

## **LITTLE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2020**

- 1) Due to the COVID -19 pandemic the meeting was held in accordance with the Local Authority (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020.

Councillors Beecroft, Jones, King, Kirkland, McSweeney, Tomlinson and Williamson were present. Apologies were tendered from Ward councillors Gibbon, Marshall and Wright.

- Declarations of interest- As all the parish councillors lived in the village they all had personal interests. In addition Cllr Jones was a trustee of the Little Leigh Community Trust and Councillors Jones, King and McSweeney were also trustees of the Village Hall Management Committee.

### **2) Chairmans opening remarks**

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Jones who had been awarded the well- deserved British Empire Medal for her many years of service to the community of Little Leigh.

- 3) There were no public submissions

### **4) Minutes of September meeting**

*Resolution 1:11.19.20 The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2020 were approved. Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr McSweeney voting unanimous.*

### **5) Clerks report**

- The village show had been cancelled but Cllr Jones had suggested a virtual pet show. Cllrs Jones, King and Tomlinson would progress setting up a Facebook page for photographs, videos and drawings.

- **Kissing gates**

Thanks to a partnership with landowners and CWAC kissing gates would be installed on the circular walk. CWAC would also install kissing gates between Brakeley Lane and the A533 layby.

- **Village hall management arrangements**

The Chairman and Chairman of the Village Hall Management committee had concluded that a written Memorandum of Understanding was unnecessary.

### **6) Biodiversity measures**

Around 12 possible locations had been identified for tree planting at CWAC's expense for planting and maintenance. The scheme also allowed for the refurbishment and creation of ponds. Councillors identified several areas for wildflower planting from spring 2021 subject to the COVID pandemic. The Clerk would write to landowners once further information on the scheme had been received from CWAC.

### **7) Potholes survey**

A total of 64 reports had been submitted to CWAC Highways. 37 repairs had been rapidly undertaken but CWAC had judged 26 reports to not meet the criteria for repairs. One repair was outstanding. Cllr McSweeney had emailed the local Highways Network Steward to thank him for his rapid response. Some repairs had

been carried out to the pavement near the school outside the Shutley Lane bungalows; further work was planned.

8) **Volunteers party**

Funds had been set aside for a party in the spring, COVID lockdown measures permitting.

9) **Operation Sunshine and Operation Starshine**

- Operation Sunshine- Cllr Jones reported that sunflower planting and the sunshine blanket had received support although COVID lockdown measures meant that the blanket squares could not yet be sewn together.
- The Pumpkin Trail had also attracted a good entry.
- The display of poppies at the Village Hall had been commended.
- Cllr Jones had circulated details of Operation Starshine which would involve COVID safe cross generational activities. These included displaying a star in the window, making Christmas biscuits and posting a picture on the village Facebook page, transforming a basic shape of 2 circles (head & body) into something Christmassy, writing an acrostic poem based on the word Christmas and supporting the Northwich in Need (Helping Hands)) 2020 Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.
- The Village Hall railings would be lit and decorated with hand crafted Christmas trees.

10) **Correspondence**

- Correspondence from CWAC, the Police, ChALC and NALC had been circulated.
- The Clerk had become a COVID Community Champion and had circulated information received from CWAC, eg the COVID dashboard by ward figures and a presentation on COVID statistics from CWAC's Director of Public Health.
- Councillors decided not to send a contribution to the Childrens Air Ambulance or to fund CPR keyrings for the school.
- The Clerk would inform St Lukes hospice of the planned Christmas lights display at the village hall.
- ChALC had circulated a consultation on standards-individual councillors would reply
- CWAC was consulting on Unprecedented Times budget, Walk Ride and Thrive/Short breaks strategy-individual councillors would reply
- Public sessions were available on the COVID outbreak board and sustainable transport
- CWAC had completed a pandemic scrutiny
- The Town and High Street commission report was going to CWAC cabinet
- Marbury ward councillors were holding a virtual surgery on 1 December at 6.30pm
- A resident had provided a letter from CWAC regarding keeping watercourses running through peoples land clear

- A resident had provided information that the Hollybush public house had been sold and would close. The Clerk would monitor CWAC's panning portal for news of any planning application.

## 11) Finance

*Resolution 2 :19.11.2020 The following receipts and payments were proposed by Cllr Beecroft seconded by Cllr Kirkland Voting unanimous*

£649	Clerk reimbursement for computer
£95.73	Clerk reimbursement for Chairman's fund expenditure
£143.88	Chairman reimbursement for Zoom subscription
£234.20	HMRC tax
£1228.76	Clerk salary
£46.10	E Cormick spring bulbs for planters

- The balance in the account as at 30 October 2020 was £22,708.48.
- Councillors noted the November 2020 expenditure against budget monitoring report. Expenditure was less than planned as COVID meant events could not be held and CWAC had made a large COVID grant to the Village Hall reducing the need for Parish Council expenditure.
- Councillors agreed the 2021/22 draft budget. The precept would be set in January; a precept reduction might be possible.
- Clerks noted that the Clerks salary from 1 April 2020 should be £13.51 per hour for 6 hours per week.

## 12) Planning

The Chairman reported that the Government White Paper on Planning for the Future had not been well received by MPs or Local Authorities as it appeared to take away local control and to set unrealistic targets for housing. The Chairman and Clerk had attended a virtual presentation by CWAC's Head of Planning. The Clerk had circulated CWAC's comments. The White Paper was likely to be substantially modified.

- Willowgreen Farm barns conversion to accommodation- pending. Cllr McSweeney had written to the MP, to the Head of CWAC Planning seeking an Article 4 direction and also to the Ward councillors seeking their help.
  - Annexe to Glenroyd Hole House Lane- Councillors had objected on the grounds of unsuitable development in the greenbelt, materials not in keeping with surrounding buildings and access to the property.
  - Replacement stables Hall Lane-Councillors had no objections.
- 13) Matters for next meeting- Final budget for 2021/22, setting the precept, volunteers party.
- 14) Date of next meeting 14 January 2021. The meeting closed at 7.40pm