Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 12 September 2016 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

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

 Councillors Jonathan Bellis, Hilary Davies, Anne Stockdale

 and Bettie Gilliatt

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Malcolm Pratt

16/49 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Mr Malcolm Pratt who had prepared Christleton Parish Council’s response to the CW&C PROW Questionnaire was welcomed to the Meeting.

1) Traffic Issues – the setting of and criteria for the various speed limits between Littleton and Christleton were discussed.

Councillor Jonathan Bellis was deeply concerned about the reckless behaviour of some schoolchildren cycling along Plough Lane and felt this was an accident waiting to happen. It was agreed that he write to the school independently of the Parish Council expressing his concern as a local resident.

Councillor Clive Lovering tabled his document on road safety proposals. The objective set out was to:-

a) Raise awareness that Tarvin Road and from Tarvin Road into Littleton and to the schools in Christleton was a 40 and/or 30 zone; reminding and making motorists aware that there would cameras operating in the area. Whilst this was a commuter through-route it was also a rural village community with a large number of school children also commuting to Christleton Primary School and Christleton High School.

b) Back up the awareness communication with the threat of having a mobile camera device available to residents for mobile use throughout the parish. Discussion with the Highways Officer recommended this method as the most effective measure, as the random nature of time and location of speed traps led motorists to change their behaviour.

c) Tarvin Road already had 40mph signage but enforcement was the issue. Therefore if the Parish had a mobile camera, the location of its use could be altered from time to time to keep motorists guessing. A rota could be developed to shift to differing locations. Word would hopefully spread around the local traffic to watch their speed in Littleton.

d) Only purchase the mobile speed device if a working group of volunteers from within the community could be successfully recruited.

 Suggested measures included:-

Painted 30mph at start of Littleton Lane

Speed monitor with “your speed is”.

 (Also used for data gathering with switched on/off for before/after average

 speed of motorists data gathered)

 Camera sign under it and school children and/or cycling sign too.

 Use "mobile" and move location monthly or fixed position depending

Buy a hand held community speed camera – volunteers were available - use on all roads

Propose joint funding CWAC and PC with Police support

Single yellow lines at the top of Littleton Lane

Get buy in from schools. Training, publicity for parents

Variable limit for school commute time of day - down to 20 – perhaps difficult to administer

Co-ordination with Christleton PC on speed limits including by The Pit where the limit should drop from 40 to 30

Speed bumps as a last resort

Improve footpaths – No direct routes and children won’t use on bicycles, on their own or in winter.

Mr Platt referred to the problems with HGVs on the A41 which CPC were trying to tackle. It was very much about gathering evidence from equipment as mentioned previously which could them be relayed to the Police for action to be taken etc.

It was also noted that Mr Adrian Francis would be the contact at Christleton High School.

It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council would allocate £5,000 from capital reserves to Road Safety proposals and would seek match funding from other sources such as CW&C. Clerk to contact CW&C DT

2) Public Rights of Way – Mr Pratt discussed problems relating to local footpaths, farmers and walkers. He had attended a meeting on site recently in relation to the felling of trees. The CW&C Tree Officer had stated then that they could only take action where a Tree Preservation Order had been infringed.

Members agreed that proper guidance was needed on what could or couldn’t be done in relation to trees. The Clerk was asked to contact CW&C re this. DT

16/50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor David Brodie

16/51 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 July 2016 be confirmed

 as a correct record subject to Councillor Bettie Gilliatt’s apologies

 being recorded

16/52 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Encroaching Vegetation – It was noted that the vegetation on the roundabout obscuring visibility had been cut back and the signs on the slip road were back in place.

2) Land for Sale at Rugby Club – the Clerk hoped to have something to report on his investigations with Messrs Wright Marshall to find out what the situation was in relation to this land. DT

16/53 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

Councillor Anne Stockdale reported on her attendance at the Chalc Planning Training Session which she felt had been of limited use due to the persistent questioning by one of the other attendees.

16/54 FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

It was agreed that this should be a standard item on future agendas.

**16/55 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making particular reference the recent External Audit. This had raised no issues other than the need to reduce the excessive balance held by the Parish Council

# RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**16/56 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

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 @ £7.20 100.80

 Bin bags 2.50

 132.10

6) Refund to Chris Morley for website domain renewal 43.16

**16/57 INCOME**

RESOLVED: That the following income be received:-

1) HMRC – VAT refund

 181.18

**16/58 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

# RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £3.26

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**16/59 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

## Cheshire West and Chester Council - Planning Applications

Cheshire Constabulary - PC R Boulton - Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils - Member Briefings

BDO LLP – Report on External Audit

Mr & Mrs Farrell – Concern re farmland adjacent to PROW

**16/60 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting be confirmed as being on

 Monday 10 October 2016

**16/61 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Twinning Association BBQ – Councillor Bettie Gilliatt reported that this had been a great success

2) Affordable Housing – it was understood that there had still been no sales of the supposedly affordable houses in Littleton. The Clerk was asked to again contact YHG to see what was happening.

3) Break-ins in the Parish – Members discussed the recent spate of break-ins in the area and emphasised the need for residents to be vigilant.

4) Cross Surrounds – it was agreed that Councillor David Brodie be asked to spray the current crop of weeds