Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club on Monday 14 October 2024

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

 Councillors Bettie Gilliatt, Hilary Davies, Rob Evans, Huw Morgan

 and Christine Bower

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker MBE

24/66 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Anne Stockdale

24/67 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 September 2024 be

 confirmed as a true record

24/68 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Hare Lane Copse – the Clerk reported that the undergrowth had been cut back. The contractor had explained, however, that any spraying of weeds at the time would be of little efficacy and so the cost of the work reflected that this had not been done.

The Clerk indicated that adequate provision must be made in the Parish Council Budget for such work going forward.

2) Tree Preservation Orders – the Clerk reported he had written again to the Tree Officer with a view to arranging a meeting on site to discuss the Parish Council’s submission for TPOs in the area.

3) Boundary Signs – the Clerk reported he was hoping to get costings from the Highways Service as soon as possible.

4) Hedge Bordering Parish Field – it was confirmed that the hedge on the outside of the field on Tarvin Road had been cut back.

5) Brickfield Cottage/FirTree Cottage – the Clerk reported that with help from Councillor Stockdale he had provided the planners at Cheshire West and Chester Council with a wealth of information from which they could take action re unauthorised development on the site.

6) Drainage on A51 Tarvin Road – the Clerk reported that he had logged a complaint on the CW&C website about the continued flooding on Tarvin Road. The state of the drains was discussed with reference to complaints of foul smelling water. The Clerk was asked to take this up with Severn Trent Water. **DT**

7) Work to 5 Oaks, Pearl Lane – the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had been consulted about the proposed development in November 2022 and had not raised any objections to it.

8) Tarvin Road Traffic Islands and Signs – Councillor Bettie Gilliatt raised the question of the condition of the traffic islands on Tarvin Road. These were covered by dirt which surely compromised their visibility. Clerk was asked to raise the issue with Highways. **DT**

**24/69 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

Councillor Stuart Parker reported on the budgetary challenges being faced by Cheshire West and Chester Council and suggested how they would impact on the community with road maintenance being used as an example. This raised the possibility of local communities being asked to perform certain tasks. The Clerk was asked to contact CW&C to find out what was being planned.

Councillor Parker also invited the Parish Council to make a bid for funds from his Members Budget. Members felt that such funds could be used to help provide the boundary signs for the parish and a new pollution monitor. **RE/DT**

**24/70 ROAD MATTERS**

Members discussed the recent serious crash in Christleton at the Plough Lane crossroads where a driver driving at a very high speed had not seen the stop sign notwithstanding the fact that the signage at the junction has been upgraded.

**24/71 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 24/02656/TPO - Oaklands Nursing Home, Tarvin Road, Littleton – Work to a variety of trees etc

RESOLVED : that the Parish Council support the application

**24/72  NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Rob Evans reported on the work being done by the group that had unfortunately shrunk to 7-8 volunteers necessitating the re-assignment of some responsibilities. He elaborated on how the Neighbourhood Plan could affect Council Building Regulations.

**24/73 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council including reference to the ongoing work to renew the lease of the Parish Field.

Members were adamant that the lease should include provision so the tenant should not be able to sublet the field which was regarded as a valuable parish asset.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**24/74 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Oct 139.00

2) HMRC – PAYE – Clerk 34.00

3) Typing and office services 28.92

4) Litter Warden wages and expenses 96.20

5) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

6) Arboreal – Ground clearance 300.00

7) Clerk – Reimbursement for purchase of wreath 33.00

8) Royal British Legion – Donation 100.00

**24/75 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

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

**24/76** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council -

Planning notifications

Response to enquiry about the status of property that the Parish Council doubted was on the Council’s radar for liability for Council Tax. It was stated that the permission of the householder would have to be obtained before any investigation could commence.

Cheshire Association of Local Councils - E Bulletins

**24/77 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 2 December 2024

**24/78 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Definitive Map of Footpaths – it was understood that following the ruling of the Investigating Officer that the footpaths closed by the landowner should be re-opened, two objections had been lodged. If these were not withdrawn the case would have to be referred to the Secretary of State.