

**MINUTES OF THE KEELE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 at 7.00 pm**

Attendees: Parish Cllrs: Mr G Bibby (GB) (Chair), Dr R Studd (RS), Dr D Hindmarch (DH), Mrs W Naylor (WN), Ms V Newman (VN), Mr L Cohoone (LC), Mrs T Wright (TW), Mrs S Hughes (SH), Prof P Andras (PA), Mr D Meakin (DM), Borough Councillor T Kearon (TK)

Locum Clerk – Mrs D Powell

Present – Mr Steve Mellor, Treasurer of St John’s Church. Three members of public for part of the meeting

**21/66 Covid – 19 – Community Response**

Physical Meeting Risk Assessment – appendix A

The Risk Assessment previously circulated was noted. There were no further comments.

**21/67 Public Open forum**

A member of the public raised the matter of the obstruction of road signage due to overgrown hedges and the need for the signs to be cleaned. The meeting discussed the issues and acknowledged the problem. It was noted that, whilst such issues were the responsibility of the County, their capacity meant that response times were very slow. The Parish Council are committed to commissioning such work themselves where the matter is urgent. It was resolved to form a Hedges and Verges Sub-committee to take a proactive approach in dealing with overgrown hedge issues and clearing vegetation and to subcontract where appropriate (Graham Bibby, Val Newman, Wenslie Naylor).

The member of the public thanked the Parish Council, in particular the Chair for the involvement during the Covid 19 pandemic. A formal vote of thanks was given.

**21/68 This item was brought forward on the agenda - To receive a presentation regarding the additional amount requested for Church Yard maintenance at Keele St Johns – Mr Steve Mellor**

A presentation was delivered relating to the financial situation of the Church relating to the reduced funds and donations due to the closure of the Church during the Covid 19 pandemic. The meeting debated the matter and it was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £500 to PCC for Churchyard maintenance.

**21/69 Apologies – None**

**21/70 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - None**

**21/71 To note the draft minutes on 4 May 2021 and agree plus note the minutes (only) Annual Parish meeting on the same day**

1. To approve – **RESOLVED** to sign the minutes as the true and accurate record. The minutes were signed after the meeting by the Chair.
2. Matters arising not on the agenda.  
DH is awaiting a response to the letter sent to the Police Force regarding the use of the Club House for training.  
Mike Webb to be chased reading the landowner responsibility.  
The gate repair at Quarry Bank bridge is to be followed up.  
GB to follow up with the secretary of state regarding the Direction to pursue the Footpath S53 at Quarry Bank/Redheath.  
WN raised the idea of planting trees. Councillors were asked to think of places where a tree could be planted. Chair is to include this in the next bulletin.

**DH/GB**

**Clerk**

**GB**

**GB**

**All**

Signed by .....Dated.....

It was noted that all finance functions had been carried out.

The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment had been adopted and it was noted that delegated powers no longer exist.

The HR Committee had interviewed and appointed to the position of Parish Clerk/RFO.

The Litter Collection contract had been renewed for a further year.

**21/72 Parish Clerk Locum/recruitment update – to note the locum position for this meeting, to approve the appointment as per the HR Committee recommendation and also to consider the increase from 5 to 7.5 hours per week for the Clerk/RFO. To resolve the Chair to approve and sign the NALC model employment contract (scale LC2) on this basis to commence after this meeting (23 June 2021)**

Locum Clerk for this meeting was noted.

**RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of Mrs D Powell for 7.5 hours per week. The Chair to approve and sign the contract of employment following the meeting. **RESOLVED** to appoint VAST as the payroll bureau.

**21/73 Finance**

To receive a presentation regarding the additional amount requested for Church Yard maintenance at Keele St Johns – Mr Steve Mellor. This item was covered earlier in the meeting – see reference 21/68

1. To update the bank mandate to remove Mrs C Withington and add the new Clerk, plus to also to allow electronic access. **RESOLVED** to investigate the set-up of electronic banking with the Co-operative Bank to allow access for the new clerk and two councillors.
2. To approve payments/orders, receipts, and transfers - **Appendix B** - **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as attached.
3. To note the Budget update and Bank reconciliation – **Appendix C** – The budget update and bank reconciliation were duly noted.

**21/74 To note (only) written reports circulated in advance**

1. Chairman's report- noted as attached.
2. County & Borough Councillors Cllr Huckfield (not received) and Cllr Kearon. TK advised that the Borough Council has returned to face-to-face meetings. Some meetings have been cancelled. Initial conversations have taken place regarding the drainage issues. A longer-term solution is required regarding the layout of drainage on fields and a permanent solution is required relating to the drainage on the road.
3. Village Hall Management Committee – There have been ongoing Wi-Fi and broadband issues which are being addressed.
4. Litter Picker report (to note renewal of contract) – It was noted that the Litter Picking Contract has been renewed for 12 months. There have been two or three incidents of fly tipping. The Borough council collected these quickly.

**21/75 General Data Protection Regulations (GDRP)**

Data Breaches (72 hrs)/Information Security/Subject Access Requests (reminder)

**To renew the contract with SCC for Data Protection officer Tier 2 for 2021/22 –£265 – to be agreed in July**

**Next agenda**

**21/76 Other matters**

1. To consider the colour scheme for the Knights Templar x 2 and receive feedback on the grant approval (subject to final confirmation from Tarmac) plus approve the contribution

Signed by .....Dated.....

(note monthly updates to start from 1st July) – **RESOLVED** to paint the sculptures in RAL 5004 Black/Blue in line with the artists original intention. The letter received from Derbyshire Environmental Trust was noted. Confirmation has been received from Tarmac. TW to research the costs and practicalities of up lights. **TW**

2. Staffs County Highways budget regarding grass cutting update - Mr Bibby – There will be six cuts over the summer months. A database of grass area has been requested from Staffordshire County Council – waiting.

3. Memorial for Cllr John Downing – location and form – Mr G Bibby – A tree has been planted in memory of Cllr Jon Downing. A stone with an inscribed plate is to be laid. TW volunteered to write a poem and form of words for the inscription and sourcing a suitable memorial. **TW**

4. To consider matters regarding drainage on Quarry Bank, Station Road (no 2) and under Railway bridge, and siding of Station Road – A meeting to be arranged with Mr Steele. To consider a quote from Mr Hough to clear out gully by field off Quarry Bank at a cost of £80 – **RESOLVED** to approve the quote and payment.

To consider a quote from Mr Hough to trim bankside, clear away waste and fallen soil from Station Road (Top Farm to no 2) at a cost of £360 – subject to Highways approval regarding signs, cones and stop/go sign. **RESOLVED** to approve the quote and payment.

5. Annual Maintenance Schedule - to approve a quote to carry out the work – see Appendix D schedule and quote. **RESOLVED** to approve the quote and payment.

6. Update for info only on the broadband issues Pepper Street/ Quarry Bank –Mr Meakin/Mrs Hughes – DM updated the meeting on the progress regarding a switch to a demand led scheme which had been passed to the providers senior management for review. The chair thanked DM.

7. Walleys Quarry – For info - see the planning application below and Chair’s report. TK advised the meeting that the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, in addition to reviewing the physical health impacts of the Quarry, were considering mental health impacts. Residents are encouraged to report mental health impacts so that evidence can be recorded appropriately.

8. Pepper Street Underground fire site investigations near to the site – GB to write to professional services to request an update on the remediation. **GB**

9. Local Listed Buildings review for Keele – WN, RS and VN to establish a Local Listed Building Sub-committee – for a future meeting. **WN, RS, VN**

10. External Group Representatives’ attendance at Keele Parish Council meeting – **RESOLVED** to continue to have attendance from the Hawthorns Residents Association. Chair to invite the Chair of ROTH to the meetings. **GB**

21/77 **Keele Neighbourhood Plan (Standing Item) – to note progress– Mr Bibby** – A meeting had taken place with the Consultant to cover areas of disagreement.

21/78 **Borough Local Plan (LP) Standing Item) - Open Space and Green Infrastructure Strategy: Forthcoming stakeholder engagement workshop 15th July 2021, from 10am-12pm** – to note outcome. GB will attend the meeting and feedback. Residents are encouraged to contribute to the consultation. DH had contacted the organiser of the workshop regarding the time of the meeting. Anyone unable to attend at the specified time can contact the consultants at atempany@rsk.co.uk to arrange a one-to-one meeting. **GB**

21/79 **Keele/Silverdale/University Growth Corridor and Save our Green Space (SOGS) campaign (Standing Item)** - item covered earlier in the agenda

21/80 **Planning applications – to provide comments on the following:**

County council Planning application No. N.12/09/216 MW D2 for submission of details in compliance with conditions 5 (Working Plan), 6 (Progress Plan), 38 (review of approved Final Restoration Plan) and 39 (detailed Restoration and 5 year Aftercare Scheme) of planning permission N.12/09/216 MW at Walleys Quarry Landfill (consultation ends 21 days from 9th June i.e. 30th June – to County Council) – no comments.

Installation of Illuminated and non-illuminated signage Unit 2 (Co-op) University Of Keele, Keele, Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5BW Ref. No: 21/00552/ADV – no objection.

T1, Maple, crown lift to a maximum height of 4m above ground level. Also crown clean by the removal of dead, diseased, damaged and rubbing/crossing branches and crown thin, by a total maximum of 10% by volume, all material will be chipped and removed from site. T2, Whitebeam, crown lift to a maximum height of 4m above ground level. Also crown clean by the removal of dead, diseased, damaged and rubbing/crossing branches and crown thin, to a total maximum of 10% by volume, crown reduce some branches on the property side to balance the profile of the crown on the remaining sides, all material will be chipped and removed from site 47 Westerdale Drive Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5FH Ref. No: 21/00541/TCA – no objection.

Crown lift to T1 & T2 45 Westerdale Drive Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5FH Ref. No: 21/00590/TCA – no objection.

Alterations to front elevation, proposed plant and enclosures, new external storage area with canopy, proposed ventilation louvres, satellite dish to rear elevation and extension of opening hours Unit 2 & 3 University Of Keele Three Mile Lane Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5BW Ref. No: 21/00517/FUL - no objection.

Boggs Cottages Appeal update – The appeal date was cancelled and the date postponed.

21/81 **Correspondence** – nothing further

21/82 **Any Other Business for future agendas**

- **To renew the contract with SCC for Data Protection Officer Tier 2 for 2021/22**

**Meeting closes**

**Date of next meetings:**

Keele Village Hall onwards - 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

**Meeting closed at 21.00.**

## Approved payments schedule – June 2021

BACS & Cheque No.	Expenditure	Details	TOTAL £
Bacs 22	Mrs C Withington	Land reg Sneyd Arms Oct 2020 Comm Assets	6.00
Bacs 23	Mrs C Withington	Zoom reimbursement June	14.99
Bacs 24	HMRC	P11D NIC class 1 PAID	24.84
bacs 25	ICO	Data protection renewal PAID	40.00
bacs 26	Steve Hough	SID removal	40.00
bacs 27	C Withington	June Salary Final	320.71
bacs 28	C Withington	June Expenses	15.00
bacs 29	HMRC	Tax and NI June	80.20
bacs 30	Access Irrigation	Spring service Yew Tree	416.40
Cheque	Tarmac Ltd	TPC Knights templar Third party contribution	199.14
bacs 32	Staffs County Council	Data Protection Officer 2021/22 renewal	265.00
bacs 33	Mr S Hough	Siding Quarry Bank to Bypass	320.00
	Mrs W Naylor	Litter Collection May onwards TBC	0.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,742.28</b>

## Keele Parish Council Chair's Report: June 2021

### COVID

Cases are on the increase again locally and local testing facilities are being increased in response. I continue to monitor the situation but no further action is required at the moment from the Parish Council. High levels of double vaccination amongst the vulnerable population should limit any large increase in hospital admissions,

### Planning Applications

#### This month

COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATION NO. N.12/09/216 MW D2 for submission of details in compliance with conditions 5 (Working Plan), 6 (Progress Plan), 38 (review of approved Final Restoration Plan) and 39 (detailed Restoration and 5-year Aftercare Scheme) of planning permission N.12/09/216 MW at Walleys Quarry Landfill (consultation ends 21 days from 9<sup>th</sup> June i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> June – to County Council). I circulated the documents to the PC as the Staffs CC site was not delivering them. They are technical in nature, and I lack the knowledge to comment. Although the quarry lies outside this Parish, it's nuisance does not. Whilst we might welcome the restoration phase being moved forward, this lies outside the application made. I am not in favour of commenting unless we have anything of a material, technical nature to add.

**Installation of Illuminated and non-illuminated signage** Unit 2 (Co-op) University Of Keele Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5BW Ref. No: 21/00552/ADV. I have viewed this and have no objection.

**T1, Maple, crown lift to a maximum height of 4m above ground level. Also crown clean by the removal of dead, diseased, damaged and rubbing/crossing branches and crown thin, by a total maximum of 10% by volume, all material will be chipped and removed from site. T2, Whitebeam, crown lift to a maximum height of 4m above ground level. Also crown clean by the removal of dead, diseased, damaged and rubbing/crossing branches and crown thin, to a total maximum of 10% by volume, crown reduce some branches on the property side to balance the profile of the crown on the remaining sides, all material will be chipped and removed from site** 47 Westerdale Drive Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5FH Ref. No: 21/00541/TCA. . I have viewed this and have no objection.

**Crown lift to T1 & T2** 45 Westerdale Drive Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5FH Ref. No: 21/00590/TCA. . I have viewed this and have no objection.

**Alterations to front elevation, proposed plant and enclosures, new external storage area with canopy, proposed ventilation louvres, satellite dish to rear elevation and extension of opening hours** Unit 2 & 3 University Of Keele Three Mile Lane Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5BW Ref. No: 21/00517/FUL. I have viewed this and have no objection.

## **Last month**

### **Planning applications –to provide comments on the following:**

21/00400/TCA|Various tree works|33 Westerdale Drive Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5FH

Involves removal of maple overshadowed by sycamore and work to the sycamore. No objection

**Retention of rear sunroom** Finney Green Farm Finney Green Leycett Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 6AB Ref. No: 21/00306/FUL : pending

**Proposed new access road 155m long by 6m wide. Constructed of white stone.** Finney Green Farm Finney Green Leycett Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 6AB Ref. No: 21/00305/FU: pending

**1x roadside Ash reduce to ground level. Upper canopy showing signs of Ash Dieback. 1x Scots Pine (adjacent) crown raise to 4m to allow more light to property and grass below, and to improve the overall aesthetic of the tree.** FYI Only -10 Holly Mews Quarry Bank Road Keele Newcastle Under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 5LT  
Ref. No: 21/00242/TCA: No objection

**Ground floor rear extension** 41 Westerdale Drive Keele Newcastle Under Lyme  
Staffordshire ST5 5FH Ref. No: 21/00221/FUL: Permitted

### **Boggs Cottages Appeal**

Rescheduled until such a time as face-to-face hearings are judged to be possible.

## **Parking**

I have sent a query to Alistair Bishop of County Highways who responded promptly. He is working on the detailed design drawings. He is hoping to have those completed within the next 3 weeks ready for passing to the contractor. As soon as he has received an estimate from the contractor for the works, he shall be able to give us a firm date for implementation.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Local Green Space consultation ends this Wednesday. I have received a number of positive comments and an objection from the owners of the corner field adjacent to the Old Rectory (circulated). Hannah Barter and I are attending a virtual meeting with Mr Butters, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the relationship of the KNP to the University Masterplan. I note with regret that we have yet to receive a copy of the current draft of circulation to the Parish Council. Our next step will be to compile the comments for the LGS and Special Policy areas and submit the draft plan to the Borough for screening and then consultation (rule 14). Once this has been completed, the plan gains some weight in planning terms.

## **Save Our Green Space**

The SOGS group met with representatives of the Green Party and other concerned activists at the Village Hall on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May and had a very productive discussion. At a subsequent SOGS meeting it was decided to move forward with this wider group which will also seek to protect other green areas in the Borough from inappropriate development.

In the absence of any concrete proposals from the Borough, it is difficult to make progress at the moment (see County Councillor meeting). Stoke's Options consultation gives cause for concern in two respects. Firstly, their consultation lacks specific detail and is very diffuse, this makes specific responses very difficult. Secondly, the technical report (circulated) makes clear that they have a bullish approach to population growth and house building. Amongst other things, it identifies areas of greenbelt in Newcastle as useful sites for further logistics warehouses! Newcastle have employed consultants to undertake the production of an updated open space and green infrastructure strategy for the borough. Interesting, this had already been done prior to the last Options consultation for the JLP. We are invited to a facilitated stakeholder workshop to be held on Microsoft Teams on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021, from 10am-12pm. Details were circulated to the PC. I will be attending and published the meeting on the SOGS Facebook site, encouraging members of the public to contact the consultants requesting to attend!

The current national situation with regard to planning is volatile (Chesham) and the impact of the pandemic uncertain.

## **Borough Plan**

No further updates.

## **Village Hall**

The business of getting the Broadband installed continues to frustrate and annoy. The current installation date is Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, who knows, perhaps it will have been done by the time we meet. There are concerns that Openreach will turn up unaware of the need to do 'pole work' and go away again. They have already done this four times.

## **The Great Stench**

Report from last bulletin:

**Here are the latest headlines from the EA published on 10<sup>th</sup> June.**

- WLQ are continuing to work on the necessary actions from the Environment Agency's recent compliance assessment reports. As a result, the operator has identified areas suitable for additional sealing works to reduce the odour. This will see a further 17,200m<sup>2</sup> of uncapped areas sealed. Additional sealing would help to reduce the odour by ensuring it doesn't escape and instead is captured by the gas wells.
- Around 130 people joined our virtual community session last night (Wednesday 9 June). We really valued the opportunity to listen to your experiences and answer your questions. A written transcript and audio recording of the session will be available soon. A [written transcript](#), [audio recording](#) and [answers to questions](#) asked electronically during the meeting from the session held on the 26 May are also available.
- We've recently met with Councillor Huckfield, and Councillor Tagg to talk about the impact of odours felt by constituents. Councillor Huckfield shared with us issues and actions for us to consider, and we've arranged to talk through those in more detail with Councillor Huckfield next week. We've also held two virtual meetings with local councillors representing Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. Plus, sessions with local MPs.
- We have now received the independent construction quality report of the permanent capping work we required the operator to carry out in the enforcement notice we issued on 26 March. Following a review of this work, we will be able to confirm if the requirements of the enforcement notice have been met.
- Our priority is to reduce the odour and as a regulator we are holding the operator to account to bring the site back into compliance with their environmental permit, in line with our published guidance, relevant legislation, whilst following the regulators' code of conduct.



- For the week 31 May to 6 June, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the WHO 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects but were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average Air Quality in the last week. B We are committed to sharing with you the outcome of our monthly monitoring. However, we realise local people want to see more frequent information about recorded hydrogen sulphide levels. We will seek to bring you indicative information every week in this update. This data will be compared against the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level. Should the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level be exceeded, Public Health England will be immediately informed as short-term health effects may be experienced by the public such as irritation to the eyes, nose and throat. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions may be more susceptible to these effects. The data will also be compared to the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level, i.e., above which there is likely to be complaints about odour annoyance. The Environment Agency conducts its monitoring and data handling using approved standards and methodologies. As a result, this weekly data is based on raw data that has not yet been subjected to quality assurance checking or calibration. As a result, this data may change significantly once the quality assurance check and calibration has been carried out. For the week 31 May to 6 June, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the WHO 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects but were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level for between 1% and 30% of the week. Data from our monitoring stations for the percentage of the week hydrogen sulphide were above World Health Organization's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level:
  - - Silverdale Cemetery 30%
    - Silverdale Pumping Station 1%
    - Newcastle under Lyme Community Fire Station 6%
    - Galingale View Pumping Station 18% odour annoyance guideline level between 1% and 30% of the week.
- During this week we received 972 odour reports in the Newcastle under Lyme area.
- Number of complaints: For the week 31 May – 6 June we received a total of 1035 complaints relating to odour in the Newcastle under Lyme area.
- Our public health partners are asking people to complete a daily survey detailing health impacts. This is so they can assess health impacts from Walleys Quarry and build further evidence to support our regulation. Please fill in the survey [here](#).
- Where possible, we ask residents to report odours in the local area surrounding Walleys Quarry via email. There are instruction on how to do this at the bottom of this page: [Walley's Quarry Landfill Site, Cemetery Road, Silverdale,](#)

[Newcastle under Lyme ST56DH - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](http://environment-agency.gov.uk)

- If you are not able to email us please report your odour issues via 0800 807060. We have reduced the number of questions we need to ask you but your complaint will still be logged and you will be provided with an incident number.:

Aaron Bell continues to pursue the issue with vigour. A health survey is being hosted by Staffs CC.

## Drains

During the recent downpour I walked the gullies of Station Rd, Keel Rd, The Village and QBR producing a report which I circulated to you and updated following further feedback. All issues have now been reported and areas of concern noted in a letter to Cllr Huckfield (see County Councillor section). My next wet walk will be along Quarry Bank and Pepper Street. I am encouraging residents to report issues directly as well as letting us know; the more pressure applied the better! Cllr Huckfield has arranged a site meeting between County (Rob Steele et al) and the PC, date to be arranged.

- Keele Road: gullies draining freely, pots clear, gutter mucky but no flooding issues. Addendum: Two blocked gully pots, filled to brim, one just beyond back entrance to St Johns, other past the bend, towards the bypass. Both reported.
- Corner of Keele Road and Quarry Band: gully pot full of what looked like grit. Needs a dig out. No flooding issue as the water drains across QBR into the free-running gully outside the Sneyd.
- Zebra Crossing, Uni side: force of water in culvert, under the cover in the red lead-in paving, sufficient to force cover from its seating and for water to be gushing out.
- The Village: no flooding as the gully outside 16, The Village was running very freely. There are three slow running gullies at 4, 14 and 36 but the capacity of the remaining gullies is sufficient.
- Station Road: the gutter on the stretch on the Top Farm side between their entrance and 2, Station Road is blocked and siding needs doing. Nevertheless, the gully on this stretch is running freely. The gully at 2, Station Road is full, the field drain is not working as it empties into this gully. Water is pouring off the field and down Station Road.

## Delegation of Funding for Grass cutting

I am logging cutting activity by the contractors (Amey) and reported the May cut to you by email:

Cut		Village	Station Rd	Three Mile	Bypass	Pepper St	QBR	QB
1st	April	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
2nd	26-May	y	y	y	y	y	y	y

Dave Adams (Executive Director - Operational Services at Newcastle) has been very helpful and has identified that a database does exist of all areas in the Borough with the area of to be grass cut. Unfortunately, this has been passed to County whose permission is required to share it with us. Mr Adams has contacted Mr Greatbatch requesting this permission but has not heard back from him. It is a mark of how helpful Mr Adams is being that he wrote to me apologising for the fact that Mr Greatbatch had yet to respond to him. In the last resort, I will try a Freedom of Information application.

In several areas of the Village weeds in the gutter are notable and require dealing with. We have requested a quote from Steve Hough for Station Road. This quote needs to include 'Old' Station Road where the problem is most marked.

## **Hedges**

It is 'that' time of year again. I have walked Pepper Street, Station Road, The Village, Keele Road and Quarry Bank/ Quarry Bank Road. Pepper Street is in urgent need of a cut and I have asked the Clerk to send a polite mail to the owner (Mr Downes) asking him to trim back growth obstructing the footway. There was no significant obstruction on Station Road, The Village or Keele Road.

Quarry Bank Road is a riot of overgrowth BUT the footpath is also in a very poor condition and the BOAT little used. I will take advice on whether to contact Seddon and ask them to repeat the cut of last year. For my part, I think it serves as useful habitat. The walkway from the bridge to QB is messy but the footpath remains passable. I spoke to a resident who suggested a cut is needed. This would be for neatness. I have been informed that this path was cut in recent years, perhaps by County? Quarry Bank footpath is walkable as is the path along Pepper Street to Silverdale.

I have yet to check the footpath from the Narley across the A525 or Three Mile Lane.

I am sensitive to the need to protect nesting birds and also that too early a cut means overgrowth will again obstruct pathways in late summer. With this in mind, I think letters should only be sent where obstruction becomes an issue.

## **Highways**

I am working with a resident who uses a mobility scooter to get the drop kerb at the top of Quarry Bank by the A525 footpath repaired.

## **Cllr Huckfield**

I met with County Councillor Derick Huckfield for 2 and a half hours, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June at the Sneyd. In the course of the meeting I took him on a site visit to the gully at 2, Station Road and the drop kerb on Quarry Bank. I will not give a

transcript of the meeting Cllr Huckfield has contacted County and been helpful in setting up a site meeting between Rod Steele et al and the PC. He has undertaken to work with County on the footpath issue and residents parking scheme. Cllr Huckfield denied that there was a plan to build 1000 houses on the Golf Course but expressed the opinion that building 'some houses' would allow drainage problems which threaten Silverdale to be resolved. He noted such a scheme would allow spring water to be diverted into the main drains. He was concerned that plans to allow higher levels of water in the old mine workings would increase the amount of spring water flowing down the Golf Course slope. He is very strongly opposed to the plan to reopen the railway line into Newcastle.

DRAFT