

## Meeting of Little Leigh Parish Council held on 10 November 2016 in Little Leigh Village Hall at 7.15pm

Attendance Councillors Jones, King, J and L Lawless, McSweeney, Tomlinson and Williamson were present with CWAC councillor Wright and apologies from CWAC Cllr Gibbon. The Chairman welcomed councillors to the meeting which he opened at 7.15 pm.

### 1) 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 J Lawless were trustees of the Village Hall Committee. Cllr L Lawless was the editor of Grapevine.

### 2) Public submissions

A resident had contacted the Chairman regarding parking on the village verges. The Clerk had met with Highways who had suggested monitoring the situation and the installation of white plastic markers. Councillors were concerned that cars were parking on the verges posing a safety hazard for children walking to school and also damaging the verges. They decided to trial wooden markers on the corners of Orchard Drive and to monitor the situation before installing markers elsewhere.

### 3) Minutes of Meeting held on 8 September 2016

*Resolution 1 10.11.16 : Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016 as being a true record of that meeting.*

*Proposed Cllr King*

*Seconded Cllr J Lawless*

*Voting Unanimous*

### 4) Clerks report

- Following contact with the landowner the hedges on Brakeley Lane had been cut back.

### 5) Correspondence

- The Chairman had held two productive meetings with the school headteacher. The school wished to increase links with the parish council and wider community. It was possible that they might use the village hall for some teaching purposes and meetings.
- The Chairman had sent a get well card to the hall caretaker John Porter. Carol Duffield was acting as the bookings secretary for the hall.
- Councillors noted the consultation on special expenses for play areas and decided to try to attend the meeting on 30 November regarding the issue. Option 2 appeared favourable which resulted in the costs of non strategic play areas being divided among parishes compared to the status quo which cost each band D property £11.11p
- Highway schemes for survey- the Clerk would respond highlighting the need for the footpath to Barnton to be upgraded. She would remind Highways that this was an aspiration in the Village Design Statement.
- Various reports from the police and crime commissioner
- ChALC bulletins
- The Clerk had responded to a Freedom of Information request from Mr Scott requesting details of all contacts with INEOS regarding fracking. The Clerk had sent him the invitation to the open meeting held in Frodsham Community Centre on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- Councillor McSweeney would review the supplementary planning document on oil and gas exploration and would circulate his comments.

6) New website

The new redesigned website was running on [www.littleleigh.org](http://www.littleleigh.org) and would be updated in due course. A new hosting company was being used. In future it should be possible to display a diary for village hall bookings and events. The village history would go onto Wikipedia. The new website would be publicised in Grapevine and on the village Facebook page; eventually Google would find the site. Email addresses would be set up for the councillors and their photos and phone numbers would be displayed. Cllr King was thanked for all his work on the project.

7) **Village hall update and arrangements for celebration party 12 November**

- The Clerk and Chairman had made a successful grant application to the Big Lottery fund Celebrate fund and had secured funding of £1198 for the party on 12 November. New crockery, cutlery, glasses, coffee and teapots, food and other items had been purchased and arrangements had been made for a celebration cake to be decorated.
- Barnton Silver Band and the Familiar Tones would provide musical entertainment.
- Local residents and businesses and Marbury ward councillors had been invited and a press release had been drafted. The photolaunch was at 12.45pm and a ribbon would be cut.
- Cllr King had purchased furniture and noticeboards for the meeting room and racks for the storeroom.
- Cllr King had purchased and installed new sound equipment and would purchase a DVD player. The Clerk and Cllr King had donated some of the speakers. Cllrs J and I Lawless, Jones and the Clerk had reorganised the storage. They were all thanked for all their hard work.
- The hall had been redecorated.
- Cllr Jones was managing the kitchen and food.
- Cllr L Lawless and new trustee V Bolesworth would decorate the hall with an autumnal theme and bunting.
- Councillors would wear their name badges and the Chairman would act as master of ceremonies.

8) **Finance**

*Resolution 2 10.11.2016 Council approved the following receipts and payments: Proposed Cllr McSweeney; seconded Cllr Tomlinson Voting unanimous*

- £1198.45 Celebrate party funding income
- £44.69 HMRC VAT refund income
- £972.11\* Clerk party expenditure
- £21.99 Clerk paper
- £90.60 \* Cllr King sound equipment Celebrate party
- £55.00\* S Lawless bunting
- £1007.28 Clerk salary July to November
- £252.00 HMRC tax
- £1200.00\* Simon O'Rourke balance for tree seat
- £200.00\* J Hughes Familiar Tones band
- £47.83 E Cormick planters
- £740.96 Cllr King tables, racking wall mounts and brackets
- £65.37\* Clerk additional party expenditure (teapots, doormat etc)

- £20.05 Community Lincs Insurance Services amended policy (increased hall contents and new artwork bench)
- £1008\* B & E Fabrications railings and gate
- £74.25 Cllr King website hosting fee & domain registration
- £50 E Evans cake boards and decoration
- \*denotes expenditure from grant funding
- The Clerk informed Councillors that the Co operative bank had actioned the change of signatories and had also changed the account title to Little Leigh parish council from Parish Council of Little Leigh
- The Clerk had effected insurance for the new tree seat and had increased the hall contents cover to £4539.
- The bank balance as at 30 October was £25,127.24
- Councillors were circulated with the November progress against budget figures in preparation for setting the precept in January 2017. It was possible that parish council precept capping might be in place.

#### 9) **Planning**

- The amended application at The Horns had been approved with conditions which mirrored the parish council's comments
- The application for a carport at Ashcroft Shutley Lane had been approved.
- Councillors had no objections to the replacement dwelling at Parklands Willowgreen Lane
- The application for a replacement dwelling at Westleigh Heath Lane had been approved
- Councillors had no objections to the replacement dwelling at Smithy Cottage
- The Clerk had commented on the new CWAC planning protocol which meant only cases with genuine planning concerns could be called in by ward councillors, hardcopy drawings would be available only on request and Village Design statements would be accorded weight in decisions.

#### ***Marbury ward neighbourhood plan***

- Cllr McSweeney had attended a meeting in October and had circulated meeting notes, background notes and the Davenham and Whatcroft draft neighbourhood plan as an example which looked similar to the Little Leigh village design statement.
- Cllr McSweeney advised that neighbourhood plans were worth having if the Local Plan for the immediate area proposed significant development, eg for Local Service centres, although they were not instruments for refusing development.
- In the case of a small rural parish in the Green Belt with no plans in the local plan to develop it the end result would be no different to the existing village design statement.
- Cllr McSweeney's opinion concurred with the advice of CWAC's Head of planning Ms Hore which suggested that the parish council should engage with the Local Plan process rather than develop its own Neighbourhood Plan or join one or more other Parish Councils from contiguous areas of Marbury Ward in producing a shared Neighbourhood Plan. Her advice is reproduced below:
- *National planning policy clearly states that neighbourhood plans should support the strategic development needs set out in the Local Plan, plan positively to support local development and should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.*

- *Little Leigh is a village located in the Green Belt and is not designated as a Local Service Centre and therefore is very limited in terms of what development could come forward, by both existing national policy and current and emerging Local Plan policy, which essentially intend to restrict development in the Green Belt to replacement dwellings and the reuse of existing rural buildings.*
- *In any case national policy allows limited infilling or the redevelopment of previously developed sites, which would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purposes of including land within it, and both the Local Plan and any neighbourhood plans would have to be in conformity with national policy.*
- *I would suggest that engaging with the Council in the preparation of the Local Plan (Part Two) might be a better approach at this point. We have just finished consultation on the preferred approach and intend to refine the draft policies once we have completed an analysis of all of the comments received, with a view to carrying out the next round of consultation next year*
- Following some debate Councillors voted unanimously not to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, either for Little Leigh alone or in partnership with one or more neighbouring Parish Councils, but to investigate further at a later date the benefits, resource and cost implications of producing a Little Leigh specific neighbourhood plan.

#### **10) Marbury Ward councillors report**

- The Boundary Commission for England and Wales has proposed, as part of its current Boundary Review, that the Parliamentary Constituency of Tatton will cease to exist. A consequence of this is a proposal that Little Leigh (and all of Marbury Ward) would be placed in an enlarged Weaver Vale Constituency. The closing date for comments from the public on the proposals is **5<sup>th</sup> December 2016**. Comments can be submitted on line via the website [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk) or in writing to the Boundary Commission.
- There would be a consultation ahead of the May 2019 CWAC election as to whether Little Leigh would stay in Marbury ward and a possible return to single wards.
- ASDA was opening shortly and the cinema on 15 December.
- Roadworks at Winnington Bridge were planned for spring.
- Marbury ward councillors had pledged £1000 for the community contribution to the speed limit lowering along Runcorn Road. A provisional £1000 might be available to renovate the village hall clock.

#### **11) Matters for next meeting**

- Next steps for the village hall
- Review impact of verge marker posts

11) Date of next meeting 12 January 2017 at 7.15pm. The meeting closed at 8.45pm