Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at on Monday 1 March 2021

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

 Councillors Anne Stockdale, Rob Evans, Huw Morgan, Bettie Gilliatt,

 Clive Lovering and Hilary Davies

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

 Local Residents John Neary and Allan Samuel

21/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from PCSO Linda Bailey.

21/15 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Councillor Stuart Parker reported on CW&C news which included the Council Budget for the new year and the consultation on Waste. He also referred to Phase 1 of the Northgate Development Scheme which was due to commence.

Members reflected on the significant hole which will be left in Chester retail due to the closure of Browns and the fate of the Grosvenor Precinct.

John Neary reported on Broadbanddiscussions with other Parish Councils It was anticipated that there would be an announcement in the forthcoming Government Budget that would have implications for such provision.

 It was seen very much as a community thing with groups of villages getting a collective deal with the provider. Members felt that as soon as information emerged from the Government a leaflet should be distributed to households informing them of what broadband provision was on offer by the various companies.

Allan Samuel informed the Parish Council that some surfacing work had been carried out by the farmer to the footpath between the dog bin and the oak. The flooding issue was still not resolved. The field that had been of concern was slowly being cleared of derelict vehicles.

There was also discussion of the Christleton Law College Development and the route proposed for the construction traffic. There were serious concerns about the safety of Pearl Lane in these circumstances as the lane was used extensively by pedestrians and cyclists.

21/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 January 2021 be

 confirmed as a correct record

**21/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1) Parish Field – Incursion by Travellers – the Clerk reported that the Parish Council’s insurers had settled the claim but were unable to reimburse the cost of clearing up the site of the rubbish left etc as this was not covered by the policy. It was suggested that the Clerk approach CRUFC for a contribution to the cost of this shortfall. **DT**

2) Maintenance of Open Ditch - had been seriously neglected and the Parish Council had been asked to resolve this with the appropriate landowner(s)The Clerk reported that he had emailed the owner of the field to remind him of his responsibilities to keep the ditch free flowing. As no response was received, he had subsequently sent a tracked letter to him to ensure its receipt. The landowner had a month from the date of the letter to carry out the work or this would be passed to the Highways Service to carry out and he would bear the costs.

3) Boggy Public Right of Way – it was noted that some hardcore had been put down on one of the boggy footpaths. It was rubble from tiling which was far from ideal. It was only on one very small part of the path.

The Clerk reported that he had referred the issue raised by Mr John Stockdale to the PROW Officer and had been notified that the local authority would hopefully be able to fund some improvement work to the footpath in the new financial year.

Members discussed the current challenging nature of many of the local footpaths including a reference to the unsuitable materials used to surface and fence them by local landowners.

4) Definitive Map – the Chairman reported that all documentation had been completed and the applications for the inclusion of the currently closed permissive footpaths onto the Definitive Map had been registered with the local authority.

 5it was hoped it would soon be possible for makewith whoededThere was possible evidence that he was doing more of this, with the hedge on Cherry Garth now accumulating detritus.

Members discussed the problem of litter and fly tipping in the wider locality with Councillor Stuart Parker reporting that the A55 was to be closed on 15 March to facilitate the clearance of rubbish from its banks etc.

**21/18 ROAD MATTERS**

Councillor Rob Evans reported on progress being made with the cycling plans for the area and the need for more sensors on the A51 so that the effects of the road improvements could be measured properly. It was noted that in the current lockdown traffic situation with traffic temporarily reduced the pollution levels were already right on the limit. When traffic levels returned to normal pollution would be compounded by effects of the road improvements which would push more cars through Littleton only to be brought to a virtual standstill at peak times by the congestion from the roundabout. It was vital that this process be monitored, measured and recorded to reinforce the Parish Council’s case that a residential area was harmed by unacceptable levels of traffic pollution, exacerbated by the road improvements.

**21/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 21/00215/FUL – Glenholme 46 Tarvin Road, Littleton – Single Storey Side Extension

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council have no objection to the proposed

 Development

2) 21/00157/FUL – Toll Bar Cottage, Littleton Lane – Change of use from paddock to driveway to existing dwelling

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council have no objection to the proposed

 Development

3) 20/03061/FUL – Stonehurst, 85 Tarvin Road – Single Storey Rear Extension

It was reported that the proposed development had been granted permission by the Planning Authority.

**21/20 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

**21/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Feb & March (less tax) 257.60

2) HMRC – PAYE – Feb & March 64.40

3) Typing and office services 13.50

4) Clerk – reimbursement for Zoom fees (Feb & March) 28.78

5) Litter Warden – 18 hours @ £5 90.00

6) CRUFC – Room Hire 2/10/20 30.00

8) Rradar Ltd – Solicitors Fees 125.50

(Authorised by Councillors Bettie Gilliatt and Caroline Marrison Gill)

**21/22 INCOME**

RESOLVED: that the following income be received:-

1) HMRC – reimbursement of VAT 370.03

2) CRUFC – Rent for Parish Field 400.00

3) AXA Insurance – Parish Field claim 400.00

**21/23 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £3.00

**20/24** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council – Planning notifications

Cheshire Constabulary – PCSO Linda Bailey – Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – E Bulletins

Local resident Christine Hyde – expressing concern about the flooding of the A51 which affected her property. This had been referred to the Highways Service.

Ted Bolton, Litter Warden – suggesting the need for more dog poo bins in the Parish as he had seen a marked increase in the number of discarded poo bags in recent times. Members took the view that dog owners should take it home. People needed to be educated about taking responsibility for this.

**20/25 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 10 May 2021

**20/26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Removal of Hedgerows – the Parish Council was becoming increasingly concerned about the increasing amount of hedgerow removals occurring in the locality with apparently no one being held to account. Besides being a habitat to a wide variety of wildlife the hedgerows also played a valuable part in the control of floodwater. It was therefore vital that action be take to stop landowners ripping them out.