Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 1 December 2014 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

# **PRESENT**: Parish Councillor Jonathan Bellis (in the Chair)

# and Parish Councillors Anne Stockdale, David Brodie, Hilary Davies,

#  Clive Lovering, Bettie Gilliatt and Sara Rao

**IN ATTENDANCE:** CW&C Councillor S Parker

 Residents Mrs C Bower, Mr A Samuel and Mr P Smith

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**14/76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from PC Neil Busby

**14/77 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME – FIR TREE LANE**

Mrs Bower, Mr Samuel and Mr Smith were attending the meeting to voice their concerns about the activities of Mr Jones of Fir Tree Cottage in using low quality builder’s rubble to fill in the pot holes on Fir Tree Lane and his apparent intention to resurface the lane with a limestone dressing. A document outlining the issues was presented to the Parish Council by Mrs Bower in her capacity as Chairman of Fir Tree Lane Residents Association and Mr Samuel as Director of Fir Tree Lane Land Management.

Whilst the matter was being dealt with by the CW&C Public Rights of Way Officer there was a very real concern amongst residents of Fir Tree Lane that Mr Jones was riding roughshod over the local authority and his neighbours and was intent on creating a drive for vehicles that was destroying the character of Fir Tree Lane.

The immediate problem was that the rubble filling the potholes was dangerous in terms of content (it contained screws, glass and plastic etc) and in many places debris was lying loose and presented a trip hazard to users of the lane.

The right of Mr Jones to carry out this work was strongly questioned and it was suggested that the surface of Fir Tree Lane should be returned to its former condition. Concerns were also expressed about the heavy vehicles that were using the lane in connection with the business Mr Jones was operating.

Councillor Parker undertook to contact the Public Rights of Way Officer as a matter of urgency to ensure swift and decisive action was taken.

14/78 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 October 2014 be

 confirmed as a correct record

14/79 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Remembrance Sunday – Wreaths – Councillor Lovering reported on his attendance on behalf of the Parish Council at the Service. He laid two wreaths – one obtained by the Parish Council from the Royal British Legion and another donated by Fresh of Hoole. The Clerk was asked to write to the manager of Fresh expressing Members’ appreciation of his generous donation. DT

2) Japanese Knotweed - the Clerk reported that the Litter Warden had indicated the weed was growing near the roundabout bordering the Rugby Club. It was reiterated that it was the responsibility of the individual landowner to control it.

3) Littleton Lane – Surface - The Clerk had received a report from the CW&C Principal Engineer about what had been found upon excavation of the area where the sink hole had appeared. The cause of the hole had been a soft spot under the carriageway rather than a faulty pipe connection.

4) Tarvin Road – Bus Shelter – the Parish Council discussed what work needed to be carried out in relation to the shelter to make it better for people waiting – primarily just a widening of the footpath by the building contractor of the site behind it. This should involve no use of CW&C funds. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Officer to clarify the situation and get things moving. DT

5) Parish Field Lease – it was reported that the work on the lease was now complete and the documents signed.

6) Speed Camera – the Clerk reported on a very useful communication with the Clerk to Mickle Trafford PC in relation to their experiences with Community Speedwatch and the deployment of equipment to record traffic behaviour. Mickle Trafford PC were happy to offer advice and lend Littleton PC their speed gun. The Clerk was asked to respond to them affirming the Parish Council’s interest in working with them. DT

**14/80 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Clerk reported that he had received the formal Notice of Decision relating to the recent community governance review of Littleton and surrounding parishes. The proposed changes as discussed by the Parish Council at previous meetings would come into effect on 1 April 2015.

Members also discussed the status of the Vicars Cross which stood on the new boundary with Guilden Sutton. Their Clerk had indicated that his PC were happy for Littleton to retain ownership of the cross.

RESOLVED: that in agreement with Guilden Sutton Parish Council the Vicars Cross continue to be regarded as being the responsibility of Littleton Parish Council after the Review has come into effect.

**14/81 PARISH FIELD**

Whilst the bulk of the Parish Field was subject to use by Chester Rugby Football Club as per the lease there remained a small parcel of land adjacent to the veterinary surgery which was neglected, overgrown, festooned with rubbish and in places the ground was contaminated.

It was hoped that something could be done to create a community asset from this eyesore – possibly by planting appropriate trees to replace the self-seeded growth. The Clerk was asked to contact the Woodland Trust to ask them to make an assessment of the area.  **DT**

**14/82 CHRISTLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPIL SURVEY OF ROAD SAFETY**

Councillor Lovering presented the results of a survey on road safety undertaken by the pupils which included a list of particular things they would like to see happen in the area to make it a safer place. It was suggested that this could be taken forward by liaison with the Primary and High Schools and contacting Sustrans might be worthwhile.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Lovering be thanked for a most interesting report

**14/83 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 14/04182/FUL – 107 Tarvin Road – Replacement Dwelling

 RESOLVED: that the Parish Council objects to the proposed development

 due to its size and design which is out of keeping with the

 neighbouring properties

2) 50 Tarvin Road – Ground Floor and First Floor Extension

 23 Grove Gardens – Conservatory to Rear

 RESOLVED: that the Parish Council have no objection to the proposed

 developments

3) 14/03933/ADV – 6-8 Tarvin Road – Advertisement Boards – it was noted that this development had been approved by the Planning Authority.

4) 14/04498/FUL – Littleton Hall Farm – Variation of Condition 2 of 14/02964/S73 to allow for increase in boundary wall of Plot 1

This application had been made as a result of the Parish Council complaining to the Planning Authority that the developer had rebuilt the wall several courses higher than the original so that the wall no longer matched the other walls.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council strongly object to the application

**14/84 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council and made reference to the procurement of the wreath from Royal British Legion.

# RESOLVED: that i) the report of the Clerk be received

 ii) the Parish Council donate £50 to the RBL

14/85 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that the following accounts be paid:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Nov & Dec (less tax) 236.80

2) HMRC – PAYE – Nov & Dec 59.20

3) Typing and office services 24.50

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Dec 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 14 hours @ £6.50 91.00

6) The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 50.00

**14/86 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

# RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £7.24

# **14/87 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Since their last meeting the Parish Council had received correspondence which included:-

## Cheshire West and Chester Council

Members’ Briefings – various

Littleton Lane – Sink Hole

Completion of Review of Community Governance Arrangements – Publication of Notice of Decision – to be posted on Parish Noticeboards **DT**

### PC N Busby/Inspector P Hodgson – Policing Reports - various

**14/88 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on

 Monday 19 January 2015

**14/89 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Neighbourhood Plan – Members discussed the possibility of working on a Neighbourhood Plan but concluded that such an undertaking was beyond the Parish Council at the present time.