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

PRESENT: Parish Councillor Bettie Gilliatt (in the Chair) and Parish

Councillors Anne Stockdale, Hilary Davies, Rob Evans, Huw Morgan

and Christine Bower

IN ATTENDANCE:

24/53 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Caroline Marrison Gill

24/54 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2024 be

confirmed as a correct record subject to 24/45 2)

para two stating that the other property referred to

was Fir Tree Cottage

24/55 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Parish Field Lease – the Clerk reported on the work being done in respect of the renewal of the lease with CRUFC. This included efforts to bring this about at a reasonable cost to the Parish Council.

2) Tree Preservation Orders – the Clerk was asked to contact the Tree Officer again to get some movement with this long running issue. **DT**

3) Land adjacent to Tarvin Road - Councillor Morgan updated the Parish Council reported on his investigations relating to the piece of land (9.9 acres) with access from Park Lane which had not been maintained for the last 18 - 20 months.

4) Hare Lane Copse – it was noted that the undergrowth was in desperate need of controlling and the Veterinary practice next to the land had contacted the Parish Council expressing concern about the Giant Hogweed spreading. The Clerk reported he had already contacted the contractor instructing him to attend to the vegetation as a matter of priority

5) Hedge Bordering Parish Field – there was concern that the hedge on the outside of the field was beginning to become a hazard and required cutting back. Some trimming had been done to one section but more was required. The Clerk was asked to contact CRUFC about this. **DT**

6) Police Support – the Clerk reported he had reached out to PCSO James Hannath whose remit now included Littleton. It was hoped he would attend a meeting of the Parish Council in the near future.

7) Brickfield Cottage – the Clerk reported that he was in correspondence with Cheshire West and Chester Council to ensure they had all the information they needed to deal with the rather convoluted history of development of the site.

8) Boundary Signs – the Clerk reported on correspondence he had received from the Highways Service which involved requesting an estimate for a new sign at the bottom of the parish beyond the Golf Club and chasing up the estimate requested in 2023.

**24/56 HARE LANE COPSE/VICARS CROSS**

The Clerk explained the situation with regard to getting the contractor on site to tackle the undergrowth that was overwhelming the trees. Members discussed the ongoing commitment to maintain the Copse as well as keeping the area around the Vicars Cross clear and it was agreed that funding for such work would have to be included in the Parish Council Budget which would be considered at the next Meeting.

RESOLVED: that the estimate of £700 for the current work to tidy the Copse be

approved.

**24/57 ROAD MATTERS**

1) S106 Funding – Councillor Evans reported that a decision was still awaited.

2) Roundabout – It was noted that the synchronisation of the lights on the roundabout had changed and this was causing extra problems. As usual blocking of the yellow boxes only added to the congestion. The Clerk was asked to report the lights issue to the Highways Service. **DT**

**24/58 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 24/01383/FUL – Manor House, Littleton Lane – Reduced and repositioned garage, amendment to previously approved application – it was noted that permission had been granted for this development.

2) 24/02422/FUL – 87 Tarvin Road - Demolition of existing porch canopy, garage, conservatory and kitchen leanto, and erection of new single storey extension, comprising new kitchen/ dining room, garage, entrance porch and canopies. New rendered finish to all existing external elevations

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council have no objection to the proposed development

Mixed species ranging from Horse Chestnut and Ash. Works are to crown lift

to provide clearance over the highway. Referenced in the report as G8, G9 and

T1 are the trees which are situated in a TPO area. Also request to remove four

Ash with significant Ash Dieback.

Reference Number:

2

3) 24/02132/TPO – Land Adjacent to Tarvin Road - Mixed species ranging from Horse Chestnut and Ash. Works are to crown lift to provide clearance over the highway. Referenced in the report as G8, G9 andT1 are the trees which are situated in a TPO area. Also request to remove four Ash with significant Ash Dieback.

RESOLVED : that the Parish Council support the application

4) Work at 5 Oaks, Pearl Lane – Members had queried the large amount of building work in progress on the property with Planning Enforcement who referred to permission granted in November 2022. The Clerk was asked to check PC records in relation to this. **DT**

5) Extra Building at Brickfield Cottage, Tarvin Road – the Clerk reported that he was in correspondence with CW&C Enforcement about this issue. This would include clarifying the complicated history of the site with the planners. **DT**

**24/59  NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Rob Evans updated the Parish Council on progress being made.

**24/60 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council including reference to the report from the Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**24/61 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Aug & Sept 279.00

2) HMRC – PAYE – Clerk 69.00

3) Typing and office services 28.92

4) Litter Warden wages and expenses 83.20

5) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

6) Cheshire Community Action – Survey fee 1,204.00

**24/62 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

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

**24/63** **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

Christine Hyde, Tarvin Road – Flooding of Property – Road drains blocked. Clerk had referred this to Highways Service. Members discussed the ongoing problems with drainage in the parish.

Barnhouse Surgery – concern over proliferation of Giant Hogweed in Hare Lane Copse. The Clerk was pressing the contractor to carry out the arranged work as soon as possible.

Sarah Jeffery, Fir Tree Lane – concern re shots and bird scarers on the fields adjacent to Fir Tree Lane. Members sympathised about the noise nuisance but reflected that the use of bird scarers by farmers was an inevitable part of country life. The situation was being monitored however.

**24/64 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

14 October 2024

**24/65 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Fir Tree Lane – Rats – Councillor Christine Bower raised the issue of an increase in the number of rat sightings in the area.