Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held on

Monday 13 January 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

 and Bettie Gilliatt

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

20/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Hilary Davies and Anne Stockdale

20/02 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 December 2019 be

 confirmed as a correct record

20/03 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Hare Lane Copse – the Clerk reported that he had obtained a quote for carrying out work to cut back the undergrowth overwhelming the saplings the Parish Council had planted and was waiting to receive at least one more. **DT**

The Clerk also reported he had searched on websites including DEFRA which indicated that whilst Giant Hogweed was not a notifiable invasive species, local authorities nevertheless had the power to order landowners to take steps to eradicate it from their property.

2) Fir Tree Lane – TPO – the Clerk reported on an email received from the Tree Officer via Councillor Stuart Parker indicating that CW&C had been monitoring this location for a number of years and it was on their list to consider for a TPO. CW&C would be undertaking a proper survey of the location within the next few months with a mind to protect the most important features along this trackway.

This news was welcomed by the Parish Council who appreciated Councillor Parker’s assistance in the matter.

3) Rowton Parish Council – Use of SID. Members discussed the practicalities of lending Rowton PC the SID equipment, agreeing that it would have to be subject to certain rules being followed ie. operators should be trained by Ian Rutherford and deploy it in accordance with his instructions re securing it and not operating in the wet or dark. In addition to this Rowton PC would have to agree to stand the cost of repair or replacement should anything happen to the unit, laptop and cable.

**20/04 ROAD MATTERS**

It was reported that the letter discussed at the last meeting had been sent to CW&C requesting a meeting to review the output and any recommendations CW&C intended to adopt following its ‘consultations’. It outlined the many concerns of the Parish Council about the effect of the proposed works on the locality.

This was quickly responded to pointing out that the local authority was in purdah (due to the forthcoming General Election). CW&C stated they had undertaken the engagement sessions and were now collating feedback for the final design. The points made by the PC were raised during the sessions and would be reviewed. They undertook to be in touch after the election with an update on the scheme website. In terms of wider awareness of the events CW&C felt they were reliant on the parishes to spread the word to those not directly affected by the scheme.

The Parish Council were not satisfied by this response and immediately following the Election contacted CW&C with a view to inviting representatives of the authority to the January meeting of the PC so the matter could be discussed. Whilst CW&C agreed to meet they were still working on the data relating to the schemes and the feedback received and could not present it by the date of the January meeting.

It was therefore agreed to bring the March meeting forward into February in order to accommodate this important discussion with CW&C officers.

Councillor Rob Evans then presented a report from the Air Quality Working Group which featured data gathered by a handheld Plume device (as opposed to CW&C’s fixed monitor measurements) which found that pollution from certain particles was significantly above limits at peak times at particular hot spots in the locality.

There were concerns that CW&C was only measuring NO2 whereas other particles which were not currently measured were seen as a greater threat to health.

The report presented a set of actions which should be taken including recommendations to reduce congestion and the suggestion that CW&C delay its work on the A51 until there was a greater understanding of the effects on air pollution from increased traffic flows.

Members also reflected on the possible future of the Law College in Christleton which, they felt, inevitably would become a large housing development. The resultant increase in traffic through Christleton and Littleton which would include construction vehicles should be borne in mind.

**20/05 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 19/03799/FUL – 11 Tarvin Road, Littleton – Rear Dormer Extension – it was noted that this proposed development had been given permission by the planning authority

**20/06 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making particular reference to the requirement to set a Precept for the forthcoming year. He also presented a draft Clerk’s Contract of Employment for consideration.

RESOLVED: that i) the report of the Clerk be received

 ii) the Precept be set at £3,500

 iii) the Clerk’s Contract of Employment be approved

**20/07 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – January (less tax) 118.40

2) HMRC – PAYE – Nov & Dec 29.60

3) Typing and office services 15.00

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

5) St James Churchyard Tree Surgery donation 1,000.00

6) Website domain registration and hosting fees (3 yrs) 475.14

**20/08 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

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

**20/09** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council – Planning notifications

 - Precept Request

 - Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

 Consultation

Cheshire Constabulary – PCSO Linda Bailey – Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – E Bulletins and correspondence re Clerk’s contract

The Pensions Regulator – re-enrolement dates

Barrow & Littleton Twinning Association – AGM and Dinner on 7 February.

Councillor Bettie Gilliatt reported that owing to the array of parishes which were now involved in the twinning with France it had been proposed to re-name it the Chester Villages Twinning Association

**20/10 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 10 February 2020 TBC

**20/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Sorrel Woods – the sad passing away of Littleton’s former Little Warden was noted. Councillor Morgan and the Clerk had represented the PC at the funeral.