

STANTON IN PEAK

Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on TUESDAY 20th March 2012 at 7pm

Attendance: Roger Eccleston - Chair and 5 other electors of the parish
and 1 member of the public

1. Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting.

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk Matthew Lovell to take the minutes

2. Apologies

Darrell and Steven Shimwell

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2011

The minutes were confirmed and signed.

4. Statement of Accounts and Precept for 2012/13

The parish clerk noted that the parish finances are within budget for this year and reserves are now being held for elections and more detailed budgets kept which has allowed the precept for the coming year to be reduced to the pre-election level of 2010.

5. Chairman's Report

I would like to start this report by thanking my fellow councillors for their commitment to the Parish Council (PC) during the year. We started this year as a newly elected council and we operated positively and collectively throughout the year. Councillors, particularly those new to the PC, have undertaken training and councillors have freely given of their time to attend meetings, courses and in some cases to undertake practical work such as installing benches, clearing lanes etc..

It is also important to thank Matthew Lovell for the excellent support he has provided to the Council as Clerk.

I would also like to thank those members of the public who attend Parish Council meetings. Your input and comments are much appreciated and have been enormously helpful in informing our discussions.

I will now provide a summary of some of the key issues that have been addressed by the Parish Council. Further details are provided in the minutes which are available on the Stanton in Peak website. This provides an opportunity to thank Alan Coppock for looking after the website and Hilary Campbell and Jill Avent who have edited SNAIL during the year and always include summaries of recent Parish Council meetings.

As has already been said, we started the year as a newly elected council and occasionally our inexperience has shown. The most obvious examples were the procedural errors relating to the vote for PDNPA Parishes Representatives which resulted in the withdrawal of our ballot. This situation was regrettable, but one from which we emerged wiser and more experienced.

The proposal, submitted by Blockstone Ltd to extend extraction from New Pilhough Quarry dominated council business over the summer months. Following a site visit, a

public meeting, extraordinary Parish Council meetings and lengthy deliberation, the PC objected to the application and raised the following points:

- The Stanton in Peak Parish Council remains of the view that the current application assigns too high a commercial value to Stanton Moor Quarry. To redress this imbalance and provide a buffer between the quarry and Sheepwalk Wood and the village, we propose a gap between the extension and Sheepwalk Wood of approximately 50m.
- To ensure the sympathetic restoration of both New Pilhough Quarry and Dale View Quarry following the end of operations we suggest that measures are put in place to ensure that Blockstone Ltd are financially and legally committed to restoration and that plans should be consistent with those to restore Dale View Quarry, since the two quarries will be adjacent.
- The PC is firmly of the view that further quarrying of Stanton Moor is simply unconscionable. The best and most sought-after outcome is one that is cognisant of Blockstone Ltd.'s commercial interests while recognising the reasonable concerns of local residents and other interested parties.

At the time of writing, this application had not been considered by the PDNPA Planning Committee.

Another application, for the extension of Birchover Quarry has been received within the last few weeks.

The PC has operated within budget for the reporting period and we are now building up a small reserve to deal with eventualities such as another contested election. The precept for the 2012-2013 reporting period was set in November. The PC has been able to reduce the precept from the 2011-2012 level to £6300. The budget for next year provides us with the funds to cover our fixed costs, the maintenance of the Stanton in Peak Village Green and provide a contribution towards the maintenance of the Stanton in Peak Cemetery, but contributions to activities and groups have been reduced.

Solstice celebrations on Stanton Moor and associated activities cause concern to a number of parishioners. Mr Adrian Davie-Thornhill, PC Sandra Wetton and PCSO John Tanner attended the PC meeting in September. They informed the PC that regular meetings are held by the Peak Park with the Estate and Police. The PC will be represented at these meetings in future. It was noted that year on year a decrease has been seen in attendance although increases are expected when the solstice falls at a weekend. The support of the Police at each solstice discouraging fires and also the work of the Peak Park Rangers in assisting with the clearing up each time is much appreciated. .

PC Wetton took the opportunity to inform the PC of the crime statistics for the last 6 months for the Parish. Only the theft of cable from the mast last week is recorded.

Footpaths and Highways are always on the agenda with issues addressed including the cleanliness and positioning of signs, the state of verges, leaves on the roads and the movement of large vehicles, particularly through Stanton Lees. The latter was addressed by writing to the campsite in Birchover, to PDNPA regarding the routes taken by quarry lorries and to DCC Highways regarding signage. Matthew is in regular correspondence with DCC Highway, some of which elicits a response others appear to take longer.

Gritting and the provision of grit bins has also been an on-going topic for discussion. Two grit bins have been installed by DDDC, although there have been some issues relating to positioning.

We have made good progress with regard to the maintenance and improvement of the Parish environment. The Stanton in Peak Village Green is now mowed regularly and we contribute to the mowing of the Cemetery.

The PC has assumed the title for the Village Green play area and are now responsible for regular safety inspections. A number of actions have been taken or are in progress with regard to repairs to benches, gates etc.. Unfortunately, despite polite notices, there is a persistent problem of dog's fouling the Green. Mindful of the risk to health, particularly of young children playing on the Green, and the fact that many other options are available for owners to exercise their dogs we took the decision to exclude dogs from the Green.

A proposal to develop a Parish Plan for the Parish has been considered at a number of PC meetings throughout the year. The PC supports this idea in principle, but HM Government are encouraging councils to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, which will require the support of a referendum and will guide, for example, planning decisions. The PC still needs to decide how to proceed in this context. Nonetheless we very much welcome views and comments from all parishioners on priorities for the Parish Council.

6. To consider any other Parish matter that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors:

No matters were raised