Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on Monday 2 December 2013 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

# **PRESENT**: Parish Councillor John Martin (in the Chair) and Parish Councillors

#  Anne Stockdale and Sarah Rao

**IN ATTENDANCE:** CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker from item 13/78 onwards

**13/71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Hilary Davies, David Brodie, Jonathan Bellis and Bettie Gilliatt, also Webmaster Rob White

13/72 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 October 2013 be

 confirmed as a correct record subject to 13/70 Littleton Hall Farm

 stating “It was understood that the property may have been sold

 to a small developer who intended to build 2-3 houses on the site”

13/73 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Parish Council Website – it was reported that Mr Rob White was making good progress with the website. He was currently chasing pen portraits of the Parish Councillors for it.

2) Site of Former Vicars Cross Nursery – Members discussed the site with regard to the WW2 pillbox (which perhaps should be listed) and concerns that the area was infested with Japanese Knotweed. It was agreed that a photographic record of both be obtained to help with further discussion on these issues.

3) Boundary Changes – It was noted that the review of the boundaries for Great Boughton was starting in December and was due to be completed by next summer. As this affected parts of Littleton it was suggested that the Clerk of Boughton PC be contacted requesting her to keep Littleton in the loop.

4) Development of Industrial Unit at Wardle – the Clerk reported he had contacted the Highways Officer re concerns about the impact on the already over capacity A51 of the establishment of a warehouse/light engineering/storage facility at Wardle. CW&C acknowledged that the development would have some impact on the A51 but felt it would be strongly diluted because of the distance from the development and the number of other population destinations before Littleton. The Highways Officer also stated that it should be borne in mind that the population, industrial and commercial centres east of the Wardle development far outweighed the same on its western side and this was the reasoning behind the low impact anticipated for the Littleton area.

Members felt that the rise in traffic, however small in the eyes of the Highways Officer, lent further weight to the need for a junction improvement at Tarvin Road/Littleton Lane/Hare Lane.

5) A51/A55 Roundabout – Members reflected on the dangers of the roundabout many of them had experienced with HGVs due to the narrow lanes.

6) Fir Tree Lane – Lighting – Members discussed the history of this un-adopted road with special reference to the lighting and looked forward to a report on tis issue from Councillor Brodie at the next meeting.

7) Parish Field – it was reported that only one local resident had responded to the recent newsletter in relation to the future of the field.

8) Chester Villages – Councillor Rao reported on the last meeting but indicated this forum would continue with a changed format. Members discussed concerns locally about the number of developers attracted to the Christleton area as well as possibilities for Littleton, especially 6-8 Tarvin Road.

Action: Clerk to meet with Cllr Martin to investigate VXN site. Clerk to contact GBPC re boundary changes and HO re roundabout dangers. Cllr Brodie to report on FTL next meeting.

**13/74 ROAD MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that he had received a response from the Highways Officer relating to the traffic signals on the roundabout stating that one of the purposes of the signals at this location was to clear queues on the A55 off slips. Queues on these slips could be expected during peak times but the Highways Agency was unable to predict when a queue would appear. As queues could appear at any time it was felt prudent to have the signals operating at all times. The traffic signals also separated conflicting traffic movements thus reducing the risk of serious road traffic collisions.

Members reflected on this response in the light of what they knew to be the case in locations such as Runcorn and acknowledged this was one battle they weren’t going to win…

**13/75 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making special reference to a letter he had received from CW&C indicating that the Parish Council was eligible for a New Homes Bonus Grant from the Council’s Community Fund to the value of £866 for the financial year 2013/14.

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# RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

13/76 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that the following accounts be paid:- £

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

2) HMRC – PAYE – Nov & Dec 59.20

3) Typing and office services 21.00

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire - Dec 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 12 hours @ £6.31 75.72

 Protective clothing 17.28

 92.90

**13/77 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

# RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £8.98

# **13/78 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

## Cheshire West and Chester Council

- Members’ Briefings – various

- Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant to Local Councils 2014/15 – Members noted that this would affect their discussions on Precept at their next Meeting and awaited further details from CW&C

Cllr Les Ford re Borough Finances

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

Councillor Bettie Gilliatt – Members discussed correspondence from Councillor Bettie Gilliatt in relation to how the Parish Council had marked Remembrance Sunday over the years. It was noted that the Parish Council did not have a policy on this and agreed that it should do. This would be discussed fully at the next Meeting.

Action: Clerk to place item on Remembrance Sunday on agenda

**13/79 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 on Monday 20 January 2014

**13/80 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Littleton Lane – Road Surface – there was discussion about problems with a grid in Littleton Lane and pot holes. The CW&C system of flagging such defects on their website was proving to be effective.

2) Site of the Former Vicars Cross Nursery – Security – it was noted with some concern that the gates to the site were not adequately secured and this could lead to tresspass. The Clerk was asked to raise this with Barkin Developments.

Action: Clerk to contact Barkin Developments