Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 30 November 2015 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

# **PRESENT**: Parish Councillors David Brodie (in the Chair) and Clive Lovering

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**IN ATTENDANCE**: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker and local residents Mr & Mrs Bower, Mr I Silverton and Mr C Elston

**15/79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Anne Stockdale, Hilary Davies and Bettie Gilliatt

**15/80 CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk indicated that with only two Parish Councillors present the meeting was inquorate. However, given the circumstances, it was agreed that the meeting continue on the basis that any decisions made would be confirmed at the next meeting.

15/81 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1) Seismic Testing in Littleton – there had been concern in the parish about seismic testing which had occurred in Littleton and the surrounding area undertaken by Tesla Exploration on behalf of IGas. It was pointed out that IGas had a licence to survey the area and that this was part of a Government initiative. This work was now complete and IGas had informed the Parish Council they would be processing and interpreting the data gained shortly and this was expected to be finished by the end of March 2016.

The resulting 3D geological map of the area would be used by IGas to assess the feasibility and practicality of further exploration in the area. Many people were apprehensive about what this would lead to especially in view of recent high profile developments in Lancashire and, more locally, in Upton-by-Chester.

The Chairman made it clear that it was not within the Parish Council’s remit to be a campaigning group. Any application by Igas (or any other company) to establish a drill head in the area would be subject to the full planning process and this would include extensive public consultation, public meetings etc. It would be at this point that the Parish Council would endeavour to represent the views of local residents in the planning process.

Councillor Parker confirmed the scale of any planning consultation which would take place and local residents would be kept fully informed. Local resident Mr Elston expressed cynicism about this, citing recent events at Ellesmere Port, Farndon and Upton-by-Chester where it appeared approvals had been obtained with minimal public consultation. Councillor Parker emphasised that full process would occur and that the public would be kept well informed. He suggested, however, that it would be useful for the Parish Council to contact the Local Authority to request they be kept informed of any developments. DT

2) Fir Tree Lane - Public Right of Way –Councillor Stuart Parker reported on action being taken by the authority to return the surface of the Public Right of Way to a satisfactory condition, underlining the importance of the proper legal process having to be followed in order that there could be no legal challenge to their action. A suggestion that the offending surface of building waste which included bricks, screws and glass merely be covered by a dressing of finer material had been rejected.

15/82 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 September 2015 be

confirmed as a correct record

15/83 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Hare Lane Copse – the Clerk reported that the work to level the ground which entailed the removal of concrete, rubble and fly-tipped materials had been completed. The Chairman was contacting the Woodland Trust to obtain their help and guidance in turning Hare Lane Copse into a managed woodland area. DB

2) Re-positioning of Bus Shelter on Tarvin Road - the Chairman reported he was still in the process of contacting the developer of The Nurseries behind the bus shelter to ascertain whether he was still supportive of the idea of giving up a sliver of land and the removal of the hedge but had not received a reply. DB

3) Encroaching Vegetation – it was noted that the vegetation overgrowing the pavement leading to the roundabout had been trimmed back.

4) 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. DT

15/84 PARISH COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Councillor Brodie referred to on-going work on the formulation of the Mission Statement reflecting that the document would have to include how the Parish Council would respond to issues such as the recent concern over seismic testing and the necessity for it to properly reflect and represent the views of the Parish as a whole and not operate as a campaign group.

15/85 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1) 15/03740/FUL – 2 Hunters Court – Installation of Satellite Dish - it was noted this proposed development had been approved by the authority

2) 15/04668/FUL – Claverton, Littleton Lane – Increase Height of Existing Roof to and Inclusion of Front and Rear Dormer Windows

RECOMMENDED: that the application be supported

3) Development on the Land to the Rear of 6-8 Tarvin Road – The Clerk had received no response as yet 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. Clerk to pursue. **DT**

**15/86 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council and Councillor Lovering reported on his scrutiny of the accounts for May to September which he found to be correct.

# RCOMMENDED: that the reports of the Clerk and Councillor Lovering be

# received

**15/87 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RECOMMENDED: that the following accounts be paid:- £

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

2) HMRC – PAYE – Nov 29.60

3) Typing and office services 20.50

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Nov 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 14 hours @ £6.50 91.00

6) Red Squirrel Tree Surgery – Hare Lane Copse Ph 2 450.00

7) Donation to Royal British Legion – Remembrance Sunday 50.00

**15/88 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

# RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s petty cash float be reimbursed in the sum of £4.00

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# **15/89 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

Cheshire Constabulary

Neighbourhood Alerts

Mrs C Bower – Fir Tree Lane PROW

PC Rob Boulton

Pavement Parking

Attendance at PC Meetings

Mr C Elston, Grove Gardens – Seismic Testing

IGas – Seismic Testing

Clerk to Gt Boughton PC – proposed joint PC meeting re IGas

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – various Member Briefings

**15/90 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

Monday 18 January 2016