

## **LITTLE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2021**

- 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 and Williamson were present. Apologies were received from Cllr Tomlinson and 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) Chairman's opening remarks**

Councillors were asked to share the workload on presentations and courses.

- 3) **Public submissions-** councillors decided not to seek an Asset of Community Value registration order on the Hollybush pub which, if successful, would trigger a 6 month moratorium to raise finance, develop a business plan and then bid to buy the pub. The councillors did not believe that raising the asking price would be feasible. However an unincorporated group of 21 local electors might be formed to register the pub as an ACV.

### **4) Minutes of January meeting**

*Resolution 1:11.03.2021 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2021 were approved. Proposed Cllr Kirkland seconded Cllr Beecroft voting unanimous.*

### **5)Ward councillors report**

The Clerk had circulated information from ward councillor Gibbon on flood preventative measures. Cheshire West and Chester council were aware of shortcomings in the response to storm Christoph and were trying to improve their multiagency response.

### **6) Clerks report**

- Several entries had been received for the virtual pet show which had been titled All Creatures Great and Small. A judge had been organized and prizes would be awarded.
- Information on the tree planting scheme was awaited from Cheshire West and Chester council.
- New noticeboards had been erected at the school and village hall.
- The Clerk was awaiting action from CWAC's regulatory services regarding the free- range chickens being kept in the open at Cherry Tree nursery Smithy Lane.

- United Utilities had visited on several occasions in response to Cllr King's complaint about flooding in Hole House Lane. He had received no response from CWAC. Potholes had been marked up but not repaired.
- The Clerk had attended 2 webinars on flooding. The water meadows had been flooded and the Chairman's property had experienced a large landslide. The Chairman had completed a questionnaire on the multiagency response.
- Work was needed on drafting an Emergency Plan for the parish. The Clerk would contact the head of the Joint emergency planning team for assistance.
- Litter picking might resume after 29 March depending on the Government's pronouncements. Cllr Kirkland would purchase additional litter grabbers and report the litter on the A533 Runcorn Road.

#### 7) **Easter activities**

- Cllr Jones was organizing a contact-free Easter egg hunt where people would seek lettered cardboard laminated eggs which would together spell out an Easter phrase. People submitting the correct phrase would receive a small prize.
- Cllr King had made a tree to display Easter crafts in the village garden.

#### 8) **Correspondence**

- Correspondence from CWAC, the Police, ChALC and NALC had been circulated.
- Individual councillors would complete the survey on dog theft
- CHAIN Correspondence on incinerators had been circulated
- The Clerk was a COVID Community Champion and had circulated information received from CWAC, eg the COVID figures which were now falling due to the successful vaccination programme. Residents in Cheshire West and Chester were strongly urged to continue stay at home to help reduce COVID-19 infection rates even further with to schools opening.
- A book of remembrance was open for those who had lost people to COVID.

#### 9) **Finance**

*Resolution 2 :11.03.2021 The following receipts and payments were proposed by Cllr Beecroft seconded by Cllr McSweeney Voting unanimous*

£750	Income Ward councillors grant for noticeboards.
£2157.60	Parish noticeboard company 2 noticeboards (deposit cheque cancelled)
£30	ChALC internal financial controls training
£9.48	Clerk noticeboard magnets
£40	Information commissioner registration
£17.39	Cllr King computer caddy for hard disk
£1167.28	Clerk salary November to March-includes 6 hours overtime for attending webinars
£364.80	HMRC tax November to March
£1560.00	CWAC 6 kissing gates
£28.99	Clerk Printer inks

£72 Changing Lives Together for payroll services  
TBC Cllr Kirkland litter grabbers

- The balance in the account as at 26 February was £19574.99
- Councillors approved the risk management matrix which the Clerk had prepared.
- The Clerk would prepare the final budget for 2021/22 in time for the finance meeting on 22 April.

10) **Planning**

- Willowgreen Farm barns conversion to accommodation- still pending after 18 months. 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. Cllr Gibbon would discuss the application with CWAC's Head of Planning.
- The CWAC planning policy document on extensions had been circulated.
- Annexe to Glenroyd Hole House Lane- an amended application had been made as the proposed residential annexe was planned to be built on the site of a previous stable block. The parish council would repeat their objection.
- Valley Farm barn- refused as inappropriate development in the green belt.
- The Old Vicarage Stoneheyes Lane- CWAC had granted prior approval for permitted development.
- Bella Napoli/The Horns

Potential purchasers had been sent a copy of the Village Design statement with advice that planning applications which were in accordance with CWAC planning policy and the VDS would be welcomed. Councillors considered the developing details of the applicants proposals and agreed that the Planning Committee would hold a virtual preplanning meeting with the applicants.

- 11) **Matters for next meeting-** Finance, completing the annual finance return and setting final budget.  
May meeting - potholes

12) **Date of next meeting**

Finance meeting 22 April 2021.

The meeting closed at 8pm