of the pandemic, this will not take place until the lockdown is over.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, the following are the qualifications:

- o You must be at least 18 years of age at the time of co-option (there is no upper age limit), and:
- o be a UK or Commonwealth citizen, or
- o be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, and
- o be a registered elector of the parish

If you would like an informal chat about the vacancy, please call the Clerk (Carol Jones) on 01270 812065.

RESTORATION OF POND ADJACENT TO CLARENDON COURT

Following an impassioned plea by a resident of Stapeley, at the October 2019 meeting, the Parish Council has agreed that the very neglected pond area adjacent to Clarendon Court, should be brought up to an acceptable standard to make a conservation area which can be used by residents.

Behind Clarendon Court Nursing Home on Peter de Stapleigh Way, there was, what was formerly a healthy pond which was a habitat for the Great Crested Newt and insects such as damsel and dragonflies. There were also small carp in the pond which has now dried up and was filled with detritus of various sorts.

Although not verified, it was understood that a condition of the planning approval was that the pond should be retained as a nature habitat.

Further information to support the reinstatement of the pond, was given by the resident who reported that conservationists and University College, London were

planning to restore at least fifty ponds in the hope of attracting back rare wildlife such as the Great Crested Newt and encouraging insects which fed Swallows and other species.

When it came to budget time, the Parish Council had no hesitation in adding this as a project to be undertaken during 2020-2021.

Land ownership is uncertain and until this can be identified, the Parish Council has no power to enter the land, albeit that the intention would be to improve it. The Council has now engaged the services of a local solicitor who will be carrying out title searches on this area and the Victorian Orchard, which is also a project for 2020-21. Once ownership is established, the Council can make an approach to ask if they would allow the Parish Council to undertake improvements to the area.

We will let you know the outcome.

RE-LOCATION OF BENCHES IN THE PARISH

As reported in the last newsletter, the Parish Council purchased and installed six benches throughout the parish. Residents were consulted on the locations, via the newsletter in May 2018, but no suggestions were forthcoming.

We have now received complaints; one from a group of residents near to Second Dig Lane where a bench was placed on the triangular area of grass at the junction with the A51, London Road. Their complaint is that the seat is rarely used, the grass is very rarely mown, and it would be more suitable if this were relocated.

Quotations are awaited for the removal and the installation of this bench onto Peter de Stapleigh Way. This will require the permission of Cheshire East Highways.

The second complaint refers to the bench in the fenced lawned area at Talbot Way. This land is owned by the Parish

Council so the removal of the bench does not require permission from Cheshire East Council, but its location to a new site will require permission.

It appears that there is significant drug activity and anti-social behaviour taking place at this location and causing great disturbance to the area which is a small close community. PCSO Alexis Barrington has been asked for her views. Unfortunately, these were not available at the February 2020 meeting when the Parish Council expected to be able to make a decision.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, no further information is available, and no decision has yet been made about moving the bench.

At the conclusion of the lockdown, the Parish Council will consider the matter again.

STAPELEY PARISH ACTION GROUP (SPAG)

CAN WE HELP YOU TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY?

Do you have ideas about how our community can be improved? Have you a project which you would like to promote? Would you like help to realise your idea? Stapeley Parish Action Group (SPAG) would like to hear from you. In particular we are interested in ideas/projects which would:

- Enhance the local environment
- Improve community health
- Support community groups or activities

SPAG can help by facilitating community consultation and support, by working in partnership with the Parish Council, Cheshire East Council, and other organisations, and by helping to secure grant funding.

Please contact the Secretary of SPAG at spagsec@btinternet.com giving a brief outline of your idea/project. SPAG will hold a public meeting at 8:00 pm when the Covid-19 Lockdown has been lifted, to consider all ideas/projects and the level of support available to implement them. You will be able to attend the public meeting to promote your idea.

Background on SPAG

What is SPAG? SPAG was formed in 2008 to implement the Parish Plan. Its objective was, and remains, to 'promote, develop and enhance the community of Stapeley and Batherton parishes.' SPAG is independent of the Parish Council and consequently free to apply for grant funding, not accessible to the Council, for its projects.

Amongst other activities over the years, SPAG has been responsible for the development of the play area next to Pear Tree School and more recently the two 'Walk Stapeley'

leaflets. SPAG also supports a monthly litter-picking group and a Speed-watch Group. It has its own Facebook page (Stapeley Parish Action Group) with further information about the Group and its activities.

SPAG is currently considering how it can support the Parish Council in restoring and developing the Victorian Orchard off Hawksey Drive, so that it could be a more interesting environmental, educational and community feature.

For SPAG to make a difference in the community we need:

- People willing to become members of SPAG
- Ideas and projects
- Active supporters of projects and activities

If you are a local resident of Stapeley and Batherton, are passionate about improving your local community and environment, and can give some time to doing so, then we would love to hear from you.

Contacts:

SPAG Secretary

(David Taylor) 618936
spagsec@btinternet.com

Litter Group

(Jeremy Gibbs) 623757
rgibbs123@btinternet.com

Facebook:

Stapeley Parish Action Group

Parish Councillors Contact Details

(Total of 10 Seats – 8 filled and 2 vacancies)

John Davenport.01270 629986	Georgina Gwinn 07985 248 697
Mike Docker01270 619855	Jo Hillman (Vice-Chairman) 07766 652 011
Stephen Ford.07718 636 830	Keith Nord01270 618534
Peter Groves.07597 978 831	Matthew Theobald (Chairman). 07941 495 786

BUDGET 2020-2021

The Parish Council approved its budget for 2020-2021 at its meeting on 21 January 2020, and this is given below.

The resultant budget means that there will be an increase in the precept this year. As a reminder to residents, the precept is the amount which the Parish Council requests from Cheshire East Council to fund the shortfall between the funds in the bank on 1 April 2020 and the money required to fund all the items in the budget for the financial year.

The precept is then passed onto residents as additional Council Tax. The budget below amounts to £79,650.00 (rounded) and the precept requested is £45,000.00 (rounded).

The effect on Band D properties is calculated by dividing the precept requirement by the Tax Base.

Last year's precept was £23,000 and at that time the tax base was 1,639.38, giving a total of £14.02 additional Council Tax per Band D property. The tax base for 2020-2021 is 1,729.35 and this will result in additional Council Tax of £26.02 for a Band D property.

The calculation of the precept was as follows:

Budget for 2020-2021	£79,650
LESS Expected balance on 1 April 2020	(£35,580)
Precept required:	£44,070 (rounded up to £45,000)

In addition to the core budget, the Council has added in other budget heads for 2020-2021 which will cost a further £21,000. These are:

Survey work at the Victorian Orchard to bring it up to an acceptable standard (this is subject to verification of land-ownership).	£5,000
Survey of pond area adjacent to Clarendon Court, subject to verification of land-ownership.	£1,000
Additional seats in the parish	£2,000
Large planters for outside the community hall.	£3,000
An increase in the reserves level from £3,000 to £10,000. This is to comply with Sections 32 and 43 of The Local Government Finance Act 1992.	£10,000

Line No.	Budget Head	Budget 2020-2021 £
	Administration	
1	Clerk's gross salary	13,330.00
3	HMRC - Employer's NI contribution	620.00
4	Payroll service	80.00
5	Printing of Annual Report	100.00
6	Newsletter printing	1,200.00
7	Newsletter delivery	500.00
	Clerk	
8	Expenses (Travel and phone)	300.00
9	Stationery/publications	250.00
	Grounds Maintenance	2,000.00
10	Talbot Way Conservation area and lawned area	
11	General grass-cutting in the parish	

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Line No.	Budget Head	Budget 2020-2021 £
12	Grants (Small grants scheme - up to £250)	1,500.00
	Insurance/Audit/Subscriptions	
13	External Audit (PKF Littlejohn)	400.00
14	Audit fees (Internal)	250.00
15	Insurance	600.00
16	Cheshire Association of Local Councils	1,100.00
	Members	
17	Chairman's allowance	250.00
18	Training	300.00
19	Expenses	100.00
	Miscellaneous	
20	Equipment for defibrillator cabinet	150.00
21	Contribution to Nantwich Town Council - allotments	1,000.00
22	Cheshire East CVS Membership	50.00
	Speed Watch	
23	Downloading of data and moving units around the parish every 3 weeks @ £125 per 3-week period.	3,000.00
24	Additional unit for Broad Lane.	3,000.00
25	Equipment repairs	1,000.00
	Street Lighting	
26	Unmetered electricity	500.00
	Community Hall	
27	Cleaning of hall and opening/closing for private parties	10,000.00
28	Window cleaning	240.00
29	Dame Hygiene Services (including nappy disposal/feminine hygiene dispenser)	830.00
30	Fortnightly waste collections (Greenzone)	700.00
31	Gas supply	1,000.00
32	Water services	3,000.00
33	West Mercia Energy	850.00
34	Community Hall Ring-fenced funds for maintenance and repairs	5,000.00
	• Outside light repairs • Drains repairs • Repairs to fencing • Plumbing repairs	
35	Statutory testing of equipment	300.00
36	Christmas tree/lights for community hall	200.00
37	Vodafone - Wi-Fi facility	350.00
	Projects for 2020-2021	
38	Large planters to be located outside the Community Hall	3,000.00
39	Seat to be provided at the bus stop near Bishop's Wood, and an additional seat on Peter de Stapleigh Way.	2,000.00
40	Maintenance/repairs of seats	500.00
41	Four litter-bins	1,600.00
42	Conservation Projects - survey work at Victorian Orchard	5,000.00
43	Survey of pond area adjacent to Clarendon Court	1,000.00
44	Ceiling-mounted projector Community Hall	500.00
45	General Reserves (Increased from £3,000 to £10,000 in line with Local Government Finance Act 1992)	10,000.00
	TOTALS	79,650.00

FLOODING

Earlier on this year, several residents have experienced severe flooding problems, with two such residents having to be re-located into a hotel for several weeks as their houses were flooded to the extent that they could not remain in their homes.

It is thought that this was as a result of a landowner partially filling-in a ditch on his land. It is most important that if you have a ditch on your property, it must be kept clear at all times. Any blockage/filling-in can have wide-ranging implications for the water course.

The Parish Council thought that it would be helpful to provide residents with information about flooding together with useful contact details.

The Cheshire East Council website has useful information, which can be accessed via the following links:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/flooding/flooding.aspx>

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/household/#section-4>

In addition, the following national guidance is available for those who may own a water-course.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

You can also contact the National Flood Forum for practical advice.

In the event of serious flooding, Cheshire East Highways works closely with the emergency services, and will help

where it can, in particular where people are vulnerable. CEH has a network of local people and organisations who can be called upon to help when there's a flood.

Flooding on Roads

Use the Cheshire East Highways online form to report a flood or drainage issue on roads other than major trunk roads.

The form asks you to choose either flooding or gully/drainage. Choose gully/drainage if it is clear that blocked gullies or drains are causing the problem.

Blocked Drains

In dealing with blocked drains, CEH will prioritise flooding on main roads.

- To report an urgent incident phone 0300 123 5020
- To report an urgent incident out of working hours 0300 123 5025 (for use after 5pm and before 9am, including weekends.)

Flooding from Rivers

Contact the Environment Agency to report flooding from rivers.

- Floodline 0345 988 1188 (24 hour service)

Flooding from Sewers or Water Pipes

Contact United Utilities to report flooding from sewers or water pipes.

HOW TO ACCESS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS WITHOUT ATTENDING

The Parish Council has cancelled all its scheduled meetings until further notice, owing to the Coronavirus Pandemic; however, the Government has introduced new regulations under S.78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and this allows local councils (town and parish councils) to hold meetings remotely, using various platforms.

The Parish Council will be meeting on an ad hoc basis when there are decision items to be considered.

A meeting is to be held on 28 May 2020. The agenda will be published on the website only, at least three clear days before the meeting, with instructions on how to access the meeting itself. Members of the Parish Council have decided to use Zoom as its platform, and you will be able to download this as a free tool.

All documents (other than those which are restricted) will be able to be accessed from the Parish Council's website - www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk when the agenda is published.

On the first occasion of holding a meeting remotely, Public Question Time will be limited to questions which have been provided to the Clerk, prior to the meeting, by no later than 5.00 pm on the day before the meeting.

Please email your question to – clerk@stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The question will be read out at the meeting and the Chairman will respond. If it is not possible to give a definitive answer at the meeting, a written response will be provided.

In the meantime, if you have any queries, please email or phone the Clerk.

We appreciate that this may make it difficult for members of the public as there is no schedule to follow; the only suggestion we can make is for you to visit the website regularly, to check if a meeting has been booked in. The agenda will give the access details so that members of the public can click the link to join the meeting.

COMMUNITY HALL - REGULAR BOOKINGS

The Community Hall was closed on 19 March 2020 and is closed until further notice; however, residents may be interested to see the schedule of the regular activities, below.

Day	Times	Activity	Contact	E-mail address
Mon	4.00 – 6.00 pm	Dancing	Jo Smith t/a Miss Jolene	missjolenes@live.co.uk
	6.30 – 7.30 pm (except for third Monday in the month)	Martial Arts	Dyce Clarke	dyce@live.co.uk
Third Monday	7.30 – 10.00 pm (monthly)	Parish Council	Carol Jones	carol.jones@stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tues	9.15 am – 10.15 am	Pilates	Wendy McKenna	Wendymckenna1969@gmail.com
	7.30 – 8.00 pm	Intensive workout	Sam Bennett	Saml.bennett@hotmail.co.uk
Wed	9.00 – 10.30 am	Intensive workout	Sam Bennett	Saml.bennett@hotmail.co.uk
Bi-monthly	12 noon – 1.30 pm	Blood Cancer Support Group	Karen Bonell	K.bonell@lymphomas.org.uk
	6.00 – 7.00 pm	Martial Arts	Dyce Clarke	dyce@live.co.uk
Thurs	10.00 am – 12 noon	Bridge Club (U3A)	John Sherwood	bookings@candnU3a.org.uk
	4.00 – 5.00 pm	Dancing	Jo Smith t/a Miss Jolene	missjolenes@live.co.uk
	6.00 pm – 7.00 pm 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	Beaver Scouts Cub Scouts	Jo Hillman	stapeleybeavers@gmail.com
Fri	9.15 am – 9.45 am	Intensive workout	Sam Bennett	Saml.bennett@hotmail.co.uk
	10.30 – 11.30 am	Dancing	Jo Smith t/a Miss Jolene	missjolenes@live.co.uk
	1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Dancing	Jo Smith t/a Miss Jolene	missjolenes@live.co.uk
Sat	Daytime available for private parties			
	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Youth Club	Charles Maines Mabyn Meredith	charles.maines@wishingwellproject.net mabyn.meredith@wishingwellproject.net
Sun	Available for private parties			

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Cheshire East Council	0300 123 5000	Planning and Building Control	0300 123 5014
Bus and train times (Traveline)	0871 200 2233	Planning Enforcement	0300 123 5014
Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefit	0300 123 5013	Pot-holes and Highway Maintenance	0300 123 5020
Electoral Registration	09300 123 5016	Waste and Recycling	0300 123 5011
Environmental Health and Trading Standards	0300 123 5015	Local Waste and Recycling	01270 661527
Fly tipping	0300 123 5500	Pear Tree School	01270 685155
Large scale fly tipping	0800 807 060	Stapeley Broad Lane Academy	01270 685020
		Police – non-emergency	101

JOHNSONS PRINTERS

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www.jprint.co.uk