

**Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on
Monday 7 September 2015 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.**

PRESENT: Parish Councillor David Brodie (in the Chair)
and Parish Councillors Hilary Davies, Anne Stockdale and
Clive Lovering

IN ATTENDANCE: Local residents Mrs C Bower and Mr R Bower

15/57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Sara Rao, Bettie Gilliatt and Jonathan Bellis and CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

15/58 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1) Fir Tree Lane – Mrs C Bower from Fir Tree Lane referred to the report at the last meeting about the ditch having been filled in with debris. She reported that part of this had been cleared but the debris had just been dumped on the lane. This action had not been witnessed and therefore it was unclear whether this had been carried out by the resident in question or the local authority. Either way the work was totally unsatisfactory. It was agreed that this should be taken up with the PROW Officer.

The surface of Fir Tree Lane continued to present a hazard due to the materials used. The issue of this un-authorized re-surfacing of Fir Tree Lane had been referred to the PROW Officer at the beginning of the year and there was still no sign of any progress having been made. Members speculated about the reasons for the delay and acknowledged that as time passed the lane was actually getting worse.

It was agreed that CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker be asked to seek clarification as to exactly what was being done by PROW and Legal Services and why it was taking so long to resolve the matter. **DT**

2) Fir Tree Cottage – Possible Unauthorised Development – at the last meeting it was reported that Planning Enforcement had investigated the substantial building being erected on this property and found it to be within permitted development. However, Members still had doubts about this and had asked for the Planning Officer concerned to be contacted so he could explain the basis of his decision.

Subsequently, the Parish Council had received a note from Mr Cowell of CW&C in which he set out very comprehensively the reasons for his decision and explained the wider issues which planners had to consider. Members found this very helpful.

3) Fir Tree Lane – Removal of Trees – Mr Bower referred to the cutting down of a number of trees in the field beyond Fir Tree Lane. It was also noted that some hedges had been removed and it was assumed that this had been done to create a larger field. Councillor Brodie offered to check the plan of local trees to see if any Tree Preservation Orders applied to the trees in that area. **DB**

15/59 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 July 2015 be confirmed as a correct record

15/60 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Hare Lane Copse – it was reported that Phase 1 of the clearing of the area had been completed and noted the contractor concerned had done a magnificent job. It was agreed that the area now needed to be kept secure and it was agreed the Clerk obtain a new padlock and some chain to carry this out.

The general consensus was that the area should become woodland and as such could be a valuable resource for local schools etc. A local contractor would be consulted about layering the hedge and the Woodland Trust would also support the project through advice and provision of saplings etc **DB**

It was also agreed to proceed to Phase 2 ie. scraping the surface and disposal of rubbish. This would require the use of a digger and the means to take the rubbish (which included large chunks of concrete) away from site. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for this work. **DT**

2) Cross Surrounds – Councillor Brodie reported that the Clerk's spraying had finally taken effect and he would follow this up with another application in due course. **DB**

3) Meeting with Highways Officer – it was reported that the meeting on site to discuss the re-positioning of the bus shelter on Tarvin Road had been held between Highways Officer Mr Kieran Collins and Councillors Lovering and Gilliatt and the Clerk. It had been agreed that the best course of action would be to leave the bus shelter where it was and merely widen the footway behind. This was the safest option for all parties using or passing the shelter. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the developer of The Nurseries behind the bus shelter to ascertain whether he was still supportive of the idea of giving up a sliver of land to allow this to be done. This would entail the removal/re-location of the hedge. In the meantime it would also be necessary to arrange for the redundant electrical post to be removed. **DT**

4) Encroaching Vegetation – the Clerk was asked to pursue with the Highways Officer the trimming back of the vegetation on the stretch of footpath between the Cross and the roundabout. **DT**

5) Pearl Lane Road Surface – Councillor Stockdale reported she had flagged up on the Highways website the location of the potholes on Pearl Lane but nothing had been done so far. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the Highways Officer. **DT**

6) The Tannery – Hedge – the Clerk reported he had received a response from the Highways Officer about the hedge bordering the new development on Littleton Lane, stating that maintenance of the hedge was the responsibility of the landowner. The Clerk was asked to contact Your Housing Group to relay this and to point out also that the verges had not been reinstated properly yet. **DT**

15/61 PARISH COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Councillor Brodie tabled a draft Mission Statement and asked his colleagues to peruse it over the following weeks and send him their reactions in time for the issue to be fully discussed at the next meeting. **ALL**

15/62 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Councillor Lovering referred to discussions with Mr Kieran Collins, Highways Officer at the recent site meeting in relation to the issue of speeding on Tarvin Road and Littleton Lane. Mr Collins had explained that motorists become blind to signs when they pass them regularly and that the most effective strategy against speeding was the random use of speed guns.

It was therefore agreed to contact Mickle Trafford PC who were prime movers over speed guns etc in the area to get their advice and access to the necessary equipment. Use of speed guns would allow data to be gathered which could lead to more stringent action by the police.

It would be necessary to publicise the initiative to draw in the help of local residents.

Councillor Stockdale reminded the Parish Council that a 30mph speed limit sign was still needed on the road surface of Littleton Lane. **DT**

15/63 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1) 15/03454/FUL – Maple Lodge, 21 Littleton Lane – Two Storey Side Extension and Alterations

RESOLVED: that the application be supported

2) 15/03048/FUL – Manor Cottage, Littleton Lane – Single Storey Side Extension and New Patio Doors in Garage

RESOLVED: that the application be supported

3) 15/02844/FUL – 12 Grove Gardens – Demolition of Conservatory and Erection of Single Storey Rear Extension

It was noted this proposed development had been approved by the authority

4) The Old Orchard, Grove Gardens – Drop Curb – Members discussed a complaint received from a neighbour about a dropped curb being put in at this property where for years it had been understood such a provision was not allowed by the authority.

Councillor Lovering had investigated this at the time and had been told by the householder and the contractor that permission had been obtained.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should follow procedure in the light of the complaint by referring the matter to Planning Enforcement. **DT**

15/64 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

15/65 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that the following accounts be paid:-

	£
1) Clerk's salary – Aug & Sept (less tax)	236.80
2) HMRC – PAYE – Aug & Sept	59.20
3) Typing and office services	20.50
4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Sept	30.00
5) Litter Warden – 18 hours @ £6.50	117.00
6) Red Squirrel Tree Services – Hare Lane Copse Clearance	250.00

15/66 CLERK – PETTY CASH

RESOLVED: that the Clerk's petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £5.52

15/67 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Members' Briefings – various

Councillor Stuart Parker re Fir Tree Lane

Planning Officer Dave Cowell re Planning Decisions

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

Mr S Ely, Tarvin Road re Highways Issues

TESLA Exploration International Ltd – Seismic Survey for IGAS - noted

15/68 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on
Monday 12 October 2015