Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club on Monday 2 December 2024

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

 Councillors Bettie Gilliatt, Anne Stockdale, Huw Morgan

 and Christine Bower

IN ATTENDANCE: Local Resident Mr R Bower

24/79 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Hilary Davies,

Rob Evans and CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker MBE,

24/80 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Mr R Bower raised the issue of Cheshire West and Chester Council changing the status of Fir Tree Lane from being an unadopted road maintained at the expense of the residents to a Public Footway that would be maintainable at the Council’s expense which as landowners they had an obligation to maintain. This meant that the residents now would have to get a licence to carry out any repairs.

This had apparently occurred in 2016 without any consultation with or notification to the local residents. Mr Bower had been unable to find out any further information from CW&C as to the rationale for the change and no audit trail for the decision could be found.

Members recalled the history of Fir Tree Lane and that the Parish Council helped fund the cost of the original proper surfacing.

It was decided to approach the Cheshire Association of Local Councils for advice on this and to ask Councillor Stuart Parker to assist in getting some clarity from the local authority on the matter.

24/81 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 October 2024 be

 confirmed as a true record

24/82 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Tree Preservation Orders – the Clerk was awaiting a response from the Tree Officer with a view to arranging a meeting on site to discuss the Parish Council’s submission for TPOs in the area. It was hoped that Tree Warden Simon Mageean would also be involved as he could bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table. Members were keen that no further delay occur in this matter that had dragged on for years.

 2) Members Budget – the Clerk reported that he was still awaiting an estimate from the Highways Service for the provision of new boundary signs but had received costings for new pollution monitors.

RESOLVED: that funding be requested from Councillor Stuart Parker for the

 provision of pollution monitors totalling £320.

3) Tarvin Road – Foul Smell – the Clerk reported that the drainage provider (Welsh Water) had made an inspection but apparently no odour was detected on the day they attended.

4) Brickfield Cottage/FirTree Cottage – the Clerk reported he had heard nothing further since providing information to the planners about the history of developments to the site.

5) Tarvin Road Traffic Islands and Signs – apparently some work had been done to clean the traffic islands on Tarvin Road but it was unclear whether it was complete.

**24/83 ROAD MATTERS**

CouncillorRob Evans had raised the issue of the road surface of Hare Lane which continued to be in such a bad condition it was a hazard particularly to cyclists and pedestrians. It was understood that the road surface was too rutted for a simple patching operation and required a full resurfacing, the cost of which was apparently delaying it from being carried out.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to Highways pointing out the hazard the road presented and pressing for action to be taken. **DT**

**24/84  NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members discussed a report from Councillor Rob Evans on the continuing work being done by the group. A funding request of £4,300 was made to the Parish Councils with Littleton PC being asked to provide £838.

**RESOLVED:** that Littleton PC’s portion of funding amounting to £838 be approved

**24/85 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.

The proposed Budget for 2025/26 was presented. Members set the Precept as per the previous year but acknowledged that increasing commitments would eventually force the Parish Council to reconsider the level of funding required.

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

 ii) the Precept be set at £3,500

**24/86 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Nov & Dec 278.00

2) HMRC – PAYE – Clerk 68.00

3) Typing and office services 28.92

4) Litter Warden wages and expenses 172.00

5) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

6) A Thomson – fees re Neighbourhood Plan 38.97

**24/87 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

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

**24/88** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council -

Planning notifications

Cheshire Association of Local Councils - E Bulletins

Christleton Parish Council – Stamford Lodge Roman Camp - The Historic England "Heritage at Risk” listing showed Stamford Lodge Roman Camp, even though it was only a crop-mark seen from the air, rather than an actual monument. According to Heritage at Risk 2024, it was at Stamford Lodge, in the parish of Littleton, "350 metres north-west of Stamford Hollows Farm" although the List erroneously refers to it being in Christleton.

**24/89 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 6 January 2025

**24/90 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Encroaching Vegetation – it was reported that the pavement between Littleton Lane and the bus stop was being increasingly obstructed by vegetation. The Clerk was asked to contact Tarvin Court to ask them to cut back the vegetation. **DT**

2) Little Heath Road - Accident – a recent accident on Little Heath Road was discussed.

3) Data Protection – Councillor Bettie Gilliatt raised a general query about how the Parish Council maintained confidentiality in its dealings.