Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 13 October 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,

# Bettie Gilliatt and Sara Rao (for item 14/68 2 onwards)

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

CW&C Councillor S Parker (for item 14/75)

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**14/65 MR P McCREADY**

A minute’s silence was observed in respect of former Parish Councillor Mr Peter McCready who had passed away recently.

**14/66 CASUAL VACANCY**

RESOLVED: that Mr C Lovering be appointed to the Parish Council to fill the

Casual Vacancy

(Councillor Lovering signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and then took his place on the Parish Council)

14/67 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2014 be

confirmed as a correct record

14/68 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) A51 Tarvin Road – Road Surface – Members had received no response from the Highways Officer as to the disparity between the new road surfaces of the A41 and A51 (the A51 seeming to be appreciably louder than the A41) and reflected on reports that no action would be taken unless a number of individual complaints about the noise had been received. It was felt that an independent comment from the Design Engineer in respect of the project would be useful. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to renew his efforts to get a reply from the Highways Officer and request his attendance at the next meeting. DT

2) Japanese Knotweed – the Clerk reported on his exploration of Government websites to clarify the issue of responsibility for controlling the weed. He had found nothing to suggest it was anything other than the responsibility of the individual landowner. It was disappointing that there appeared to be no central monitoring of the incidence of the weed by any agency, whether central, regional or local – something that could well be regretted in time to come.

3) Footpath Issue – The Clerk reported the Public Rights of Way Officer had visited the footpath that very morning to find the red brick was starting to settle down and was not as stark or as sharp. The PROWO had further remarked there had been no additional stone added since he had last viewed it but as yet no topping had been added - with an ever increasing leaf cover the newly stoned/bricked areas were slowly being covered over. He undertook to continue to monitor the route and hoped that Mr Jones would find the resources to add the final topping.

However, the Parish Council were still very much concerned about the nature of the waste Mr Jones was using which they still maintained was verging on fly tipping – it appeared to be trade waste. It was agreed this be pursued with the PROWO who should be asked a) whether he was comfortable with the materials being used and b) if PROW had to approve the specification of filling and topping materials used. **DT**

4) Littleton Lane – Road Surface – it was reported that the repair work had been carried out. The CW&C Principal Engineer stated that contractors excavated the area and found no issues; the initial concern that the gully connection may have collapsed had appeared to have been unfounded.

The Clerk was asked to find out exactly what work was done. **DT**

5) Bus Stop Shelter – the Clerk reported he was still awaiting a response from the Highways Officer concerning the proposal to move the existing shelter back from the curb, using a bit of the land currently being re-developed.

The Clerk was asked to pursue this with the Highways Officer. **DT**

6) A51/Littleton Lane/Hare Lane Junction – Councillors expressed their frustration about a) the new layout where the road markings left only one space for queuing, with no central queuing lane – which was causing chaos further back at the roundabout due to the flow of traffic being blocked, and b) no response from the Highways Officer about the current status of the scheme to improve the junction. The Clerk was asked to pursue the Highways Officer vigorously. **DT**

7) Car Advertisement – it was noted that the advertising car had been removed from the verge outside 11 Tarvin Road.

8) Littleton Hall Farm Redevelopment – Health and Safety – the Clerk reported he had finally had a response from the HSE to say they had investigated the issues raised by the Parish Council about safety on site and had found that they had been addressed by the developers. Councillors were disappointed by how little was done and the time it had taken.

9) 14/02964/S73 – Littleton Hall Farm – Barns – the Clerk reported that the issue of the rebuilt wall having several extra courses than the original had been referred to the Planning Enforcement Officer.

10) Parish Council Finances – the Clerk was happy to report that although the External Auditor had raised a query on the Annual Return no charge had been made for the Audit which was now complete.

11) Naming of New Development – 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 had challenged this and been told that the timescale had been so tight the decision could not await the Parish Council’s response. Councillors were sceptical of this bearing in mind they turned the request around in a matter of days.

12) Parish Field Lease – Councillor Brodie presented the draft lease which was discussed by the Parish Council, including sub-letting; exclusion of the Landlord and Tenant’s Act and the need to maintain the hedges as barriers to stop people squeezing through in the wrong places. It was agreed that the final version of the lease and site plan would be circulated to Members for comment.

The lease issue had thrown up the problem that no legal document (apart from a Tithe map dated 1847) had been found to establish beyond doubt that the Parish Council owned the land in question. So once the lease had been put in place the Parish Council would go through the process to formally establish ownership of the land via the Land Registry. **DT DB**

**14/69 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 14/02964/S73 – Littleton Hall Farm – Barns – it was noted that this proposed development had been approved by the Planning Authority.

2) 14/03933/ADV – 6-8 Tarvin Road – Advertisement Boards

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council have no comments to make.

3) 14/02962/FUL – New Gospel Hall to Replace Existing Restaurant Building With Associated Car Parking and Landscaping at 84 Tarvin Road

RESOLVED: that the application be supported

**14/70 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council and made reference to the External Audit which was now complete.

# The Clerk also referred to the new Minimum Wage which had been set by the Government wef 1 October and requested approval to the Litter Warden’s rate of pay being raised to this amount.

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

ii) the Litter Warden’s hourly rate of pay be set at £6.50

wef 1 October 2014

14/71 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that the following accounts be paid:- £

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

2) HMRC – PAYE – Oct 29.60

3) Typing and office services 21.00

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Oct 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 6 hours @ £6.31

4 hours @ £6.50 63.86

**14/72 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

# RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £3.62

# **14/73 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

## Cheshire West and Chester Council

Members’ Briefings – various

Request for comments on naming of new development at 6-8 Tarvin Road – as this was previously known as Kirks Nurseries it was agreed that the properties be known as nos 1,2 & 3 The Nurseries.

Local Plan (Pt 2) Land Allocation and Detailed Policies – Sites and Services Survey – it was agreed that this been passed to all Members of the Parish Council for their contribution to the survey. **All**

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

**14/74 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

Monday 1 December 2014

**14/75 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) A51 Traffic – the density and speed of traffic on Tarvin Road was discussed. It was agreed it was time for a review incorporating a traffic count. Members also discussed the use of speed cameras and the Clerk was asked to contact Mickle Trafford PC to see if their system could be borrowed for a period. **DT**

2) Fir Tree Lane – Councillor Brodie reported that the lane now appeared to be on the CW&C schedule of roads they maintained and that the light that had been the source of so much debate was now working.

3) Overgrown Footpath – it was reported that the footpath on Tarvin Road to the south beyond the noticeboard was overgrown. The Clerk was asked to report this to the Highways Officer.  **DT**