Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 18 January 2016 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

# **PRESENT**: Parish Councillors David Brodie (in the Chair), Anne Stockdale,

#  Clive Lovering, Bettie Gilliatt, Sarah Rao and Jonathan Bellis

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**IN ATTENDANCE**: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

 Local residents Mr & Mrs Bower,

**16/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Hilary Davies

16/02 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1) Fir Tree Lane - Public Right of Way –The action being taken by the authority to return the surface of the Public Right of Way to a satisfactory condition was reported. It entailed removal of the offending materials and laying road tarmac planings. This would be carried out as soon as planings became available – apparently they were currently in short supply.

16/03 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November 2015 be

 confirmed as a correct record and the recommendations

 contained therein be adopted

16/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Encroaching Vegetation – Councillor Stockdale pointed out that some vegetation still required cutting back and clarified where this was. It was also noted that chevron posts on a slip road had been run into and the lights on one of the slip roads were not functioning. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the Highways Engineer. DT

2) Enforcement of Speed Limits – the Clerk reported he was still waiting to hear from Mickle Trafford PC regarding their sending a representative to a Littleton PC meeting to share their experience and give advice on the deployment of speed guns etc. Councillor Parker kindly offered to refer this to Councillor Mrs Margaret Parker who attended Mickle Trafford PC meetings. SP

3) Development on the Land to the Rear of 6-8 Tarvin Road – The Clerk had still not received a response from the Planning Officer about concerns raised by neighbours to the property about additional works that had been carried out on this development ie. what appeared to be a foul sewer pumping station. This had not been in the plans for which consent had been obtained and presented a blighted view from neighbouring properties. Whilst screening had been erected on the side of the development nothing had been done to remove it from the view of the neighbours. Members believed that the developers had carried out a significant amount of work to solve a foul sewerage problem that had originally not been foreseen. Clerk to pursue. DT

16/05 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

1. Littleton Lane – Road Surface – Councillor Lovering pointed out that certain areas of the road surface on Littleton Lane were in need of attention. He agreed to report this on the CW&C Highways website. CL

1. Storm Drains – it was noted that the storm drains at the bottom of Pearl Lane had been cleared. Also those in Littleton Lane by Toll Bar Cottage.

16/06 FIR TREE LANE – PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Members discussed the issue of the ditch in Fir Tree Lane which had been filled in with debris from the adjoining property. Whilst some remedial work had been carried out it was unclear what was happening with regard to full restoration. The Clerk was asked to contact the PROW Officer to clarify the situation. DT

16/07 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1) 15/04668/FUL – Claverton, Littleton Lane – Increase Height of Existing Roof to and Inclusion of Front and Rear Dormer Windows - it was noted, with some surprise, that this application had not been approved by the Planning Authority. The Clerk was asked to investigate why. **DT**

# 2) 15/04905/FUL - 43 Littleton Lane - Single Storey Rear Extension & Front Porch Extension

RESOLVED: that the application be supported

**16/08 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making reference to the proposed discontinuation of the New Homes Bonus Grant by CW&C. Other Parish Councils were lobbying the authority urging them to reconsider and it was agreed that Littleton follow suit.

# Councillor Lovering reported on his scrutiny of the accounts for October to December which he found to be correct.

The Clerk tabled a document showing the Parish Council’s projected income and committed expenditure for 2016/17. Members discussed the level of the Parish Council’s reserves and noted that there was the potential for these to be drawn on extensively for projects such as the A51 Tarvin Road/Hare Lane/Littleton Lane junction improvement and Hare Lane Copse.

The Clerk also indicated he was investigating non-payment of War Stock dividend by the Treasury for the past year and would report back to the Parish Council.

# RESOLVED: that i) the reports of the Clerk and Councillor Lovering be received

#  ii) the Precept for 2016/17 be set at £3,500

**16/09 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RECOMMENDED: that the following accounts be paid:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Dec & Jan (less tax) 236.80

2) HMRC – PAYE – Dec & Jan 59.20

3) Typing and office services 20.50

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Jan 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 14 hours @ £6.50 91.00

6) Barclays Bank – Storage Charge 1.00

**16/10 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

# RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £3.00

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**16/11 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

## Cheshire West and Chester Council

Councillor Stuart Parker re Fir Tree Lane

Parish Precept – David Sconce

Planning Applications for Drilling etc – Rod Brookfield – CW&C unable to give the Parish Council advance warning of drilling applications. Should an application be submitted for drilling near Littleton PC would be notified in the usual manner by Cheshire West and Chester Council. However, the Energy Companies tended to contact local communities long before an application was submitted so PC may well know before CW&C if an application was to be submitted.

Cheshire Constabulary

Neighbourhood Alerts

Mrs C Bower – Fir Tree Lane PROW

Mrs D Parkinson, 123 Tarvin Road – query re field behind her property

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – various Member Briefings

CW&C Training Session on 23 February

Barrow and Littleton Twinning Association – invite to AGM on 29 January via Councillor Gilliatt

**16/12 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 7 March 2016

**16/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Councillor John Hughes – Members reflected on the valuable contribution made to the work of the Parish Council by John Hughes who sadly passed away in October. His major passion was the footpaths in and around Littleton and he had worked diligently over many years to complete the Definitive Map of Footpaths for the locality. His massive local knowledge was regularly drawn upon by the Parish Council.

2) Hare Lane Copse – the Chairman reported he was still awaiting the result of his application to the Woodland Trust for saplings. In addition to this a tree located on the boundary with the Vet Surgery had toppled in the recent high winds. The Clerk had contacted the contractor who had worked on the copse and he had indicated he would cut it up free but he would have to charge for removal, if required. The Clerk was asked to progress the matter. **DT**

3) Littleton Hall Farm – Lighting – Councillor Rao expressed concern about the high levels of lighting on the new development adjoining her property and questioned whether floodlighting had been included on the original plans and whether it was necessary. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the Planning Authority. **DT**