

LITTLE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Little Leigh village hall on Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 7pm

1) Attendance

Councillors Ayre, Beecroft, Jones, King, Lawless were present with ward councillor Gibbon. The Chairman welcomed 6 members of the public to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs Littler and McSweeney and from Ward councillors 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. Councillors all disclosed pecuniary interests for the agenda item on setting the precept.

3) **Public submissions.** There were no public submissions.

4) Minutes of November meeting

Resolution 1 23.01 2024 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2023 were approved Proposed Cllr Ayre seconded Cllr King voting unanimous

5) Clerk's report

- The Grapevine newsletter had been produced and distributed in December. Cllr Beecroft was thanked for editing the newsletter.
- CWAC Highways had granted the licence for the bug hotel on the Shutley Lane/ Brakeley Lane triangle.

6) PCSO /police report

School Junior Safety Officers would be deployed between 2.45 and 3.15pm. The police could issue fixed penalty notices if needed.

7) Ward Councillor's report

General

- Requesting Parish Plans 24/ 25 – projects allocated to existing Parish funds. Looking to see where ward councillors could proactively support with Member Budgets
- Working with MP for Investment in Marbury related to Network North and funding from HS2 (Winnington Bridge options)
- Members Budgets/ Grants - requests open until the 28th Jan
- All 8 Schools have received their training materials etc in web awareness and wellbeing through members budget / grant
- CEO Meeting Agreed for all PCs - Cllrs and clerks to attend, need to know attendance numbers and areas of general and specific concern. Template circulated, return deadline 12th Feb 2024
 - o CEO Marbury Meeting 29th February at 6.30pm to 8pm at Wincham Community Centre, Church St
- Spacehive/ Crowd Funding- 29 proposals none from Marbury – opportunity to apply in next round – up to 70% of funding could be allocated.
- Road condition and flooding continue to blight the ward. CWaC simply say they do not have the money available to fix the deteriorating condition of our

assets – plenty of activity across the ward/ driven by both the regular surveys and through the Report It App (encourage residents to keep reporting)

- United Utilities – information on website for receiving help through their affordable scheme +there is a hardship and priority website which vulnerable customers can register for

Highways

- A559 ongoing issues with flooding and run-off from fields.
- C6118 through Comberbach from Marbury needs resurfacing.
- Westage Lane Great Budworth and Hough Lane Comberbach already breaking up, sub- contractor liable for redoing

Crime

- Work with PCC on Pickmere and wider issues continues
- Working with PCC to raise the issue of general safety of women and girls across CE, CW&C Warrington. Survey currently being conducted.

Consultations

- Participate Now – ongoing for Residents and PCs register online.
 - Budget. consultation – Closed 10th December 2023, and will inform decisions on the overall budget that Councillors make on 15th February 2024 Proposal are 5% increase on Council Tax and Green Bins up 25% £10
 - Transport Strategy out for consultation closes 28th January

 - Neighbourhood Plans - design /housing/planning / changes to the National Planning Framework making it simpler
 - Resilience Plans – on any kind of risk including flooding in preparation– warm hubs/ equipment although sandbags are no longer free
 - Barnton Community & Nursery School Outstanding Ofsted Inspections
- Grids and Gulley Maps available for reference and addition.

8) Smithy Lane Ash House Lane junction

CWAC had performed a lighting assessment but the situation did not meet the criteria for improvement and in any event CWAC had no funds to effect works at costs ranging from £600 to £70,000. The Parish Council similarly had no budget for works. There had been a further road traffic accident at the junction. The Parish Council had requested a stop sign and clearer markings at the junction.

9) Village hall beech trees

Bracket fungus had been detected at the base of one of the large beech trees which are subject to Tree Preservation Orders. The fungus could weaken the tree so the Clerk had commissioned a tree survey at a cost of £800 which would advise on any works necessary. Any necessary tree works could prove expensive.

10) Highways Survey 2023

Some of the reported potholes had been resurveyed and it was thought that CWAC might be applying further criteria. Pothole patching work was planned in Ash House Lane, Smithy Lane and Willowgreen Lane.

11) Abba Tribute Band 16 March

A deposit had been paid and over half the tickets had already been sold at a cost of £15 each available from Cllr Littler.

12) Green Festival 27 April

A further planning meeting would be held and more stall holders had been identified. School premises would be used. All generations were welcome and the event would include stands and workshops.

13) Correspondence

- The Clerk had circulated correspondence from CWAC, ChALC and NALC.
- The CWAC Chief Executive was visiting the ward on 29 February.

14) Finance

Resolution 2 23.01 2024 The following receipts and payments were proposed by Cllr King seconded by Cllr Ayre Voting unanimous

Receipts

VAT reimbursement £341.05

Payments

£52.48	E Cormick bulbs and plants for planters
£192	Coronation event marquee
£22.50	Cllr Jones refreshments for Carols Round the Tree
£14.40	Direct debit Starboard Systems finance system
£800	Urban Tree Management tree survey
£510	St Michaels Little Leigh Church Account rent.

The balance in the account as at 22 January was £16,443.83

Resolution 3 23.01.2024 Councillors agreed a 10% rise was needed in the precept to contribute to the tree survey and any work needed on the beech trees. This equated to a £3 per year rise on a Band D property and returned the precept to 2018 levels. Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Beecroft voting unanimous

Resolution 4 23.01.2024 Councillors approved the 2024/25 budget which the Clerk had prepared. Proposed Cllr Beecroft seconded Cllr Ayre.

15) 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
- The Granary at the Hollybush -refused by CWAC
- Swallow Barn Willowgreen Lane -pending with CWAC
- Crumleigh Heath Farm -approved by CWAC
- Chapel Farm stables-pending with CWAC
- Porch at Heath Hall Farm -approved by CWAC
- Willow Green Farm shed pending with CWAC. A resident had pointed out a discrepancy on the shed location shown in the application. Councillors agreed this was a matter for CWAC not the parish council.
- Land at Hall Lane extension to stables and forge.

16) Matters for next meeting

Beech Trees ,Green Festival

17) Date of next meeting 19 March 2024. The meeting closed at 7.45pm