Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 9 March 2015 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

# **PRESENT**: Parish Councillor Jonathan Bellis (in the Chair)

# and Parish Councillors Anne Stockdale, David Brodie

#  Clive Lovering, Bettie Gilliatt and Sarah Rao

**IN ATTENDANCE:** CW&C Councillor S Parker (for item 15/24 onwards)

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**15/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Hilary Davies

15/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 January 2015 be

 confirmed as a correct record subject to Cllr Sarah Rao’s name

 being spelled correctly

15/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Parish Council Printing – the Clerk reported that he had called in on Deva Print in Guilden Sutton and discussed charges for printing of the Newsletter etc. This would prove to be more cost effective than the arrangements for printing made previously.

2) Allotments in Littleton – Planning – the Clerk reported he had referred the building which had appeared on the allotments situated behind 70 Tarvin Road to the Enforcement Officer for investigation and was awaiting a reply.

3) Litter in Parish – the Clerk reported that PC Busby was dealing with the individual who was depositing quantities of litter he had picked up in particular localities.

15/17 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The CW&C Highways Officer had sent the Parish Council a copy of the draft proposal for an improvement to the Tarvin Road/Littleton Lane/Hare Lane junction. Members felt that they needed to be assured that the new design would actually work – that there had been a traffic impact assessment establishing this was the best solution. It certainly appeared to give more opportunity for people to queue to turn right into Littleton Lane which was currently a significant problem.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council supports the new scheme for the junction

Members felt that the high attendance by local residents at the last meeting showed the depth of concern in the parish about the road which was unsafe and noisy. Leaving the statistics aside the most important thing was the effect it had on people.

Speeding was again discussed. Members felt they should continue to press for a 30mph limit on the road. The Chairman would look into community signage.

 JB

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting a response from the Highways Officer on the other highways issues.

15/18 FIR TREE LANE – SURFACING OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Councillor Brodie reported that the owner of Fir Tree Cottage had put down an extra covering on the stretch of the PROW that was causing concern but the overall surface was still totally unsatisfactory. It was understood the CW&C were applying to the Magistrates Courts for an Order to compel the resident to restore the PROW to its former condition.

The Clerk reported he had written to the PROW Officer pointing out that at one time Fir Tree Lane had a gate and stile and requesting that these be reinstated. He was awaiting a response on this. DT

**15/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) Fir Tree Cottage – Possible Unauthorised Development – it had been noted that a substantial building was being erected on this property. The Clerk reported he had referred this to Planning Enforcement for investigation

**15/20 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making reference to the need to review both Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. In the meantime he recommended that the limit currently set by Standing Orders for the need to go to tender for contracts had been £500 since 2001 needed to be updated to reflect 2015 prices.

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

 ii) the value of contracts as referred to in Section 19 of the

 Parish Council’s Standing Orders be raised to £1,000

15/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that the following accounts be paid:- £

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

2) HMRC – PAYE – March 29.60

3) Typing and office services 27.00

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – March 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 14 hours @ £6.50 91.00

**15/22 INCOME**

RESOLVED: that the following income be received:- £

1) History of Littleton – Cllr C Lovering 10.00

**15/23 CLERK – PETTY CASH**

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

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# **15/24 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

## Cheshire West and Chester Council

Members’ Briefings – various

Alison Armstrong re Clarification of Precept Issue

Jennie Keeley – New Homes Bonus Scheme – enquiry as to what the PC used the 2013/14 funds for. Clerk asked to inform her that money allocated for schemes currently being considered eg. landscaping of Hare Lane Copse; contribution to junction improvement scheme etc **DT**

Local residents Martin & Jenny Rocke and Gillian Tooley - Highways Issues

Local resident Mr P Broughton re graffiti

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

Your Housing - press release for The Tannery

**15/25 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 11 May 2015 (AGM)

**15/26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Parish Council Land Next to Veterinary Surgery – the Clerk reported on a meeting he had held on site with a contractor to discuss work that could be done to tidy up the area and get an idea of likely costs. Just to clear the self-seeded trees would cost £980 + VAT.

RESOLVED: that i) for ease of reference the land be henceforth referred to as

 Hare Lane Copse

 ii) a meeting be held on site involving Tree Warden Simon

 Mageean to discuss the best way forward **DT**

2) Graffiti – Councillor Lovering reported that the graffiti on the BT box in Pearl Lane had been removed

3) The Vicars Cross – the Parish Council discussed maintenance of the area around the cross. The Clerk agreed to inspect the site and tackle any weeds etc

 **DT**

4) Littleton Lane Wall – Councillor Rao raised concerns about the state of the wall which required pointing on its outside. This seemed to have been forgotten by the contractors who appeared to have done some work on the ivy. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the Your Housing Group. **DT**

5) The By-Pass Verge – the Clerk was asked to ensure that the Your Housing Group completed the work of re-instating the grass verges by the development. How future parking on the verges would be prevented was discussed with white posts being probably the best solution.

6) Twinning Association – Cllr Gilliatt reported that the Association AGM had gone well and former Littleton Parish Councillor Simon Ely appointed Chairman. The Association would now be known as Littleton & Barrow Twinning Association.