Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 2 September 2019 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

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

 Councillors Anne Stockdale, Huw Morgan, Hilary Davies

 and Rob Evans

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

 Local Residents R Hones, R Callan and P Tonge

19/54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Caroline Marrison Gill and Bettie Gilliatt

19/55 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

It was noted that CW&C were holding two drop-in sessions in the locality on 3 & 4 September to enable local residents and other interested parties to discuss the current A51 Improvement Scheme with officers and log their views accordingly.

Whilst the Parish Council had gone to great lengths to distribute a newsletter on the scheme and the drop-in sessions to all residents of Littleton concerns were expressed about the letter CW&C had produced having an equally thorough coverage as it appeared only householders on the main road had received it.

Councillors Evans and Morgan reported that so far there had been 5 responses to the Parish Council’s letter and all had a common theme ie. serious concerns about pollution arising from the heavy traffic as well as the extreme difficulty in crossing the road.

It was planned to meet with Kirstie Littler of CW&C subsequent to the drop-in sessions to establish what information was captured there and how they would respond to it.

A51 pollution was discussed at length. How was CW&C measuring it? How extensive was this record? Apparently, measurements indicated that the levels on Tarvin Road were higher than the centre of Chester at the bus station. It was noted that Christleton Parish Council possessed a device for measuring pollution and it was agreed that the Parish Council should explore acquiring one to gather its own data. RE DT

The Tarvin Road/Littleton Lane/Hare Lane junction improvement also generated concerns about motorists using other roads in the area to circumvent it. Wicker Lane was of particular concern as it had become a dangerous road as a consequence of being used as a cut through.

Members felt that the schemes would be of no benefit to Littleton; were costly, and if they increased traffic flow as was their intention, would in fact be to the detriment of the parish in terms of pollution and road safety.

It was felt that a major element to this were problems with the A51/A55 roundabout. At times the exits were blocked and the result was gridlock. A major contributor to this was drivers ignoring the yellow hatched areas and it was suggested if these were properly enforced some improvement would be gained. Certainly any improvements to the flow of the A51 would be negated by the effect of the roundabout. It was believed, however, that the Highways Agency was looking at ways to improve the roundabout.

Members were reminded that a major source of the problems with the A51 was that hauliers were routing their HGVs via the road rather than the Motorway network.

It was agreed that the best course of action at this stage was to pursue the pollution issue.

19/56 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 July 2019 be

 confirmed as a correct record

19/57 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Litter Warden – the Clerk reported that he had received the resignation of the Litter Warden. However, a replacement had been suggested and he would follow this up. It was also agreed that Hare Lane be re-instated into the Litter Warden’s area of work. **DT**

2) Fir Tree Lane – Tree Preservation Orders – thanks to CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker a response had finally been received from the Tree Officer regarding the Parish Council’s application for TPOs for the 64 oaks that bordered Fir Tree Lane. His comprehensive response gave a number of reasons why it would not be appropriate or practical to issue a blanket protection to the trees. Whilst this was not the response the PC had wanted Members understood the reasoning and would maintain a watching brief on the trees and hedgerows.

However, the PC felt that there was one particularly ancient oak which was a special case. This would be taken up with the Tree Officer. **CL DT**

**19/58 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 19/02462/FUL – 89 Tarvin Road, Littleton – Single Storey Rear Extension - it was noted that this application had been withdrawn.

Mention was made of the length of time it took for applications to go through the process in CW&C. This was apparently due to staffing shortages.

Members discussed the PC consulting with neighbouring properties when applications arose. This had been discontinued in recent years due to the ease with which people could now view applications online. The PC no longer received hard copy of application plans etc but maybe there was still a role for members in alerting residents to proposals arising.

**19/59 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**19/60 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 18.00

4) Dougherty & Allen – CRUFC Room Hire – Sept 30.00

5) Litter Warden – 25 hrs @ £5 125.00

6) Donation to Church for copying of newsletters 25.00

7) Donation to CRUFC re safer crossing 150.00

**19/61 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £3.70

**19/62** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council – Planning notifications

Local Plan (Pt2) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies

Cheshire Constabulary – PCSO Jack Makin - Updates

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – E Bulletins

Roger Hones – A51 Tarvin Chester Road Scheme

Councillor Stuart Parker – Fir Tree Lane TPO

Councillor Rob Evans – Waverton, Christleton & Littleton Traffic Liaison meeting report

**19/63 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council be held on

 Monday 14 October 2019

**19/64 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Joy Hughes – it was noted with sadness that Joy, wife of the late John Hughes who had been a longstanding Councillor for Littleton, had passed away recently.

2) Hare Lane Copse – it was noted that the area needed some clearance of weeds and encroaching vegetation. The Clerk undertook to do this. **DT**