Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

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

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

Councillors David Brodie, Anne Stockdale, Caroline Gill,

Bettie Gilliatt and Jonathan Bellis

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

17/73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Hilary Davies

17/74 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 October 2017 be

confirmed as a correct record

17/75 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Proposed Housing Development in Christleton – CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker reported that a planning application had been received from the developers and he had called it in. The application could well be considered by the Planning Board in January. Apparently, the application was supported by officers and was likely to be approved, but hopefully with some stringent conditions attached. Members reflected that one of the problems was that such developments were always considered in isolation and all too often the planners did not appear to take into account the proliferation of building developments in the area.

It was agreed that the Parish Council lodge its objections to the proposed development to the planning authority as a neighbouring parish which would be affected by the scheme.

1. Trees in the Parish – the Clerk reported that the Parish Council’s application for TPOs on and around Fir Tree Lane had been lodged with the Tree Officer.
2. Chester Parking – Councillor Parker reported that despite efforts being made to prevent the abolition of Free After 3pm Parking in Chester it was likely to be stopped in January.

17/76 ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE

Councillor Lovering reported on the continuing deployment of the SID which was showing that huge numbers of motorists were doing 45-50 mph through Littleton towards Christleton. Christleton Parish Council had produced a report on the problems with traffic in the village which highlighted the number of HGVs speeding through the parish.

The Chairman reported that Christleton PC had expressed interest in working with Littleton on traffic issues especially with the SID and they hoped to provide volunteers to operate the unit. The issue of young cyclists was also discussed. The school had recently sent out a letter to parents about cyclist safety issues. The Chairman was meeting with the school before Christmas to progress matters.

It would now be necessary to procure a laptop that could be dedicated to the processing and storage of information from the SID and it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk source this equipment in the January sales. This should be well within the limit prescribed by Financial Standing Orders for such purchases.

It was also reported that Highways were moving on the schemes discussed at the previous meeting eg roundels etc and there was also progress on the cutting of hedges which could now hopefully lead to the clearing of mulch thus widening the pathways.

Enforcement of speed limits was also discussed and it was understood that PC Boulton was taking this forward. It was acknowledged that certain motorists would only respond to enforcement.

17/77 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. 17/03689/FUL – 76 Tarvin Road – Two Storey Extension to Side/Rear and Single Storey Extension to Rear – the Clerk reported that this proposed development had received approval from the planning authority.

**17/78 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making particular reference to the appointment of a new External Auditor and that the latest claim for a refund of VAT had been submitted. Members also acknowledged that a review of the Parish Field rent was about due.

# RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**17/79 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Nov & Dec (less tax) 236.80

2) HMRC – PAYE – Nov & Dec 59.20

3) Typing and office services 11.50

4) Chester RFC – Room Hire – Dec 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 6 hours @ £7.20 43.20

6) Clerk – Reimbursement for wreath order 43.20

7) Royal British Legion donation 50.00

**17/80 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £2 in October and £2 in December.

**17/81** **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

Mid-Cheshire Footpaths Society – Programme of Walks January to June 2018

Clotton Hoofield PC – Adjacent Parish Councils A51 Meeting notes for 23/10/17

Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments – Notification of appointment of External Auditor for 2017/18.

**17/82 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting be held on Monday 22 January 2018.

**17/83 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) A51 Meeting – the meeting held at Barrow with representatives of CW&C and other Parish Councils was discussed. Highways were putting forward a number of schemes along the A51 to relieve pressure. Councillor Bellis put forward the argument that making the traffic flow more easily would lead to greater volumes of traffic using the road which was already substantially over capacity. One such scheme was an alteration to the operation of the traffic lights at Stamford Bridge which would result in less interruption to the flow on the A51.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways department to find out how extensively this scheme and its fellows had been modelled and tested. There was a real concern that the £5m being spent would not be an effective use of resources and could actually be counterproductive due to local factors not being taken into account and the schemes not being future-proofed **DT**