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

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

Councillors Bettie Gilliatt, Anne Stockdale, Hilary Davies and

Rob Evans

IN ATTENDANCE: CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker MBE

Local residents Mrs K Williams and Mr P Tonge

23/68 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Huw Morgan and PCSO Linda Bailey

23/69 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1) Planning Application 23/02946/FUL - Manor House – Single Storey Rear Extension etc

Mrs K Williams was in attendance to discuss her concerns as a neighbour of the above application, which included the conversion of a stable block to ancillary accommodation. Mrs Williams had concerns about a games room that was being created as part of the application and the potential for noise problems emanating from it. She also pointed out that her property was not identified on the plans.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council convey its concerns to the Planning Authority

about the potential for noise nuisance to the neighbours from the

proposed games room

2) Resurfacing of Hare Lane

Mr P Tonge was attending to discuss his concern that resurfacing had been carried out to Hare Lane but only to a portion of the road leaving a section of badly rutted road untreated between the Rugby Club entrance and Tarvin Road. It was however understood that the stretch of road in question required more substantial work due to its bad condition.

The Clerk was asked to contact Highways to ascertain when such work could be expected as well as again pressing for action on the renewal of the vital lane lines, stop lines, lane road numbering and yellow hatching on and around the roundabout, which were becoming a serious safety hazard and the clearing of encroaching vegetation to the cycle/foot path flanking the roundabout. DT

3) Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council had been contacted by Christleton PC who were proposing that Littleton partner with them in creating a joint Neighbourhood Plan.

Members recalled that when the possibility of working on a Neighbourhood Plan had been suggested in the past, it was felt that the task of creating it would be far too onerous. Thus, it would be necessary to gauge what appetite there was currently for such an enterprise in Littleton bearing in mind it would be resource-heavy and would probably take 18 to 24 months to complete. Usually this would involve a working forum with representatives from the parish councils. It was acknowledged that, whilst typically Neighbourhood Plans see little interest shown in the community, there can often be a significant issue that arises in the area such as the Manor Farm development which can provide some momentum that can be tapped.

As a result of a Facebook post on the A51 Group, Councillor Rob Evans already had two people interested in participating. This was encouraging. There were two meetings coming up later in the month that would hopefully provide more information.

4) Definitive Map of Footpaths - it was understood that the Investigating Officer was to rule that the footpaths closed by the landowner should be re-opened thus requiring the Local Authority to issue an Order. It was likely, however, that the landowner would appeal against this which could result in a further Public Inquiry.

5) Protection of Trees – CW&C Councillor Parker reported on Council staff losses which meant there was now an even a smaller team to deal with TPOs etc. This was not good news for the push by the PC to get many of its trees protected.

23/70 CASUAL VACANCY

It was reported that a resident from Fir Tree Lane had shown interest in joining the Parish Council. Unfortunately, they had not been available for the current meeting but it was hoped that they could be considered for co-option at the December meeting.

23/71 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 September 2023 be

confirmed as a correct record

23/72 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Flooding Complaint – 54 Tarvin Road – the Clerk had referred the flooding of the property due to the drain up the road being unable cope with the deluge to the Highways Service. They had responded by reporting that no safety related defects had been identified and they would continue to keep the situation monitored. The problem appeared to be due to a combination of factors including the pavement having a dropped curb and the area not draining quickly due to the clay soil.

Members unfortunately felt that with the decision of the Highways Service, there was little they could do to assist in the matter other than to advise the owner of 54 Tarvin Road to consult a drainage expert. **DT**

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2) Risk Assessment – the Clerk presented Members with a revised Risk Assessment which now took into account any risks posed to people such as volunteers visiting Hare Lane Copse.

RESOLVED: That the revised Risk Assessment be adopted

3) Vicars Cross Golf Club – New Development – Mud on Road – It was understood that the conveying of earth to the site was to cease on 31 October. The Clerk was asked to contact the Golf Club when it appeared this had finished to check on the situation and to ensure that the road etc was returned to its original condition and islands and road edgings cleaned of mud, debris and weeds. **DT**

4) Littleton Lane – Hedge – The Clerk reported that he had been assured by the property owner that the hedge would be cut back. **DT**

5) Parking Penalties - the Clerk had contacted the relevant CW&C officer to get clarification of the situation re people currently getting fined for parking on the wide pavement. She had stated that the shared cycle and pedestrian footway was signed as such and the Council was entitled to enforce this should they deem a vehicle to be parked inappropriately. She also referred to the appeals process should anyone feel they have grounds.

6) Speed Gun – the Clerk reported that the speed gun had been received and was lodged with Andy Marsden. It was suggested that more volunteers be sought and that there would need to be a map showing places to be deployed. The Clerk was asked to arrange supply of three more Hi Viz tops for the volunteers. **DT**

7) Noise Nuisance – the Clerk requested clarification from Councillor Bettie Gilliatt as to the exact building from which the noise was emanating so he could take the necessary action. **BG**

8) Planning Enforcement – Fir Tree Cottage – the Clerk reported that he had referred the Parish Council’s concerns about an alleged unauthorised development at Fir Tree Cottage to the CW&C Enforcement Team. Councillor Anne Stockdale then explained that the building formerly known as Fir Tree Cottage was now two buildings which the residents now referred to as Fir Tree Cottage and Brickfield Cottage, the latter being the building to which new structures were being added.

9) Upgrading of Little Heath Play Area - the Clerk reported that based on the number of electors in the Littleton, the Parish Council would only be allowed to spend approx. £4,500 under S137.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council donate £4,000 to the Little Heath Play Area

Upgrade scheme

**23/73 ROAD MATTERS**

Councillor Rob Evans updated the meeting on discussions between the five local Parish Councils seeking to engage with CW&C in relation to S106 funds arising from the Saighton Camp housing development. Parish Councils were being asked to look at how children in the area travelled to their schools and identify hot spots so a ranking of priorities could be applied to CW&Cs long term strategy.

Members reflected that the Vicars Cross Lights and the roundabout were by no means a safe route for pedestrians or cyclists moving between Littleton and Vicars Cross and the above strategy should address this. Councillor Rob Evans stated he was in the process of putting a case together.

**RE**

**23/74 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council highlighting the need for a review of its commitments going forward.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**23/75 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – August & September 348.00

2) Typing and office services 28.92

3) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

4) Clerk – reimbursement for purchase of Speed gun 204.80

5) CW&C – Election recharge 181.00

**23/76 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £3.00

**23/77** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council -

Planning notifications

Maria Byrne re A51 parking penalties

Cheshire Constabulary – PCSO Linda Bailey – Newsletters

Cheshire Association of Local Councils - E Bulletins

Cally Evans, student at Christleton High School – concerns about safety of pupils making their way to school. The Clerk was asked to reply to Cally reassuring her that Members shared her concerns and were currently working with other Parish Councils and the local authority to bring about safer routes for all pedestrians making their way through the area.

Christleton Parish Council – Neighbourhood Plan

**23/78 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

Monday 4 December 2023

**23/79 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) The Vicars Cross and Surrounds - Councillor Hilary Davies reported on work carried out to tidy the cross and its surrounds.

2) Electricity Pole – it was reported that the electricity pole that would route power to Tarvin Court Care Home across the road had been installed.