

LITTLE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7PM ON 10 MARCH 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

1) Attendance

Councillors Ayre, Beecroft, Jones, King and McSweeney were present. Apologies were received from Cllrs Lawless and Tomlinson and Ward councillors Gibbon, Marshall and Wright.

2) Declarations of interest

- As all the parish councillors lived in or near the village they all had personal interests. In addition Cllr Jones was a trustee of the Little Leigh Community Trust and Councillor Jones was also a trustee of the Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Tomlinson was a Governor of Little Leigh school.

3) Public submissions

A member of the public had emailed the Parish Council requesting a lowered speed limit and a Pegasus crossing on the A533 at the Shutley Lane junction. Cllr Beecroft outlined the ongoing contacts made with Cheshire West and Chester Head of Transport and Highways to achieve further speed reduction measures. The Clerk would seek permission to share the complainant's email with CWAC.

A member of the public had requested a flag pole for the village hall. The Chairman would contact the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

4) Minutes of January meeting

Resolution 1:10.03.22 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 were approved. Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Beecroft voting unanimous.

5) Clerk's report

- The dangerous tree at the end of Hole House Lane had been removed.
- Cheshire West and Chester Highways were due to start work on 15 March on implementing the Ash House Lane, Cogshall Lane and Heath Lane reduced speed limits. Speed limit signs on Runcorn Road would be cleaned or replaced.
- The Hollybush Pub Ltd company was now dealing directly with CWAC regarding the Asset of Community Value listing. News was awaited on whether the Barn and Granary were included in the ACV listing. An encouraging level of financial pledges had been received and funds had been arranged to cover publicity such as leafletting.
- A Jubilee memorial cherry tree would be planted in the Shutley Lane play area on 12 March at 2pm. A record of the event would be placed in the National Association of Civic Officers folder which would be presented to the Queen. The event had been publicised on Facebook.
- Criteria imposed by CWAC Highways meant it would not be possible to plant wildflower verges in Little Leigh. Councillors expressed their disappointment.

- 86 reports had been made to CWAC of which 76 related to potholes and road edge defects and 10 to other issues, e.g. blocked gullies and fly-tipping. 38 repairs or other remediations were made and in 48 cases, 'No Action' was deemed necessary by Highways. This usually meant that the pothole or other defect did not quite meet the criteria for prioritisation. The general state of minor roads and verges was not good due in part to the increase in diverted traffic due to the Soot Hill road collapse and closure.

6) Community Emergency Plan and Local Heritage lists.

- The first draft of the Community Emergency Plan had been circulated. Cllr McSweeney was working on the information cascade part of the document.
- Cllr McSweeney was surveying buildings that were candidates for local heritage listing on 21 March with the Built Environment Officer Conservation and Design. Two residents had offered to help with the research.

7) Active travel meeting

Cllr Beecroft reported that the Active Travel subgroup had met with Highways on 20 January. CWAC had indicated that there was little prospect of upgrading the A533 footpath to Barnton due to the high costs. Cllr Beecroft had written to CWAC's Director of Transport and Highways and would write again following her response which indicated that the funds had been targeted at Chester, Northwich, Frodsham and Ellesmere Port. CWAC Highways had arranged for the existing footpath along the A553 to be cleared to provide an average footway width of 1.3m along this section. This would improve the route for pedestrians using the footway although the surface was poor.

8) Jubilee 2 June 2022

Plans were well advanced for a schedule of events and entertainment on 2 June including a Jubilee beacon lighting and craft workshops in the run up to the event. Fliers would be sent to households and the event would be publicised on the Facebook page.

9) Correspondence

- Correspondence from CWAC, the Police, ChALC, NALC and Neighbourhood Watch had been circulated.
- Individual councillors would respond on the Boundary review which proposed moving Marbury ward from the Tatton constituency to a Northwich constituency
- Cllr McSweeney had written to CWAC's Head of Transport regarding the closure of Soot Hill. Details of works could be found on CWAC's website. Cllr Beecroft commented that the lengthy closure was causing major problems to local areas and damage to the grass verges.
- The Clerk had voted on behalf of the Parish Council for candidates for the standards committee.

10) Finance

Resolution 2 :10.03.22 The following receipts and payments were proposed by Cllr Beecroft seconded by Cllr Tomlinson Voting unanimous

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| £12.90 | Clerk plaque for the Jubilee memorial tree |
| £40 | Information Commissioner registration |
| £1621.13 | Clerk salary and overtime November to March |
| £405.40 | HMRC tax November to March |
| £172.86 | Lane Landscapes Ltd Memorial cherry tree, stakes ties, delivery etc |
| £20.40 | Clerk Stamps |
| £42 | Cheshire association of Local Councillors Good Councillors Guide |
| £10.48 | Clerk tree guard and feed. |

The balance in the account as at 10 March was £18,412.85

11) **Planning**

- The Laurels Runcorn Road -approved by CWAC
- Hunters Lodge extension -appeal lodged
- 15 Ash House Lane extension-approved by CWAC
- Blue Grass cottage-CWAC decision pending
- The Horns Warrington Road-pending
- Long Barn Willowgreen Lane-pending
- Land at Shutley Lane-pending
- Hydrogen pipeline-pending

12) **Matters for next meeting**

End of year finance

13) Date of next meeting 21 April Finance meeting

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.