

## Meeting of Little Leigh Parish Council held on 9 March 2017 in Little Leigh Village Hall at 7.15pm

Attendance Councillors Jones, King, Lawless, McSweeney, Tomlinson and Williamson were present with 1 member of the public and with apologies from CWAC Councillors Gibbon and Wright. 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 Lawless were trustees of the Village Hall Committee.

### 2) Public submissions

The Clerk and Chairman had received complaints from residents of Willowgreen Lane regarding the speed and volume of traffic and damage to the verges caused by vehicles using the lane to avoid the Acton Bridge roadworks and traffic lights. The Clerk had referred the complaints to Highways and to the PCSO.

### 3) Minutes of Meeting held on 12 January 2017

*Resolution 1 9.03.17 : Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2017 as being a true record of that meeting.*

*Proposed CllrTomlinson*

*Seconded CllrKing*

*Voting Unanimous*

### 4. Future of the Hollybush public House

- Councillors received a presentation from Rupert Adams the Secretary of the Cheshire North Campaign for Real Ale.
- He explained that many pubs were closing due to hard financial times and that some companies were seeking to effect change through permitted development rights so pubs were no longer the centre of the community.
- The Localism Act of 2011 gave electors, parish councils and CAMRA the opportunity to register pubs as assets of community value which meant they could not be converted without full planning permission and communities had the opportunity to fundraise to bid and run the pub as a community asset.
- It was necessary to show the business could survive as a pub and that it furthered the social well being, cultural recreational or sporting interests of the local community.
- It was thought that the Hollybush was privately owned and the main building was grade 2 listed but the listing protected the building and not use as a pub. The Hollybush had a large carpark and might be attractive for other uses.
- In 1989 a campaign to keep the pub open had attracted over 7000 signatures but since that time community use had drifted away from the Hollybush.
- CAMRA could make an application for registration of the pub with or without Parish Council support.
- Councillors agreed to debate the way forward at the next parish council meeting.

### 5) Clerks report

- Cllrs Lawless, McSweeney and volunteers had installed verge markers on the corners of Orchard Drive. The markers had been successful in deterring people from parking on the verges. Councillors decided to purchase more markers to protect the verges on Shutley Lane and the Shutley Lane Church Road junction verges. Cllr McSweeney would try to source more robust verge

markers, if these were not available the Clerk would purchase another 12 of the same.

- Councillors were told that some parents were again parking inconsiderately and that the school was to meet with the PCSO to try to improve the situation.
- The Chairman and Clerk with a resident and the Public Rights of Way officer had walked the footpath between Desley Heath Farm and the A533 and had submitted a report to CWAC on stiles which needed modification and repair. Action was awaited; there were funds in the parish council budget to assist with the work.
- Cllr Williamson had reported the remaining Hole House Lane potholes. She would report additional potholes and request that Hole House Lane be scraped. She would also contact the Canal and Rivers Trust regarding the bridge on Hole House Lane which had been damaged in November.
- Cllr McSweeney would also report a pothole on Shutley Lane.
- Cllr McSweeney had attended the CWAC electoral review meeting- copies of slides had been circulated. CWAC had asked for ward boundaries to be reviewed in the light of the reduction of CWAC councillors from 75 to 60. There would be 2 opportunities for parishes to comment on proposals. Parliamentary boundaries were being reviewed in a parallel exercise and the Tatton constituency would disappear.
- Maps of the HS2 route had been provided.
- The Village show would be held on 16 September.
- The 11 November 2018 beacon lighting was to celebrate World War One armistice day. Cllr McSweeney would obtain further details.
- An article had been placed in Grapevine informing residents where to obtain replacement recycling bins and lids.
- Broadband progress – The Clerk had contacted CWAC's Rural Development Manager. The agenda item would be held over until Connecting Cheshire and BT attended a parish council meeting.
- The Clerk had contacted Highways regarding overnight parking in Runcorn Road laybys. CWAC's Jason Lambert would deal with the flytipping. Advice had also been sought from the PCSO.
- A litter pick would be advertised in Grapevine for late May.
- The Clerk would contact Highways re litter at the junction of Brakeley Lane and the A533.

#### 5) **Correspondence**

- Various reports from the police and police crime commissioner
- ChALC bulletins
- The Clerk read out a resignation letter from Cllr J Lawless. Cllr Lawless was thanked for his 3 terms of office when he had achieved many things for the village. The councillor vacancies had been advertised.

#### 6) **Village hall update**

- Thanks to a grant from Marbury Ward councillors to the Village Hall Committee the floor had been sanded and sealed and was looking very smart.
- Thanks to grants from Marbury Ward Councillors and Saltscape the village hall clock had been renovated and provided with an electrical mechanism.
- Cllr J Lawless had resigned from the hall trustees so an advert for new trustees had been placed in Grapevine. Victoria Boldsworth would become a trustee.

8) **Finance**

*Resolution 3 9.03.2017 Council approved the following receipts and payments: Proposed Cllr Williamson seconded Cllr McSweeney Voting unanimous*

- £2000 Income from Village hall committee, repayment of Marbury ward councillors grant for hall floor
  - £2169.60 FloorsandUK.Com Ltd village hall floor sand and reseal
  - £1119.40 Clerk salary November to 31 March 2017
  - £279.80 HMRC tax November to 31 March
  - £19.98 Clerk reimbursement of payment for paper
  - £56 Village hall committee rent for meetings
  - £200 Grant to Little Leigh Youth Club
  - £35 Information Commissioner data protection
  - £9.95 Cllr King key safe
  - £40.40 Cllr King DVD player
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- The bank balance as at 28 February was £19918.10

9) **Planning**

- Richard Thresh of Cheshire Community Action had advised it would be necessary to start from scratch if the parish wished to prepare a neighbourhood plan rather than modifying the Village Design Statement. Councillors agreed to abide by CWAC Fiona Hore's advice to work with CWAC on the Local Plan rather than developing a village neighbourhood plan.
- The Clerk would inform Barnton and Anderton with Marbury parish councils of the renewed decision not to work on a neighbourhood plan. Little Leigh had more in common with the neighbouring rural villages than with Barnton.
- The slides on the planning conference had been circulated. Cllr McSweeney reported on the Community Infrastructure Levy which paid more to parish councils with a neighbourhood plan in place.

11) **Matters for next meeting**

- End of year finance
- Future of the Hollybush
- Hall strategy feedback from trustees meeting
- Changes to operation of the waste tip

12) Date of next meeting 30 March 2017 at 7.15pm. The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Provisional meeting dates which are subject to change: 11 May, 6 July, 14 September, 9 November.