Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 7 March 2016 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

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

#  Clive Lovering, Sarah Rao, Hilary Davies and Jonathan Bellis

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

 Local residents Mr & Mrs Bower, Mr C Elston

 PC Rob Boulton

16/14 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1) Shale Gas Extraction – Mr Carl Elston made reference to IGas pulling out of Upton recently and the hints that they might return to the area in the near future. Had the PC heard anything?

Councillor Brodie referred to the correspondence received from the Planning Officer confirming that the usual planning procedure whereby the PC would be consulted should any application be received.

2) Fir Tree Lane - Public Right of Way –It was reported that **t**he action being taken by the authority to return the surface of the Public Right of Way to a satisfactory condition was imminent. There was some concern expressed about the specification of the new surface ie. would it be of the right composition and be compacted enough to facilitate use of pushchairs etc. The Clerk was asked to contact the PROW Officer to check this out. **DT**

3) PC Rob Boulton introduced himself to the meeting and explained how he and his colleagues were covering the area. He explained that he intended to bring back the monthly newsletters and would hold surgeries.

16/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2016 be

 confirmed as a correct record

16/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Encroaching Vegetation – Councillor Stockdale clarified that the vegetation which required attention was largely on the middle island and the chevrons on the Chester side needed repair. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the Highways Engineer. DT

2) Enforcement of Speed Limits – it was acknowledged that speeding was still a problem in Littleton, on Tarvin Road and Littleton Lane in particular. The latter road still required a 30mph on the road surface to remind motorists of the limit.DT

3) Development on the Land to the Rear of 6-8 Tarvin Road – The Clerk reported on the response he had received 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 been required by Welsh Water. It was hoped that screening from neighbours could be provided.

4) 15/04668/FUL – Claverton, Littleton Lane – Increase Height of Existing Roof to and Inclusion of Front and Rear Dormer Windows – it was reported that this application had been refused by the Planning Authority because it constituted an overdevelopment. Members felt this was not consistent with other decisions on Littleton properties however.

5) Hare Lane Copse – Trees – Councillor Brodie reported that the saplings from the Woodland Trust were arriving soon and that Tree Warden Simon Mageean would be consulted as to where they should be planted. The procurement of rabbit collars was in hand.

6) Littleton Hall Farm – Lighting – the Clerk reported on correspondence he had received from the Planning Authority about concerns about the high levels of lighting on the new development mentioned at the last meeting. Councillor Rao, a neighbour to the property, felt that the level of lighting appeared to be greater than what she remembered when examining the original plans. It was felt that the best course of action was classify this as an environmental pollution complaint and the Clerk would pursue this. DT

16/17 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

1) Young Cyclists – Members discussed concerns about the occasional reckless behaviour on the busy Littleton Lane by some young cyclists commuting to and from Christleton High School. Sympathy was expressed for the cyclists however in the light of occasional bad behaviour by motorists. It was agreed that LPC would like to partner with CHS on the road safety agenda for Littleton and hoped to meet with a representative of CHS to discuss this. CL

16/18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1) 16/00551/FUL – Ashley Rise, 31 Fir Tree Lane – Increase of Roof Height, Single Storey Rear and Side Extension Linking to Garage Conversion

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council have no objection to the proposed development but have slight concerns about the reference on the plan to “assumed drainage” ie. would the existing drainage cope with the extra water coming from the larger roof area?

**16/19 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making reference to the discontinuation of the New Homes Bonus.

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

 (ii) the Litter Warden rate of pay rise to £6.70 (NMW)

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**16/20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RECOMMENDED: that the following accounts be paid:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Feb & March (less tax) 236.80

2) HMRC – PAYE – Feb & March 59.20

3) Typing and office services 20.50

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – March 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 16 hours @ £6.70 + arrears 113.60

**16/21 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

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

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**16/22 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

Councillor Armstrong re planned discontinuation of New Homes Bonus

Councillor Stuart Parker inviting LPC to suggest schemes to be considered as Ward Key Priorities

Rob Charnley, Planning Officer re Development to Rear of 6-8 Tarvin Road

Cheshire Constabulary

PC R Boulton - Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – various Member Briefings

**16/23 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 9 May 2016

**16/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Planning Meeting – Councillors Brodie and Lovering reported on the meeting organised by CALC which they attended. The role of the Planning Officer, in situations where issues were often not as clear cut as they used to be, was explained. It was noted that arguments made at the planning stage could often be overturned by sustainability at appeal which was therefore a key factor when developments were being considered.

Local Plan (LP) and Neighbourhood Plans (NP) were discussed and the impression left was that Neighbourhood Plans were no guarantee that local priorities would impact on planning decisions particularly if aspects of NP varied from key LP objectives.

The Planning Officers had affirmed that they were keen to enter into a dialogue with bodies such as Parish Councils and recognised that their approach to this objective could improved.

2) Littleton Hall Farm – it was noted that there were still four affordable homes empty and Members wondered why. The Clerk was asked to find out whose responsibility it was to move the houses on. **DT**

3) Rugby Club Land – the Clerk reported he had contacted CRUFC about the land adjacent to the A51 they were apparently selling but had received no reply. He would chase this up. **DT**

4) Japanese Knotweed – it was noted that the infestation of this highly invasive weed appeared to be under control.