Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 4 September 2017 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

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

 Councillors David Brodie and Hilary Davies

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

 Local resident Mr R Gill

 Neil Westwick and Oonagh Cranley, Lichfields

17/49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Anne Stockdale, Jonathan Bellis, Bettie Gilliatt and Caroline Marrison Gill

17/50 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Neil Westwick and Oonagh Cranley of Lichfields were welcomed to the meeting and explained they were present to consult on the proposals for the redevelopment of the University of Law, Christleton campus for residential use.

Members had immediate concerns about the impact of construction traffic on the village which was already struggling to cope with traffic issues, largely stemming from cars bound to and from Christleton High School. It was inevitable that a significant amount of the new traffic would leave the area via Littleton Lane which was already badly congested at peak times. It was felt that the roads were too congested to accommodate construction traffic even with traffic regulations potentially being used to control parking.

It was felt that the assertion by the consultants that the traffic would be no more than what the University generated in the past was flawed as the figures they were using were old and didn’t reflect the current traffic situation in the village.

There were also concerns about the potential impact of approximately 50 new homes on the surrounding infrastructure, especially the schools and local surgeries.

The consultants stated that the development would enhance the area with an input of younger people coming to the village with new local pupils potentially taking up school places currently occupied by children outside the area whose current daily commuting greatly contributed to the traffic problems.

Councillor Lovering suggested one solution to problems stemming from traffic emerging from the site would be controlled access to the A41 with traffic lights.

17/51 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 July 2017 be

 confirmed as a correct record

17/52 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Election of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: that the election of Vice Chairman be deferred to the next Meeting

2) Richards Family Field – the Clerk reported that he had managed to contact Jason Richards and told him there was concern amongst the residents of Fir Tree lane about what he was planning to do with the field and the various vehicles etc currently in situ there. Mr Richards was not inclined to share his plans with the Parish Council. Members would be keeping a watching brief on the situation.

3) Traffic Problems on Roundabout – It was noted that the problems of traffic congestion on the roundabout were continuing. The PC would continue to press for work to be done to solve the chaos caused.

4) Hare Lane Copse – Councillor Brodie reported on efforts being made to control the Hogweed. The Clerk had also spent some time hacking the undergrowth down to expose the saplings planted the previous year. Most of the saplings were flourishing. The PC would at some point have to decide how best to maintain the area. Perhaps there were local volunteers who could assist.

5) The Vicars Cross – Weeds – the Clerk reported he had done some work to rid the surrounds of the cross of encroaching vegetation.

6) A41 Sink Hole – Councillor Parker reported on work being carried out to repair the sink hole which had caused big problems for traffic. The hole was apparently not as bad as it could have been.

7) Boundary Review – Councillor Parker updated the Parish Council on the proposals to split the Chester Villages Ward. It would see Littleton being grouped with Parish Councils over a much wider area as the overall number of CW&C Councillors decreased from 75 to 70. It was hard to see how the Councillors could truly represent such a large number of people.

17/53 ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE

Councillor Lovering reported that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) had gathered more valuable data which he tabled. It was gratifying to see that traffic police had been in action in the Parish as a result of the data thus far gained. The deployment of a further sign (not information gathering) on the road also appeared to be having an effect on the behaviour of motorists.

Members discussed the merits of a system whereby volunteers wrote down the numbers of offending cars with a view to feeding this information through to where the motorists were contacted. There was a potential for such information to be inaccurate so it was felt a radar gun was the best solution.

It was agreed that Councillors Lovering and Davies proceed with the procurement of a laptop on which the wealth of data being amassed could be stored.

In the meantime the PC wanted more visuals to remind motorists of the speed limit and were in contact with CW&C re this and the match funding of providing signs on the surface of the roads and beside them.

17/54 TREES IN THE PARISH

Councillor Lovering reported on the creation of a map indicating trees which the Parish Council wished to see protected. This would be sent to the CW&C Tree Officer with a view to the TPO being issued.

 17/55 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1) 17/02863/FUL – Shandon Lodge, 14 Tarvin Road – Single Storey Rear Extension - It was noted that these planning applications, to which the Parish Council had raised no objections, had been approved by the authority.

2) 17/03689/FUL – 76 Tarvin Road – Two Storey Extension to Side/Rear and Single Storey Extension to Rear – Members to contact Clerk with observations by 21 September. ALL

**17/56 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making particular reference to the External Audit of the Parish Council accounts for 2016/17 which was in process.

# RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**17/57 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Aug & Sept (less tax) 236.80

2) HMRC – PAYE – Aug & Sept 59.20

3) Typing and office services 14.00

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Sept 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 16 hours @ £7.20 115.20

**17/58 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £2.00

**17/59** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

Cheshire Constabulary - PC R Boulton - Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – E Bulletins

Mr J Mayman, Fir Tree Lane – Request from Fir Tree Lane Residents’ Association for financial assistance in resurfacing work to the lane.

Members recalled similar requests for assistance pertaining to the private roads in the Parish and the precedent set. As PC funds were intended for the benefit of the whole of the parish there could be no justification for allocating funds to such work which benefitted a specific group of residents.

**17/60 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting be held on Monday 9 October 2017

**17/61 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Signs in Parish – Councillor Davies pointed out that there were road signs in the Parish that were dirty and overgrown. It was also noted that the signs at the Vicars Cross roundabout saying “Use 2 Lanes” and later “Merge” had disappeared, thus adding to the confusion for drivers heading out of Chester via the A51. Clerk to contact CW&C Highways. **DT**