Minutes of the Meeting of Littleton Parish Council held at Chester Rugby Football Club on Monday 6 January 2025

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

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

and Christine Bower

IN ATTENDANCE: Local Resident Mr R Bower

25/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Hilary Davies and PCSO Deborah Netherton.

25/02 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Mr R Bower updated the Parish Council on his dealings with Cheshire West and Chester Council with regard to them changing the status of Fir Tree Lane in 2016 from being an unadopted road maintained at the expense of the residents to a Public Footway that would be maintainable at the Council’s expense which as landowners they had an obligation to maintain.

He had been unable to find out any further information from them as to the rationale for the change and still no audit trail for the decision could be found. It had emerged that CW&C had a programme of moving such thoroughfares to this status although apparently similar footpaths in the surrounding area had not been treated in the same way.

The Clerk reported on a response he had received from Cheshire Association of Local Councils who had advised him that the Parish Council should not involve itself in the issue of the change in the status of Fir Tree Lane as it lay outside its remit being a dispute between CW&C and the Residents Association.

Nevertheless it appeared that the Parish Council had never been consulted by CW&C about the change which should be challenged.

25/03 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 December 2024 be

confirmed as a true record subject to 24/90 being headed

“Tarvin Road, Encroaching Vegetation”

25/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1) Tree Preservation Orders – 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.

There were also concerns expressed about hedgerows (some of which were ancient) that needed protection from herbicides being used by the farmers.

Welcome news was that one of the Neighbourhood Plan teams was looking at landscape and ecology which would include issues pertaining to trees and hedgerows.

A meeting on site between Parish Councillors and the CW&C Tree Officer was due to be held at the end of the month.

2) Pollution Sensors – Councillor Evans reported on his efforts to locate new sensors for measuring the various types of pollution from the A51. The cost of such sensors was falling rapidly apparently.

**25/05 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Evans reported that work on the joint Neighbourhood Plan for Christleton and Littleton was continuing at a pace. It was planned to create a website which would highlight and explain the work being carried out. It would also provide an opportunity for residents to contribute their views to the process.

Members reflected on the growing pressure from developers who were constantly seeking to exploit land in the area. They also discussed general issues arising from new developments including problems with drainage and flooding.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Rob Evans be thanked for his commitment and hard

work in the process to create the Neighbourhood Plan.

**25/06 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

# The Clerk presented his customary report on the finances of the Parish Council including reference to the ongoing work to renew the lease of the Parish Field.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Clerk be received

**25/07 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised:- £

1) Clerk’s salary – January 139.00

2) HMRC – PAYE – Clerk 34.00

3) Typing and office services 28.92

4) Litter Warden wages and expenses 111.75

5) Dougherty & Allen – Room Hire 48.00

6) A Thomson – fees re Neighbourhood Plan 9.74

**25/08 CLERK’S EXPENSES**

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

**26/09** **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

Jane Vidamour, Littleton Lane – the Parish Council discussed an incident reported by Jane Vidamour and would be briefing the PCSO on the matter.

**25/10 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

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

3 March 2025

**25/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1) Bollards on A51 – Councillor Bettie Gilliatt expressed concern about the visibility of the bollards on the traffic islands as they were shrouded in mud etc. Clerk asked to take this up with Highways. **DT**

2) Flooding – Members discussed the continuing saga of the flooding of 54 Tarvin Road which was still awaiting resolution by CW&C. Also flooding at the mouth of Pearl Lane. Clerk to report to Highways. **DT**

3) Car Crash – it was noted that a car had crashed into the hedge opposite 5 Oaks.

4) Speedgun – the Clerk was asked to ascertain who was taking care of the speedgun. **DT**