Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club on Monday 9 January 2023

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

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

 and Andy Marsden

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker

23/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Hilary Davies

23/02 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held 5 December 2022 be

 confirmed as a correct record subject to the following being added to

 22/76 Public Speaking Time:-

Councillor Morgan expressed his disappointment that Councillor Stuart Parker had neglected to brief the Parish Council on plans discussed at meetings relating to proposed improvements to the A51 corridor.

23/03 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) UOL Development – Problems Arising From Construction Traffic – it had been reported that some HGVs were parking up in Pearl Lane as they awaiting the time they could approach the site. This was unacceptable as such action was a hazard to the many users of Pearl Lane, including commuting schoolchildren and any occurrences of this should be reported with registration numbers noted. The Parish Council was unable, however, to suggest an alternative space for them to park as the roadway was too narrow in Littleton.

It was hoped that the contractors would use 17 tonne HGVs which would enable them to enter Christleton from the A41 via the Trooper bridge but there were still significant concerns about danger from HGVs using the lanes in the locality.

The Parish Council would keep a watching brief and liaise with Christleton Parish Council to manage the situation but be ready to take matters into their own hands if Littleton became more badly affected.

2) Christleton & Huntington – Neighbourhood Pride and Members Budget Award Scheme – the Clerk reported that the application for a grant had been successful and the funds received. The noticeboard would now be ordered. **DT**

RESOLVED: that Councillor Stuart Parker be thanked for the grant.

3) Littleton Lane Trees – the Clerk reported he had again reminded the owner of Littleton Hall that vegetation obscuring the streetlights needed cutting back and was again told that this was in hand.

4) Maintenance of Open Ditch - the Clerk informed Members he was still awaiting a response in relation to action to be taken by the Highways Service to resolve the problem of the lack of maintenance to the open ditch system to the north of Fir Tree Lane.

5) A51 Corridor Baseline Study – Stakeholders Workshop – Councillor Rob Evans had attended this event and reported back to the Parish Council. The meeting had been largely fact finding and it was apparent that the authorities were looking for quick fixes. It emerged that many Parish Councils were approaching the strategy from an anti-pollution point of view and were being pressured by CW&C to remove speed awareness signs so the flow of traffic on the A51 would not be unduly impeded. The A51 roundabout issues were also discussed.

An official report of the meeting was awaited from CW&C.

6) Accident at Plough Lane – Councillor Evans reported that CW&C were saying that the hazardous junction issue had been fixed when the reality was that nothing practical had been done. There had been several accidents at the junction which included a fatality. Christleton Parish Council was pressing for flashing lights with a “Junction Ahead” sign at the very least. A massively supported petition about the junction had been organised but it had failed to bring about any meaningful action by the local authority.

7) Lines on Roundabout – whilst the local authority had apparently scheduled work to re-instate the lines there was no indication of when this was to happen.

8) The Roundabout - Councillor Evans indicated that an approach was being made direct to the Highways Agency in the hope that the working of the roundabout could be made more effective. There was plenty of evidence to show it was a major source of congestion in the vicinity.

9) Potholes – the incidence of potholes on the A51 was worsening. The Parish Council would look into ways it could get proper action taken on them by the local authority.

**23/04 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 22/01587/FUL – Windleheath, 1 Littleton Lane – Single Storey Side Extension

The Parish Council had submitted their views to the Planning Authority in July 2022 which included observations that the plans did not reflect the reality of the situation in several aspects of the application including current /proposed parking arrangements and the removal of hedging. Subsequent to this it had been noted that these errors persisted in information issued by the Planning Authority. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the officers concerned. **DT**

**23/05 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council making special reference to the forthcoming Parish Council Elections in May. Members considered the commitments of the Parish Council for the next financial year. It was noted that a new pollution sensor would soon be required.

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

 ii) that the Parish Council request a Precept of £3,500 for the

 forthcoming financial year

**23/06 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – January (less tax) 128.80

2) HMRC – PAYE – January 32.20

3) Typing and office services 27.92

4) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

5) Clerk – reimbursement of Just Host 3 year hosting for website 535.35

6) Litter Warden 8 wks @ £15 120.00

**23/07 INCOME**

RESOLVED: that the following income be received:-

1) CW&C Members Budget Grant 1,289.50

**23/08 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £42.00

**23/09** **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 – Cllr John Beckitt – Correspondence relating to traffic issues arising from the UOL development in Christleton

Footpath Group – Councillor Anne Stockdale reported on the situation re the permitted footpaths which had been closed by the landowner. The applications to the local authority for work to be carried out to bring about their re-opening which were being delayed due to the backlog of applications under consideration were now subject to the Secretary of State directing CW&C to consider them as a priority. Hopefully this would speed things up but in the meantime the Parish Council should keep a watching brief on the footpaths in the parish to ensure they were all being maintained properly.

**23/10 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 Monday 13 March 2023

**23/11** **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Retirement of PC R Bolton – it was noted that PC Rob Bolton who had a long association with the Parish Council was retiring. The Clerk was asked to convey the best wishes of the Parish Council to him for a long and happy retirement.

 **DT**

2) Leaning Tree – the tree leaning over the road near to 65 Tarvin Road had apparently been reported to the local authority and the response had been that it was safe.

3) Parish Council on Social Media – Members discussed the current presence of Littleton Parish Council on a Facebook group. It was agreed that ways in which the work of the Parish Council could be enhanced by social media should be explored. **ALL**

4) Tree Planting in Hare Lane Copse – Councillor Bettie Gilliatt had acquired two hornbeam saplings. It was agreed that Councillor Huw Morgan and John Stockdale would plant them.