Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 8 September 2014 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

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

#  Councillors Anne Stockdale, Bettie Gilliatt and Sara Rao

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Local resident Mr C Lovering

#

**14/54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Hilary Davies and David Brodie; CW&C Councillors S & M Parker and PC N Busby

**14/55 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

Members discuss the development on 6-8 Tarvin Road with Mr Lovering whose property adjoined the site. There had been concerns about mounds of excavated soil, bricks, debris etc looming over neighbouring properties but it was accepted that these would disappear as the work progressed.

Mr Lovering had also expressed interest in the Casual Vacancy. The Clerk suggested he observe the business of the meeting and, if still interested, come to the next meeting with a view to being considered for co-option.

14/56 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2014 be

 confirmed as a correct record

14/57 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) A51 Tarvin Road – Road Surface – the Chairman reported that the Highways Engineer had informed him that the previous surface had been Stone Mastic Asphalt whilst the new surface was 10/6 Double Dressed Surface Dressing which should apparently be quieter. Members found this hard to believe and reflected that the A41 road was actually quieter since being resurfaced. It was agreed the Highways Officer should be asked why a similar dressing hadn’t been used on the A51. DT

2) Site of Former Vicars Cross Nursery – whilst it was accepted that the owner of the site was now taking measures to control the Japanese Knotweed Members were keen to find out whether the local authority/Environment Agency were now taking steps to monitor its growth generally. **DT**

3) Footpath Issue – The Clerk reported the Public Rights of Way Officer had contacted the resident who was currently filling in pot holes at the countryside end of Fir Tree Lane with building waste with a view to setting up a meeting involving other residents of Fir Tree Lane. The Parish Council were concerned about the nature of the waste he was using which was verging on fly tipping. It was agreed this be pursued with the PROW who should ask for his certification for the building waste used. **DT**

4) Littleton Lane – Road Surface – Councillor Rao had previously reported on the sink hole in the road outside Toll Bar Cottage which had been filled in but was likely the symptom of the collapse of the drain. The Clerk reported that the Highways Officer had arranged for investigation work and if necessary repair work to be carried out.

5) Bus Stop Shelter – the shelter outside The Nurseries offered very little protection from the elements and it had been suggested that it be moved back from the curb, using a bit of the land currently being re-developed. The Chairman reported that the developer, Mr Michael Nield, was in agreeable in principle. The Clerk was asked to now take this up with the Highways Officer. **DT**

6) Rugby Club Parking – it had been reported that cars were being parked on the grass verge of the A41 on the approach to the traffic lights where people were slipping through a gap in the hedge to access the playing field etc. The Clerk reported that he had taken this up with CRUFC who were taking steps to curtail this.

7) A51/Littleton Lane/Hare Lane Junction – the Clerk was asked to find out from the Highways Officer why they had not been consulted about the new layout where the road markings left only one space for queuing, with no central queuing lane and what was the current status of the scheme to improve the junction. **DT**

8) Car Advertisement – it was noted that the advertising car was still parked on the verge outside 11 Tarvin Road despite it having been reported to the local authority. The Clerk was asked to chase this up with Planning Enforcement. **DT**

**14/58 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 14/02964/S73 – Littleton Hall Farm – Barns

RESOLVED: that the authority be informed that the only observation of the Parish Council be that the documentation showed that there was access to Barn 1 from Littleton Lane whilst it was the recollection of the Parish Council that the breaching of the wall had been rejected per a previous application. Highways should be made aware of the complex junction this access created.

It was also noted that a wall that had been breached and rebuilt was now higher by several courses of bricks to a point that it was incongruous. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the Planning Officer. **DT**

2) 14/01710/Ful – 10 Tarvin Road – Single Storey, Two Storey and First Floor Extensions – it was noted that this had been approved by the Planning Authority

**14/59 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council and made reference to the ongoing External Audit. The auditor had queried the level of the Parish Council capital reserves which were seen to be unacceptably high. Members discussed this with regard to the possible expenditure which might be incurred in the near future.

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

 ii) funds be held in reserve to cover expenditure that could be

 incurred for:-

 a) contribution to cost of junction improvement

 b) fees for assessment of Japanese Knotweed in locality

 c) contribution to cost of bus stop improvement

14/60 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 28.50

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Sept 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 16 hours @ £6.31 100.96

 Sacks 1.65

 102.61

**14/61 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

# RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £5.76

# **14/62 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

## Cheshire West and Chester Council

Members’ Briefings – various

Report to Community Governance Review Committee (Wednesday 10 September) of Revised Final Recommendations for Littleton Parish – noted

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

Mr C Lovering – Rubble Heaps at 6-8 Tarvin Road. Casual Vacancy

BDO Ltd – Audit for the year ended 31 March 2014 – outstanding audit points

Christleton Parish Council – Vicars Cross Nursery Site - Knotweed

Mr A Samuel – Fir Tree Lane – photographs of filling work on FTL

TESLA Exploration International Ltd – ‘2D’ Geophysical Survey for IGas Energy Plc – the Parish Council had been sent documentation about explorations to be carried out in the Chester and Ellesmere Port Area. It was noted that these works did not include Littleton but agreed the PC should keep a watch brief on this.

**14/63 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 13 October 2014

**14/64 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Naming of New Development – it was reported that whilst the Parish Council had suggested “Tanyard Mews” for the name of the Littleton Hall Farm development the local authority had decided to call it “Mulberry Close”. The Clerk was asked to query the rationale of this decision with the local authority as the name appeared to have no obvious link with the locality. **DT**

2) Fishing in Christleton Pond – Councillor Stockdale had been approached by Christleton Parish to ascertain whether young people from Littleton still wanted to fish in the Pit. Members understood that they did.

3) Parish Field Lease – the Clerk reported that negotiations were in their final stages and he would be in a position to present a completed document for approval by the Chairman shortly. **DT**

4) A51 Tarvin Road – Lighting – it was reported that the light adjacent to 66 Tarvin Road was out again. **DT**