Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club, Hare Lane on Monday 7 September 2020.

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

 Councillors Clive Lovering, Huw Morgan, Bettie Gilliatt

 and Hilary Davies

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Linda Bailey. Local resident Mr Allan Samuel

20/49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Stockdale and Rob Evans

20/50 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

PCSO Linda Bailey reported on issues that had arisen concerning a caravan in a field at the far end of Fir Tree Lane and the break in at the Nursing Home premises on Tarvin Road. Residents of Fir Tree Lane had raised concerns about tents that had been pitched in a field but this had been limited to one weekend.

Some cars parking on the wide pavement on Tarvin Road had been ticketed as they were apparently obstructing the Shared User Path. Cars obstructing the pavement on the other side of the road were also a nuisance and PCSO Bailey provided the Parish Council with some Parking Notices that could be posted on any offending vehicles.

20/51 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 July 2020 be

 confirmed as a correct record

**20/52 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1) Parish Field Security – it was noted that CRUFC had made changes to the gate which appeared to be more secure.

2) Parish Field – Incursion by Travellers – the Clerk reported that a claim for the costs incurred by the Parish Council for the removal of the travellers and subsequent clearing of the site was in train with the insurers. Members noted that strictly speaking CRUFC should have organised and paid for these things as tenant of the field. This would be the case in the event of any further incursions.

3) Tree Preservation Orders – the Clerk had written to the new Tree Officer of the local authority to try to get the protecting of a swathe of trees along Fir Tree Lane into gear again. Members were aware that countrywide old oak trees were on the decline and noted that there was a 500 year old specimen in the parish. Residents of Fir Tree Lane owned a strip of land beside the Lane which contained many fine trees. Councillor Stockdale stated that the Public Rights of Way Officer had asked for some lower limbs to be trimmed and an ash tree with dieback needed attending to.

**20/53 ROAD MATTERS**

1) A51 Tarvin Road Improvement Scheme – it was noted that work continued unabated on the scheme further up the A51. Members reflected that any extra capacity would inevitably draw more traffic in with the inevitable congestion.

Local residents had received a letter indicating that a controlled crossing adjacent to the junction with Littleton Lane and Hare Lane was part of the overall plan though no official confirmation of this had been received by the Parish Council.

2) Speed Enforcement – it was noted that a police speed watch vehicle had been operating on the A51 several times in the past weeks.

3) Air Pollution – it was reported that pollution readings had not yet returned to pre-lockdown levels as there appeared to be less people commuting to work currently.

4) It was noted that the SID had been loaned to Willington PC for a two week period.

**20/54 CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Allan Samuel referred to documentation circulated to the Parish Council which covered cycling plans for Littleton, Christleton, Waverton, Great Boughton and Huntingdon. The plans proposed areas for improvement and investment to increase cycling between the parishes for work and recreation.

Members affirmed that they supported cycling and wished to encourage more people to participate in a method of transport shown to reduce pollution, improve health and improve the economy. They were keen, however, to ensure that it was done as part of a wider holistic transportation plan.

The plan for Littleton proposed that i) Pearl Lane become ‘one way’ and have a Shared Used Path (SUP) running its length ii) Little Heath Road - turning the path between the hedge and the row of trees into a SUP and removing cycling from the road.

The Parish Council considered these proposals and agreed that:-

i) Pearl Lane – it was felt that the current situation was far from ideal but that making the road one-way would not solve the problem and could, in fact, encourage motorists to speed. The ideal solution would be a SUP – though the lane was probably too narrow to accommodate this in places - and the imposition of a 20mph speed limit.

ii) Little Heath Road - Councillor Lovering pointed out that Littleton Parish Council had already carried out some work to restore the path on Little Heath Road to its proper width by cutting back encroaching vegetation and the installation of drop kerbs at the junction with Pearl Lane. Whilst the Parish Council supported the new proposal there were doubts about how a SUP could be accommodated in the space available as there were undoubted pinch points on the route. However, a 20mph speed limit on the road could lessen the pressure of cycles using the footpath by allowing safer cycling on the road.

**20/55 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making special reference to the audit of the accounts. The auditor had made reference to the new requirement to obtain a date stamped photographic record of the posting of the audit notices and the need to reclaim VAT.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**20/56 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 13.50

4) Litter Warden – 24 hours @ £5 120.00

6) JDH Business Services – Internal Audit 170.60

7) Clerk – reimbursement for Land Registry Fee 23.94

**20/57 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £29.60

**20/58** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

CW&C CEO – A51 Tarvin-Chester Improvements – response to Parish Council’s second letter – it was acknowledged that whilst the efforts of the Parish Council had not motivated CW&C to reconsider the improvement scheme it appeared to have got them interested in emissions and the use of the A51 as a rat run.

Cheshire West and Chester Council – Planning notifications

Cheshire Constabulary – PCSO Linda Bailey – Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – E Bulletins

**20/59 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 12 October 2020

**20/60 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Use of Footpaths – it was noted that the farmer of the land between Littleton and Christleton had responded to issues arising from the significant influx of walkers during lockdown by erecting fencing. When this first arose the Parish Council had put special notices on the notice boards to encourage responsible use of the PROW routes and it was now felt that currently the number of walkers was vastly reduced. Despite this the farmer was pressing on with his fencing which was regrettable.

2) Athlete Factory – it appeared that there was some kind of work being carried out behind the building. The Clerk was asked to find out what this was and ascertain whether planning permission had been obtained. **DT**

3) Roundabout – Mr Samuel raised the question of walker/cyclist safety at the slip roads/exits and wondered whether crossings were possible. **DT**