

## LITTLE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Little Leigh village hall on Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 7pm

### 1) Attendance

Councillors Ayre, King, Littler and McSweeney were present with PCSO Wiggins and a further PCSO. The Chairman welcomed 8 members of the public to the meeting and informed attendees that decent standards of behaviour were expected. Apologies were received from Cllrs Beecroft, Jones and Lawless and from Ward councillors Gibbon, Marshall and Wright.

2) **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 was also a trustee of the Village Hall Management Committee

### 3) Public submissions.

- The owner of GKB Farm and Stud addressed the Parish Council. CWAC Planning enforcement officers had visited the premises as a result of complaints but had found no reasons to take enforcement action. They had informed him that he could have a temporary static caravan on site while work was progressing on the barn. The owner was concerned that people were taking photographs of the property and flying drones overhead. The Parish Council did not condone this behaviour.

### 4) Minutes of September meeting

*Resolution 1 14.11.2023 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023 were approved Proposed Cllr Ayre seconded Cllr Mc Sweeney voting unanimous*

### 5) Clerk's report

- The hedge overgrowing the Runcorn Road pathway had been cut back.
- Several thousand bulbs had been planted on the Brakeley Lane/Shutley Lane Triangle
- Soot Hill had reopened
- Councillors and the Clerk had attended virtual meetings on tree planting, planning and budgeting.
- New CWAC Public Rights of Way officers were in post and had looked at 2 of the Little Leigh footpaths.
- The Grapevine newsletter was being resurrected. Anyone who could volunteer to distribute the newsletter should contact Cllr Jones.

### 6) Councillor/Officer protocol

*Resolution 2 14.11.2023 Councillors agreed to adopt the Councillor/Officer protocol. Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Littler.*

### 7) PCSO /police report

The PCSO had carried out speed monitoring on Ash House Lane and had visited properties to discuss residents' concerns. Safe locations to carry out the monitoring had to be identified and risk assessed. CWAC had advised that Speed Indicator devices were ineffective in the long term in rural areas. It

might be possible to park a speed monitoring van in a layby on Runcorn Road to monitor speeds on the A533.

The PCSO and Cllr Littler had discussed the school parking situation. School Junior Safety Officers would be deployed between 2.45 and 3.15pm.

## 8) Ward Councillor's report

- The white lines were to be remarked at the Smithy Lane Ash House Lane A533 junction. CWAC had performed a lighting assessment but had no funds to effect improvements at costs ranging from £600 to £70,000.
- Members Budgets - request applications/ideas
- Solar Together – CWaC working with other councils on group buying scheme to make it cheaper, check the website.
- Marbury 10-year plan for major/ other highways projects to help improve ward infrastructure submitted –We wait to see whether any projects will be included.
- Working with MP for Investment in Marbury related to Network North
- Speeding  
contact <mailto:communityspeedmanagement@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk>
- Schools all receiving training in web awareness and wellbeing through members grants funding
- Age UK funding extra hours to recruit volunteers for speaking with people who are lonely

### Crime

- Community Police- reports now include the outcomes to incidents.
- Work with PCC on Pickmere and wider issues

### Consultations

- **Participate Now** -for Residents and Parish Councils join online
- **Budget. consultation** - Funding our future. Open until 10 December 2023, and will inform decisions on the overall budget that Councillors make in February 2024
- **Asset Management Strategy** – closing Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December on improving and maintaining housing stock through ForHousing
- **Heritage Strategy** – closing date Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, valuing and promoting our diverse heritage - From our Past Towards our Future to prioritise how heritage organisations and projects are supported now and in the future.
- **Borough Plan 2024 to2028** – setting out a shared vision and priorities against 5 key questions.

### Planning

- Applications Approx 500 outstanding borough wide down from 700
- Marbury - 52 - 34 with a case officer and 18 awaiting an officer
- Marbury - 27 out of 34 over 3 months old, the other 7 are householder apps and will be determined in a reasonable timescale?

- Marbury - 1 application is over 4 years old in Wincham - cold cases

## Highways

- General Road Repairs – plenty of activity across the ward/this is driven by both the regular surveys and reports through the App (encourage residents to keep reporting)
- Soot Hill – now open
- Grids and Gulley Maps available for reference and addition. PM to arrange to circulate Maps.
- Dutton / reviewing speed limit related to the sad death A533 Northwich Rd (reviewing 50mph)
- Barnton – A533 looking at speed gun assessment training
- PCC funding for overall speed assessment cameras if evidence supports need

## Proposals for Thought

- Neighbourhood Plan - on design /housing/planning
- Resilience Plans – on any kind of risk including flooding in preparation– warm hubs/ equipment no more free sandbags
- Spacehive / Crowd Funding look for projects to submit for next round of funding – up to 70% of funding could be allocated.

### 9) Highways Survey 2023

Four councillors had surveyed all the roads and pavements in the parish. 100 defects had been reported to Highways using the CWAC Report it app. Only 17 reports had been judged to meet the CWAC criteria. A further 6 reports had been made where the depth of the pothole had been measured to be at least 4cm or 2.5cm on pavements. It was thought that CWAC might be applying further criteria so Cllr McSweeney would write to them.

### 10) Abba Tribute Band 16 March

A deposit had been paid and tickets would be sold at a cost of £15 available from Cllr Littler.

### 11) Green Festival 2024

A planning meeting had been held and potential stall holders had been identified. School premises would be used. Councillors agreed on 27 April for the event.

### 12) D Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary event 6 June 2024

As the event fell on a Thursday night it was thought attendance might be poor. There were no D Day veterans or widows in the Parish. National events and TV coverage would be promoted instead of holding an event.

### 13) Correspondence

- The Clerk had circulated correspondence from CWAC, ChALC and NALC. the Police, a survey on women and girls from the Police Crime Commissioner
- CWAC consultations had been circulated on the draft Heritage strategy and the draft CWAC plan for 2024-2028.

#### 14) Finance

*Resolution 3 14.11.23 The following receipts and payments were proposed by Cllr McSweeney seconded by Cllr Ayre Voting unanimous*

##### *Receipts*

£350	<i>Freedom Fibre wildlife hub grant</i>
£82.73	<i>Barnyard rosettes for dog show</i>
£2772.96	<i>CWAC Community Infrastructure Levy from the Horns</i>

##### *Payments*

£181	CWAC election charge
£648	J Parker Dutch Bulbs Wholesale Ltd
£20	Cheshire Community Action membership
£50	K Robinson Abba tribute band deposit
£1422.44	Clerk salary August to November including back pay due to 1 April pay rise
£355.40	HMRC tax August to November
£1478	Peter Cox damp proofing of village hall

*Resolution 4 14.11.2023 Councillors noted the half year finance report presented by the Clerk. Expenditure was on track.*

The balance in the account as at 30 October was £19,423.42

#### 13) Planning

- Hydrogen pipeline-two pipelines of the Northwich Spur ring main affected Little Leigh but there was no application yet from Cadent. The final route had not been decided. Consultation was said to be planned for the end of the year.
- Winnington Tata estate-pending with CWAC
- Willowgreen Farm – withdrawn
- Swallow Barn Willowgreen Lane approved by CWAC
- The Granary at the Hollybush -pending with CWAC
- The Barn and Bungalow at the Hollybush-Listed Building Consent approved planning permission refused by CWAC
- Crumleigh Heath Farm -pending with CWAC
- Chapel Farm stables-pending with CWAC
- Porch at Heath Hall Farm -pending with CWAC
- Willow Green Barn shed pending with CWAC.

#### 14) Matters for next meeting-

- Green Festival
- Smithy Lane Ash House Lane lighting
- Planning for the Abba event
- 2024/24 Budget and precept setting

#### 15) Date of next meeting 16 January 2024

The meeting closed at 7.45pm