Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 10 February 2020 at Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Littleton.

PRESENT: Parish Councillor Caroline Marrison Gill (in the Chair) and Parish

 Councillors Clive Lovering, Huw Morgan, Rob Evans, Anne Stockdale

 and Bettie Gilliatt

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

 CW&C Officers Sue Begley and Kristy Littler

 Peter Bulmer, Chairman Gt Boughton PC

 Local Resident Allan Samuel

20/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Hilary Davies

20/13 A51 IMPROVEMENTS

The Parish Council received an update from CW&C Highways officer Kristy Littler on the status of the Improvement Scheme, indicating that the results of the consultation were available online and that the works were scheduled for the Summer.

A proposed crossing of the A51 at Littleton Lane was discussed, Sue Begley pointing out that this was something that would be included in the overall scheme. Councillors welcomed this, feeling strongly that a safe passage through Littleton for pedestrians was vital. This also fed into the overall strategy of getting people out of cars and on foot.

There were concerns however that the proposed junction arrangements for A51/Littleton Lane/Hare Lane would restrict the movement of local residents. Sue Begley stated that the junction was a measure that would restrict rat running between the A41 and A51. A fundamental problem was that several major routes came together in the area to feed into a limited network. The design for the junction was still being worked on and some modelling would be done to assess its impact. Councillors felt that modelling was essential to create a complete picture of the consequences of the junction improvement.

Discussion then moved to the roundabout which the Parish Council saw as a major part of the problem of congestion on the A51, especially its traffic light operation and the misuse of the yellow boxes. It was clear that vigorous enforcement was needed to keep the boxes clear.

Pollution was a major issue for the Parish Council including the effect of fumes etc on children at the roadside. Sue Begley stated that there was a team working on the issue and that they would be contacting the Parish Council when they had gathered the data. Councillors were keen to see figures on the various pollutant levels over a range of time so that trends could be identified. There were fears that if the schemes went ahead with nothing being done to alleviate the problems associated with the roundabout then the situation would worsen as a greater number of vehicles were held up and forced queue on the A51 in Littleton pumping out greater amounts of toxic fumes. This would be exacerbated if wider Highways Agency plans in relation to the Atlantic Gateway traffic network eg. major HS2 depot in Crewe, came into being, further boosting the flow of traffic down the A51.

The Parish Council made it clear that they were opposed to the scheme as they feared it would have a negative effect on the area and understood that other local Parish Councils were also objecting to it. They asserted that the scheme should be put on hold pending an environmental/pollution assessment.

Peter Bulmer, Chair of Great Boughton Parish Council then informed the Parish Council that GBPC were keen to work with other Parish Councils on all the issues that had been discussed so that a joined-up strategy could be worked on. He referred to the pollution hot spot in his parish ie. the Sainsburys Roundabout, and the threat to pedestrians, especially children, navigating their way around it to commute to school etc. He shared details of a proposed alternative route with Councillors and invited them to participate in a walk along the proposed foot/cycleway.

20/14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 January 2020 be

 confirmed as a correct record

20/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Hare Lane Copse – the Clerk reported that he had now obtained three quotes for carrying out work to cut back the undergrowth overwhelming the saplings the Parish Council had planted. These included one from Red Squirrel who had carried out such work for the PC previously.

RESOLVED: that the quote by Red Squirrel be accepted and work proceed **DT**

**20/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 20/00302/FUL – 28 Tarvin Road, Littleton – Change of use to form three holiday lets etc – it was noted that this proposed development had been refused by the planning authority

**20/17 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

**20/18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – February & March (less tax) 236.80

2) HMRC – PAYE – Feb & March 59.20

3) Typing and office services 13.00

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

5) Litter Warden – 20 hours @ £5 100.00

**20/19 INCOME**

RESOLVED: that the following income be received:-

1) CRUFC – Parish Field Rent 400.00

2) Refund of part of website fee 167.17

**20/20 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £6.75

**20/21** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council

– Planning notifications

- Correspondence with Kristy Littler re A51 Improvement Scheme

Cheshire Constabulary – PCSO Linda Bailey – Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – E Bulletins

Roger Hones – correspondence on budgetary aspect of Improvement Scheme

Correspondence with JustHost re website fee

**20/22 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 11 May 2020

**20/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Use of SID by Rowton PC – it was noted that Rowton PC had not taken up the offer of use of the Parish Council’s equipment possibly because what they ideally required was a speed gun.

2) PCSO Linda Bailey – the Clerk reported he had met with PCSO Linda Bailey to brief her about issues in the parish.

3) Litter – the litter situation in the parish was discussed. The Clerk reported that he had mentioned to PCSO Bailey the problems in the parish arising from the individual who collected litter then dumped the bags in particular. She had undertaken to look into this.

4) Christleton Cricket Hut – the recent break into the hut was discussed.