Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club on Monday 17 October 2022

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

Councillors Bettie Gilliatt, Anne Stockdale, Huw Morgan

and Hilary Davies

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

Local Residents A & L Samuel, A & L Marsden and H Eaton

22/64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Rob Evans and PCSO Linda Bailey

22/65 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1) Planning Application 22/03522/AGR – Erection of agricultural building**.** The Parish Council objected strongly to the application on the following grounds:-

The proposed building was of a size and nature that would be seriously detrimental to the surrounding neighbourhood landscape and visible amenity. The site and size of the proposed building was in a location that meant it would be clearly visible from properties nearby in Fir Tree Lane, Littleton for which no mitigation measures ie hedging screening were proposed. The building would be clearly seen from Little Heath Road, Fir Tree Lane and from significant parts of five public footpaths.

The building design would be out of keeping with the local rural landscape. The existing building was of a wooden cladding appearance that was far less obtrusive than a building constructed of concrete panels, metal sheeting and fibre cement roof sheets as proposed.

The applicant’s contention that there was a need for more storage relating to his agricultural activities was disputed and the Parish Council questioned why a development of that size and at that location was necessary.

Significant concerns over traffic and road safety as a result of the proposed development. The consequent transfer of machinery and crops to and from the facility would involve increased (large farming) vehicular traffic to and from the site. The main access lane was narrow and already used for other access purposes.  The site entrance was at a point on Little Heath Road which was 40mph (although the speed limit was often exceeded) and did not have a good sightline for vehicles.  The entrance to the site was located on a blind bend on a narrow road which was the main road access to the local community secondary school. Large farm vehicles already routinely traversed the central line especially at the narrow point of Littleton Lane.  Any additional vehicles of that nature would create a further road hazard if accessing the busy A41 and A51.

Concerns that if the proposed building went ahead, the applicant may then pull up all the grass/field to create hard-standing space for HGV vehicles to turn and park. This would further contribute to an undesirable change in the feel of the village and impact on the landscape/visual amenity. In addition, there are concerns that, if approved, this development could set a precedent for large industrial style developments on green belt within the residential areas of the villages of Littleton and Christleton.

Concerns that the agricultural use could be changed in due course to residential.

22/66 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2022 be

confirmed as a correct record

22/67 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Campsite – there had apparently been no developments since the last meeting yet the Parish Council felt it was important to keep the situation closely monitored. There were rumours that the camping allowance of 28 days under which the campsite currently operated could be extended to 3 months and this would have serious consequences.

2) Ticketing of Cars Parked on Tarvin Road – it was understood there had been more instances of penalties being issued to people parking on the very wide pavement which was Shared User. Some of these will have been visiting carers.

**22/57 ROAD MATTERS**

1) Lines on Roundabout - The Clerk was asked to press the CW&C Highways Service for details on when the scheduled work to re-instate the lines around the roundabout would be carried out. **DT**

2) A51 Pedestrian Crossing – Safety – the Clerk reported he had raised the issue of better signage being required to warn drivers of the controlled crossing.

3) Roundabout Vegetation – the Clerk reported that he had raised the issue of whether trees growing within the structure of the roundabout were threatening the integrity of the structure. He was awaiting a response.

**22/58 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making particular reference to the ongoing maintenance work to Hare Lane Copse and Members discussed the possibility of getting some more saplings planted in the new year.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**22/59 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Aug & Sept (less tax) 257.60

2) HMRC – PAYE – Aug & Sept 64.40

3) Typing and office services 21.92

4) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

5) Aboreal – Spraying of Hare Lane Copse 130.00

**22/60 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

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

**22/61** **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

Councillor Bettie Gilliatt – Heating of Parochial Church – request via Bettie as Churchwarden for a contribution to the cost of the installation of a new heating system.

Councillor Gilliatt declared an interest a left the room

It was felt appropriate for the Parish Council to help with this as the hall was a hub for activities in the ecclesiastical parish of Christleton, Littleton being one of the five parishes contained within it.

The clerk undertook to check the legal limit up to which a donation could be made under S136

It was agreed in principle that a donation be made but it was only right and proper that Councillors Evans and Morgan who were not present at the meeting be consulted before a decision was made on the specific amount to be donated.

Councillor Gilliatt was asked to rejoin the meeting

**22/62 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

Monday 17 October 2022

**22/63 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Recent Accident Involving Cyclist – Members received the report of a fatal accident in Christleton with sadness. The incident raised serious questions about the visibility around the junction in question and whether signage warning motorists was adequate.

2) Littleton Lane Hedge and Trees – the Clerk was asked to remind the owner of Littleton Hall that vegetation needed cutting back. **DT**