

Meeting of Little Leigh Parish Council held on 6 July 2017 in Little Leigh Village Hall

Attendance Councillors Beecroft, King, McSweeney and Tomlinson were present with 4 members of the public and with apologies from councillors Jones, Kirkland, Williamson and CWAC councillors Gibbon and Wright.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.15pm.

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 McSweeney were also trustees of the Village Hall Committee.

2) Public submissions.

- Request regarding speed assessments taken under Highways issues.

3) Minutes of Meeting held on 11 May 2017

Resolution 1 06.07.17 : Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2017 as being a true record of that meeting.

Proposed Cllr King

Seconded Cllr Beecroft

Voting Unanimous

4) Connecting Cheshire

- The Chairman thanked Connecting Cheshire's Andrew Arditti and BT's contract manager Mark Chamberlain for attending.
- The Comberbach 2 cabinet on Cogshall Lane had been fibre enabled and residents could check the predicted fibre broadband speeds at www.dslchecker.bt.com or through www.connectingcheshire.org.uk/how-to-switch/. The location of cabinets went back to GPO days. The new green box now has a 'fibre enabled' sticker on it.
- Most of the village was served by this cabinet so most people should see an improvement in speeds if they upgraded to fibre broadband as it was equivalent to having a telephone exchange in the village.
- Properties within 1.2km of the cabinet should receive superfast speeds but the speed would drop off with distance from the cabinet. Aluminium wires to properties were another complication and there were no plans to replace them with copper wire. 4 properties would require further investigation as it appeared they would currently receive no improvement.
- People could opt to upgrade to fibre broadband and packages could be cheaper than the price currently paid for broadband. They could search for the best price using USwitch, Moneysupermarket etc. The more people who signed up for fibre broadband the more funds would be available to plough back into the roll out.
- People who could not benefit from superfast broadband could still apply to be routed through the fibre cabinet to get improved broadband.
- Leaflets on how to upgrade would be placed at the school and village hall and also on the village website and facebook page. If people switched and did not get the guaranteed minimum speeds the contract would not have been fulfilled. Residents who upgraded were invited to inform Cllr King of the actual speeds achieved.
- Another cabinet closer to the village could not be promised at this stage but might be included in phase 4 of the rollout or in a Community Fibre Partnership solution which would involve fundraising and matchfunding from

BT. The school would attract some funding. Cllr King would register the village for the scheme.

- For premises receiving less than 2Mbps the government Better Broadband scheme was available with vouchers for £350 per property for solutions such as satellite. However the deadline for this phase of the scheme was December and BT had stopped accepting vouchers.
- Phase 4 of the rollout would be opened to other suppliers by summer 2017 but would take at least another year to mobilise. It would concentrate on properties that have had no improvement from the fibre upgrade.

5) **Clerks report**

- **Willowgreen Lane rat run**- the stolen access only sign has been replaced and the PCSO is giving the area passing attention. The works on the swing bridge on the A49 are scheduled to finish this month so there should then be a marked reduction in traffic on this Lane.
- The Chairman and volunteers had installed a further 12 **verge markers** to deter parking on the verges. The Clerk had purchased 3 more.
- **Volunteers** from Winsford company Engie had cut the village hall hedges, swept the car park and formed a new border in the front of the village hall. The Clerk had submitted a grant application to Marbury Ward councillors on behalf of the village hall committee for forming a community space in front of the village hall. This would involve removing the railings which divided the front garden of the village hall to form a more usable space. The conifer hedge would be replaced with railings or a post and rails fence to widen the drive to assist tanker deliveries to neighbouring properties and the hazardous step would be removed. The Clerk had only been able to obtain one quotation for the work.
- The Clerk had made a submission to the **Local Government Boundary Commission** regarding staying in Marbury Ward.
- The Clerk had made a successful application to the **Transparency fund** for replacing the broken printer/scanner and for website expenses.
- A **litter pick** would be advertised for 22 July at 2pm. Cllr Mc Sweeney would make the arrangements for equipment to be available and for rubbish sacks to be collected.

6) **Highways issues**

- **Runcorn Road layby** Highways had advised that a limited waiting traffic regulation traffic order could be applied to the laybys to prevent overnight parking at a cost to the parish of £1500. However enforcement would fall to CWAC's civil parking enforcement officers and not to the police or PCSOs. There were only 2 parking enforcement officers in CWAC. After some debate councillors decided not to proceed with the costly order at this point in time but Cllr Beecroft would discuss with the PCSO what the parish councillors could do legally to dissuade lorry drivers from parking overnight. The Clerk would inform Highways of the decision.
- **Runcorn Road speed limit** Work on erecting the new speed limit signs for Runcorn Road had been due in June but the project had been delayed to enable it to be coordinated with speed limit reductions at Dutton and Whitley.

The parish contribution of £1000 would be covered by a grant from Marbury ward councillors who had been informed of the delay.

- **Yellow lines at the Leigh Arms** - Highways had finally agreed to paint yellow lines on the corners of Willowgreen Lane and the A49 to deter parking and improve junction safety. The resident who had raised the issue had been informed.
- **Requests for speed limit assessments.** A request had been received for assessing Stoneheyes Lane but Leigh Lane and Smithy Lane had similar speeding problems. Highways had advised that the parish would be partially responsible for funding any signage judged to be due if Department of Transport criteria were met. The cost of each scheme could be as high as £1000. The Clerk had requested the criteria to be applied. Highways had explained that reducing the speed limit was not the answer and police enforcement might be required. Councillor Beecroft would discuss the police view with the PCSO.

7) Village show 16 September

Judges had been booked for the village show and dog show. Categories had been reviewed in light of what has worked/not worked on previous occasions and schedules should be ready for perusal next week & distribution before the end of term. A planning meeting had been arranged for 7pm 20 July and councillors were encouraged to attend. Cheshire Waste Reduction volunteers would be invited to attend the show from 2.30pm.

8) Harvest Supper

- Cllr Jones reported that she had contacted the church and an evening harvest event with entertainment was planned for 23 September. Cllr McSweeney would discuss with the church whether £200 parish council funding for the band was needed.
- The events committee would organise a family pumpkin party perhaps with the school choir for the afternoon of 14 October.
- The events committee would discuss other Autumn social events, eg Golden Oldies lunch and a quiz evening to be discussed at the September parish council meeting.
- Cllr Tomlinson would investigate using local social media to advertise events and also marketing through the school.

9) Correspondence

- Police and Police Commissioner newsletters
- ChALC e bulletins
- Thank you letter from J Lawless
- Northwich transport strategy meeting report had been circulated.
- Police forum report had been circulated.
- New local Tatton MP Esther McVey was holding an informal Drop- in event at Barnton Library on Saturday 15th July, 2017 from 11am-1pm. The session was designed to give local residents a chance to meet their MP, discuss any local (or indeed national) issues they choose to and to book an appointment for an upcoming surgery. Cllr McSweeney would attend.

10) Finance

Resolution 2 06.07.17 Council approved the following receipts and payments: Proposed Cllr Tomlinson seconded Cllr Beecroft Voting unanimous

£479	income Transparency Fund
£135.45	Clerk shrubs for village hall garden
£44	Clerk bark for village hall beds
£12	Cheshire Association Local Councils Good Councillors Guide
£72.36	Clerk printer inks
£13.68	Clerk stamps
£830.34	Clerk salary April to July
£207.40	HMRC tax
£59.34	Clerk verge marker posts
£95.07	E Cormick plants for planters

Expenditure on village hall

Resolution 3 06.07.2017 Council approved the following estimates: Proposed Cllr Beecroft seconded Cllr McSweeney

- Up to £400 for childrens tables
- Up to £100 for new tea urn
- Up to £100 for shelving for kitchen
- Cllr King would purchase the items

- *Resolution 4 06.07.17 Councillors noted that the parish council would continue to use the Co operative bank and that Cllrs Williamson, Beecroft and Tomlinson would be added as a signatories*
- The Clerks pay award resulted in a salary of £11.78 per hour from 1 April 2017
- The balance in the accounts as at 30 June was £28967.18

11) Planning

- Residential development Beech Haven Church Road decision pending. Cllr McSweeney would consider the amended application.
- Ash Tree Farm appeal dismissed
- Morningside Willowgreen Lane pergola approved
- 144 Ash House Lane pending

12) Matters for next meeting

- Village show
- Autumn social events
- Broadband progress review

13) Date of next meeting 14 September 2017 at 7:15pm. The meeting closed at 8.35pm