Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club on Monday 3 March 2025

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

 Councillors Bettie Gilliatt, Anne Stockdale, Huw Morgan

 and Rob Evans

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Peter Tonge (Christleton Parish Council)

25/12 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Hilary Davies and Christine Bower, CW&C Councillor Stuart Parker MBE and PCSO Deborah Netherton.

25/13 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1) Footpath Dispute - Christleton Parish Councillor Peter Tonge had come to the meeting to update Members on the current situation relating to the footpaths between the two parishes which had been closed by the landowner and the Order made to reverse this action.

Following the ruling by the Investigating Officer and the making of the Order there had been a period of 42 days in which any objections to the proposed course of action could be received. Two such objections had been received and what followed were efforts to negotiate a settlement to allow things to proceed. The objections had not been withdrawn however but the objectors had suggested the diversion of Path A and the closure of Path D. The latter proposal was felt to be unacceptable – indeed the process to remove a path from the Order was not a simple matter – but the proposed diversion was a possibility.

Councillor Tonge stated that without a compromise being agreed the matter would have to go to a Public Enquiry. He also referred to a technical error that had been discovered on the original Notice issued by CW&C which would likely require the re-posting of the Notice at some point.

2) Fibre Options – Councillor Tonge referred to work that was being carried out by Virgin which it appeared did not include certain houses at the bottom of Tarvin Road. He was hoping to get a definitive answer to this at the forthcoming meeting of Christleton Parish Council.

25/14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 January 2025 be confirmed

 as a correct record

25/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Tree Preservation Orders – Councillors had attended a very useful meeting on site with the CW&C Tree Officer.

The Parish Council had long been concerned about trees in the Parish and the variety of threats posed to them by landowners and farming practices. This particularly applied to trees situated in the middle of fields. The discussion with the Tree Officer centred on what could realistically be done to protect local trees and hedgerows.

The Tree Officer acknowledged that Littleton was very lucky to have many wonderful trees on its doorstep.   Although she was unable to place TPO’s on Littleton trees due to the amount of work involved and lack of resources, she assured Councillors that if they felt there was an immediate threat she would place an immediate ‘blanket’ TPO on the area.

2) Speed Gun – following the close down of the team of Community Speed Watch volunteers for Littleton it would be necessary to collect the speed gun etc and keep it safe. The Clerk agreed to do this. **DT**

3) Bollards on A51 – The Clerk was asked to chase the Highways Service to clean traffic island bollards on Tarvin Road as raised by Councillor Bettie Gilliatt who was concerned about their visibility. Clerk to take up with Highways and widen remit to include all signs in the locality. **DT**

**25/16 ROAD MATTERS**

1) Speed Limit - Councillor Rob Evans reported on recent discussions within the Neighbourhood Plan forum about the speed limit on the A51. Even though the A51 was a trunk road there were growing demands for the road through Littleton to be reduced. Councillor John Beckett of Christleton PC had offered to try to build a case for this drawing on data in respect of crashes. It was agreed that Councillors Bettie Gilliatt and Huw Morgan liaise with him on this.

 **BG HM**

2) Potholes – Concern was expressed about the plethora of potholes on the A51 through Littleton. It was noted that many of them had been ringed in white paint, indicating that the Highways Service had identified them for remedial action. The Clerk was asked to press them to expedite the work. **DT**

**25/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Evans reported on work carried out recently on the joint Neighbourhood Plan for Christleton and Littleton which included the starting up of the website.

Councillor Evans reported that the Housing Needs Survey had gone out and flagged up that a Wildlife Survey would have to be carried out which would cost approximately £6,000.

**25/18 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**25/19 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – Feb & March 278.00

2) HMRC – PAYE – Clerk 68.00

3) Typing and office services 28.42

4) Litter Warden wages and expenses 213.39

5) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

6) A Thomson – fees re Neighbourhood Plan 121.77

7) A Foxhall – NP Website fee 2.80

**25/20 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

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

**26/21** **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 – a detailed report on the longstanding problem of flooding of her property. This had been occurring since March 2020. Apart from damage by water there was the problem of silt, twigs and gravel being deposited washing down her drive and on to her patio.

The document details her efforts to get some remedial action taken by the local authority – Clerk to contact Councillor Stuart Parker to ascertain the current situation with her complaint.

Gill Jenkins – Litter in Littleton – Clerk had confirmed the area covered by Litter Warden and had pointed out that he could only work within the Parish boundary and was confined to verges and pavements.

Andy Marsden – informing the Parish Council that the team of Community Speed Watch volunteers for Littleton was being closed down.

Jane Vidamour, Littleton Lane – the Parish Council discussed incidents reported by Jane Vidamour. What was happening clearly warranted a 999 call to the Police. Clerk to convey this advice with copies to the PCSO and colleagues. **DT**

**25/22 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

 12 May 2025 (AGM)