Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club on Monday 19 July 2021

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

 Councillors Anne Stockdale, Huw Morgan, Bettie Gilliatt,

 Rob Evans and Hilary Davies

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSOs Linda Bailey and Beth George

20/43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Clive Lovering and CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker.

21/44 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2021 be

 confirmed as a correct record

**21/45 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1) Boggy Public Right of Way – The Clerk reported that he had been informed by the PROW Officer that some improvement work to alleviate the bogginess of the footpath would be done as soon as funds were available. This would hopefully be very soon.

In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to write to Peter Tonge thanking him for the work he had carried out to the ditch at the bottom end of the PROW which had improved the situation. **DT**

2) Maintenance of Open Ditch - the Clerk reported on the efforts being made to resolve the problem of the lack of maintenance to the open ditch system to the north of Fir Tree Lane. The Highways Service had initially shown reluctance to get involved with the issue but were now indicating some action could be taken.

3) Lights on Roundabout – the Clerk reported that he had written to the local authority pointing out that the roundabout had operated much more effectively whilst the lights had not been operating and asking that they not be re-instated. Unfortunately, the lights were now back in operation and the traffic congestion had returned.

The Parish Council understood that a consultant survey of the roundabout operation had been commissioned which it hoped would substantiate the Parish Council’s case. The Clerk was asked to find out if the study had been undertaken and, if so, what were the findings, or ascertain when it would be undertaken. It was felt important to keep up the pressure on CW&C. **DT**

**21/46 ROAD MATTERS**

PCSO Linda Bailey reported on work being done currently on speeding enforcement and the collection of data on speeding in the area.

Members discussed a letter received from Christleton Parish Council expressing their opposition to the footway scheme that had been put forward as one way of enhancing road safety on the road between Littleton and Christleton. It was also noted that nationally the policy emerging was now to avoid SUPs so that pedestrians and cyclists were kept separate.

The Clerk also reported that he had been informed by CW&C that they would no longer be in a position to fund the proposed SUP.

The Parish Council agreed to continue working towards greater road safety in the area and would, of course, throw its weight behind the campaign to bring a 20mph speed limit to Little Heath Road.

It was also reported that there were indications that cycle plans for the area were about to receive some significant funding.

It was noted that work had been carried out on the provision of a crossing on the A51 but the lights had still to be added. The Clerk was asked to find out exactly when this would happen and the crossing made operational. **DT**

The A51 Tarvin Road Improvement works were discussed. It was already apparent that the effects of the new road arrangement were being seen in terms of greater congestion and increased pollution from standing traffic etc – all predicted by the Parish Council. Data from the five sensors on the road indicated that Littleton was in the top 10% of polluted areas in Chester. It was possible that levels of pollution being reached would propel Littleton into being an Air Quality Management Area with all that implied eg legal obligation for local authority to take steps to lower pollution.

Councillor Morgan raised the issue of drain covers on the A51 which, because they were wrongly located, were battered by the heavy traffic to the point they were collapsing, causing vibration and noise.

**21/47 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 21/01964/FUL – Flat 4, Littleton Hall – Single Storey Extension – Amended Application – it was understood this related to the removal of a birch tree.

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

 development

**21/48 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making special reference to the report from the Auditor which had required additional information to be posted on website.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**21/49 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – June & July (less tax) 257.60

2) HMRC – PAYE – June & July 64.40

3) Typing and office services 20.50

4) Clerk – reimbursement for Zoom fees (June) 14.39

5) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

6) Clerk – clearance work in Hare Lane Copse 45.00

8) Came & Co Annual Insurance renewal 380.39

9) JDH Business Services – Internal Audit 181.44

10) Litter Warden - 16 weeks @ £15 240.00

**21/50 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £8.25

**20/51** **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

Christleton PC – making objections to the SUP proposals.

**20/52 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 6 September 2021

**20/53 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) New SID – with the SUP scheme now not being pursued there was the question of what to do with the £300 grant received from the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was suggested this could be put towards the cost of a permanent SID like the one used by Waverton PC. The Clerk was asked to contact them to find out details of what they had and cost etc. **DT**

2) Hare Lane Copse Clearance - the Clerk had carried out a clearance of much of the copse but pointed out that this was getting to be an increasingly onerous task that possibly required a solution involving regular work by a contractor.

3) Ultrafast Broadband – Councillor Morgan reported on the current situation. A large disparity between internet speeds had been found within the area. It was unclear what would happen now with the voucher scheme and the funding situation did not look promising.

4) Hedge Bordering Pavement on Littleton Lane – the Clerk was asked to contact the owner of Littleton Hall to ask him to cut the hedge back behind the wall. **DT**