Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club on Monday 8 July 2024

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

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

 and Christine Bower

IN ATTENDANCE:

24/41 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker MBE

24/42 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 May 2024 be

 confirmed as a correct record

24/43 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 a proposed updated rent and period of review.

2) Tree Preservation Orders – the Clerk reported that he had written to the CW&C Tree Officer suggesting a meeting be held on site to discuss the protection of trees in the parish. He was awaiting a reply.

3) Definitive Map – Members discussed the recent Modification Order that if confirmed as made would modify the Definitive Map by adding footpaths 7, 25, 26, 27 & 28. It remained to be seen whether objections or representations to the Order had been made. Members hoped the footpaths that had been closed by the landowner would soon be opened up.

4) Land adjacent to Tarvin Road - Councillor Morgan reported on his investigations so far of the piece of land (9.9 acres) with access from Park Lane which had not been maintained for the last 18 - 20 months. He confirmed that the gate to Tarvin Road was secure but would discuss security of the access via Park Lane with the landowner. **HM**

5) Hare Lane Copse – it was noted that the undergrowth needed spraying as a matter of urgency. The Clerk reported he had already contacted the contractor to hasten this.

6) 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. The Clerk was asked to contact CRUFC about this. **DT**

7) Police Support – the Clerk was asked to find out whether the parish still had a PCSO following the loss of PCSO Linda Bailey. **DT**

**24/44 ROAD MATTERS**

1) Pollution Monitoring – Councillor Evans reported that he was looking at different sensors and the EU regulations that applied to them.

2) S106 Funding – Councillor Evans reported that a decision on the distribution of funding arising from the Saighton Camp housing development to the schemes put forward was still awaited.

**24/45 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) 24/01383/FUL – Manor House, Littleton Lane – Reduced and repositioned garage, amendment to previously approved application

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

 development

2) 24/01114/FUL – Brickfield Cottage, Tarvin Road - first floor side extension and single storey garage extension to replace car port (partially retrospective)

The Planning Authority was aware that the Parish Council had serious concerns about the integrity of the buildings on this site especially as it appeared that planning permission had been neither sought nor granted for the latest development - hence the retrospective application.

There were two separate dwellings on the site and the Parish Council hoped the Planning Authority would check that besides the building for which retrospective application was made, all the appropriate approvals were in place for what developments have been carried out to the other property which had its own drive.

The Parish Council trusted that the Planning Authority would ensure the construction was sound and satisfied all Building Regulations.

During the discussion during employing images from Google Earth it was realised that another building had been erected on the boundary of the site – a toilet block. As this was a permanent structure and presumably subject to planning permission it was wondered whether such approval existed.

RESOLVED: that the views of the Parish Council be submitted to the

 Planning Authority

The Clerk was also asked to raise with the local authority the question of Brickfield Cottage’s status relative to the Electoral Register and the Council Tax records. **DT**

**24/46  NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Rob Evans updated the Parish Council on the progress being made. Members discussed the need for a proper audit trail for any payments made to consultants etc via Christleton Parish Council.

**24/47 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

**24/48 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – June & July 279.00

2) HMRC – PAYE – Clerk 69.00

3) Typing and office services 28.92

4) Litter Warden wages and expenses 151.20

5) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

6) JDH Business Services – Internal Audit 283.20

**24/49 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk’s expenses be reimbursed in the sum of £27.60

**24/50** **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

Mr D Large – Condition of 31 Littleton Lane Garden - a complaint about the seriously overgrown state of a hedge etc at the above property which was encroaching on the pavement.

The Clerk had referred this to Highways.

**24/51 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Monday 2 September 2024

**24/52 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Use of Speedgun – Councillor Evans raised the question of whether users of the speedgun should submit reports to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

2) Blocked Drains – it was noted that flooding was occurring at the junction of Pearl Lane and Littleton Lane due to blocked drains. Several drains on the A51 were also blocked. This was being reported to the CW&C Highways Service.

3) Littleton Sign – the clerk was asked to chase up the sign ordered in 2023 which was still awaited. **DT**

4) The Vicar’s Cross – it was suggested that the contractor who did clearing work for Hare Lane Copse be approached to carry out maintenance for the monument. Clerk to progress this. **DT**

5) Five Oaks, Pearl Lane – Building Work – it was noted that a significant amount of building work was being carried out to this property. Had planning permission been obtained? Clerk to investigate. **DT**

6) Littleton Sign at bottom end of parish – it was noted that the boundary sign no longer reflected the new boundary. Clerk to raise with CW&C. **DT**

7) The Nurseries – Members discussed the current condition of this land and speculated on what would eventually happen to it.