Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 10 October 2016 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

PRESENT: Parish Councillor Clive Lovering (in the Chair) and Parish

 Councillors David Brodie, Hilary Davies and Sarah Rao

IN ATTENDANCE:

16/62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

16/63 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2016 be

 confirmed as a correct record

16/64 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Public Rights of Way – Members discussed the unofficial walking routes that existed in and around the Parish. It was unlikely they would ever be adopted however.

2) Road Safety in Littleton and Christleton – the Clerk reported that CW&C had assigned a Mr K Farrow to liaise with them on this issue.

3) Speed Camera – the Parish Council wanted to proceed with the procurement and deployment of a hand held speed camera and “Your Speed is…” device. It was hoped to involve local residents in the use of the camera and an invitation to do this would be publicised via website and notice board. CL DB

4) Land for Sale at Rugby Club – the Clerk had ascertained that Messrs Wright Marshall were not involved in relation to this land. Clerk to discuss with original source of the information. DT

5) Cross Surrounds – Councillor David Brodie undertook to spray the current crop of weeds at the appropriate time. DB

16/65 TREES IN THE PARISH

Members were very much concerned about the trees in the Parish and surrounding area. Such concerns had been sparked by the suspicion that a particular oak had been removed by a farmer just beyond the PC boundary.

There were some very old trees in the Parish – at least 300 years old – and it was important to protect them. Littleton was an historic village and the ancient oak trees were part of its heritage.

 Advice had been sought from the CW&C Tree Officer and the Parish Council were keen to make a start on arranging for Tree Preservation Orders to be placed on them. In view of the number of trees involved it was hoped this could be done for groups of trees rather than individually. In the first instance the Parish Council would concentrate on oaks that were 100+ years old.

It would be necessary to identify, locate and photograph every tree. The Clerk was asked to contact the Littleton Tree Warden to ask his advice about the best methodology. DT

16/66 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Location: Garden Land Opposite Toll Bar Cottage, Littleton Lane, Littleton, Chester,

Cheshire

Demolition of existing sectional garage to be replaced with double garage

Location: Garden Land Opposite Toll Bar Cottage, Littleton Lane, Littleto) 16/01158/FUL - Garden Land Opposite Toll Bar Cottage – Demolition of existing sectional garage to be replaced with double garage

1) The Jays, 90 Tarvin Road, Littleton – Rear Single Story Extension and Front Storey Extension – Members observed that the house had been totally rebuilt a few years previously when the new building was expanded to the very limit of what could be agreed. Strictly speaking the new work expanded the building even further. Councillor Davies undertook to visit the neighbours to see if they raised any objections to the proposed development. HD

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council’s observations be relayed to the Planning

 Officer

16/67 FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

A letter had been received from Christleton Parish Council requesting financial support for repairs required to the play area. Members reflected that the residents of Littleton used the play area extensively and thus the Parish Council should help towards its upkeep as it had always done in the past. However, it was recognised that the sum of £500 requested represented a significant proportion of Littleton Parish Council’s Precept. Members felt this should be taken into account as should the level of contribution from the other Parishes involved. It was emphasised that the £500 would be a one-off payment rather than an on-going commitment.

It was agreed that the following sums be earmarked as potential future expenditure by the Parish Council:-

 £

1) Contribution to repairs to Play Area 500

2) Road Safety 5,000

**16/68 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

**16/69 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Oct (less tax) 118.40

2) HMRC – PAYE – Oct 29.60

3) Typing and office services 16.50

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Oct 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 6 hours @ £7.20 43.20

6) Barclays Bank – Storage Charge 1.00

**16/70 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

# RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £2.00

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**16/71 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

## Cheshire West and Chester Council - Planning Applications

Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan: Draft Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution SPD – Members affirmed their on-going stance in relation to this issue in that they would consider planning applications in this regard as and when they were submitted to the Parish Council.

Cheshire Constabulary - PC R Boulton - Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils - Member Briefings

 - CW&C Planning Protocol

Mr A Samuel – concern about activity involving vehicles, static caravan, trailers and laying of water pipe on land to the north side of Fir Tree Lane. Nothing was occurring which appeared to require any action to be taken at the present time.

The Parish Council agreed to keep a watching brief on the situation as well as activity on land to the rear of Orchard House, Grove Gardens and, yet again, what was reported to be further building work at Fir Tree Cottage.

**16/72 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting be confirmed as being on

 Monday 5 December 2016

**16/73 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Land to Rear of 66-74 Tarvin Road – it was reported that this land was not being maintained following the death of the owner. Whilst there was nothing the Parish Council could do formally it was worth trying to contact relatives etc to ascertain the situation. **HD.BG**

2) Resignation of Parish Councillor Sarah Rao – it was with regret that Parish Councillor Sarah Rao tendered her resignation from the Parish Council due to excessive pressures on her time.

Accordingly a Casual Vacancy now existed. The Clerk was asked to publish the appropriate Notice in the Parish inviting electors to call an election to fill the vacancy. If no election was called then the PC would be able to fill the vacancy by co-option. To this end local residents were invited to contact the Clerk if they were interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and wished to know more about what was involved. **DT**