Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 30 January 2017 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

PRESENT: Parish Councillor Clive Lovering (in the Chair) and Parish

 Councillors David Brodie, Anne Stockdale and Jonathan Bellis

IN ATTENDANCE: Local Residents Mr S and Mrs S Woods

17/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

17/02 PRECEPT

This meeting had been called because the previous meeting scheduled for 16 January 2017 had been inquorate and it was necessary to reach a decision about the Parish Council’s requirement for the 2017/18 Precept as a matter of urgency.

It was acknowledged that the process of setting a Precept was complicated this year by requests received by Christleton Parish Council for a bigger commitment from Littleton PC towards the maintenance of the Little Heath Play Area. The Parish Council was already contributing £500 in the current financial year but was now being asked for a larger and continuing commitment to its maintenance.

Councillor Brodie explained that this situation had come about because of the large maintenance costs being borne by Christleton PC which actually amounted to one third of their Precept. Littleton PC and other local PC’s whose residents made use of the playground were being asked to make an annual contribution to these costs.

Councillor Stockdale recounted the history of the play area making particular reference to the refurbishment in the 1980’s.

It was generally agreed in principle that Littleton PC should indeed support the Play Area. The only point of concern was how Littleton should fund this ie. via the Precept which would inevitably result in an increase in the levy to residents or from reserves which it could potentially drain.

Discussion centred on potential increases to the Precept as a result of taking on such a commitment and whether there were other ways of raising funds for the play area that could be explored such as sponsorship and fund raising events. It was agreed that any rise in Precept should be gradual over a number of years.

There was a reluctance to commit to a fixed annual sum and to make any increase to the Precept in the short term. Whilst Members were mindful of the level of Capital Reserves held by the Parish Council there were projects such as the Road Safety initiative that would be drawing on these funds going forward. It was felt that there was an argument for the residents of Littleton in general being consulted on such funding issues.

RESOLVED: that i) the Precept for 2017/18 remain at £3,500

 ii) the Parish Council contribute £500 to the Little Heath Play

 Area for 2017/18

 iii) the Parish Council review its financial commitment to the

 Little Heath Play Area annually

**17/03 PAYMENTS**

RESOLVED: that the following accounts be authorised for payment:-

 £

1. Clerk’s salary - Jan (less tax) 118.40

2. HMRC – PAYE Clerk – Jan 29.60

3. Typing and Office Services 21.50

4. Chester RFC – Room Hire – Jan 30.00

5. Clerk – Refund of Expenses 4.56

 6. Litter Warden – Sorrel Woods10 hours @ £7.20 72.00

7. Clerk – reimbursement of website hosting fee 118.80

8. Christleton Parish Council – Playground 500.00

9. Barclays Bank – Storage charge 1.00

**17/04 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 16/05250/FUL - 45 Tarvin Road Littleton - Demolition of single storey back addition, garages, greenhouse and sheep pen. Erection of 2 storey annexe and extensions to rear of main house, attached single storey garage extension at side and single storey bungalow guest house at rear garden

Members found the drawings very confusing as different scales had been applied.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Authority be informed that the Parish Council has

 serious concerns about the scale of the proposed development

 which appears to be vastly disproportionate to the current footprint.