

Meeting of Little Leigh Parish Council held on 14 September 2017 in Little Leigh Village Hall

Attendance Councillors Beecroft, Jones, King, Kirkland, McSweeney, Tomlinson and Williamson were present with 3 members of the public and CWAC councillor Wright with apologies from CWAC councillor Gibbon.

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 limit on Hole House Lane taken under Highways issues.

3) Minutes of Meeting held on 6 July 2017

Resolution 1 14.09.17 : Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2017 as being a true record of that meeting.

Proposed Cllr King

Seconded Cllr Beecroft

Voting Unanimous

4) Clerks report

- **Volunteers** from Winsford company Engie would be at the village hall on 11 October to do further work planting bulbs, cutting hedges etc.
- The Clerk had made a successful grant application to Marbury Ward councillors on behalf of the village hall committee for forming a community space in front of the village hall. The railings which divided the front garden of the village hall had been removed to form a more usable space. The conifer hedge had been replaced with railings to widen the drive to assist tanker deliveries to neighbouring properties and the hazardous step had been removed.
- Cllr King had purchased new tables, kitchen shelving and a new tea urn for the village hall.
- **The Local Government Boundary Commission** had recommended that the parish should remain in Marbury Ward. The Clerk would write to support this recommendation.
- A **litter pick** had been held on 22 July. A further one would be held at 2pm on 21 October. Cllr Kirkland would publicise the event on the Little Leigh Nextdoor page, Cllr Tomlinson would inform Ms Hampton for the village Facebook page and notes would be put in the pubs and café. Notices would be put on the noticeboards. Cllr Kirkland would investigate inviting people to adopt an area for litterpicking and would place a note in Grapevine.
- Cllrs Williamson reported that the regular weekend long parking of an articulated lorry in the Runcorn Road layby had ceased. Reporting such parking to the company that owned the vehicle seemed effective in this case.

5) **Highways issues**

- **Runcorn Road speed limit** the work had been completed and national speed limit signs had been erected on the side lanes which had caused some consternation.
- A resident from Hole House Lane had written to CWAC's Chief executive regarding the perceived increased risk to pedestrians posed by the national speed limit signs as some residents had believed that the speed limit was previously 30mph.
- The Clerk had written to Highways who stated that with all speed limits across the network they should not be viewed as a target and drivers were expected to drive according to the prevailing conditions. The conditions on Hole House Lane, a narrow, largely enclosed section of rural road, encouraged caution and the issue was due to poor driver behaviour rather than the engineering measures in place. At this stage there were no plans to amend the existing arrangement.
- CWAC councillor Wright had received similar advice from Highways who stated that it was a mandatory requirement that signs be erected to highlight to road users the change in speed limit from the A533 to the side roads. It was not a case of the authority derestricting any of the side roads but of them highlighting the existing national speed limit to road users.
- The resident also thought that the streetlights on Hole House Lane meant that a 30mph speed limit should apply but Cllr Beecroft advised they were too few in number and too widely spaced as the Road Traffic Act 1984 referred to 3 streetlights 183 m apart.
- The Clerk would write to Highways requesting the process and costs of undertaking a speed limit assessment on Hole House Lane and the subsequent cost implications to the parish if it proved possible to lower the speed limit. She would also request the Department of Transport criteria, such as record of severe injuries and fatalities, which would be applied to enable the speed limit to be lowered and ask whether advisory signs could be erected as at Limes Lane, Whitley.
- **Yellow lines at the Leigh Arms** – work was awaited
- Cllr Kirkland would report to Highways **potholes on the A49** south of the Holly Bush

6) Broadband update BT had informed Cllr King that properties in the village would receive fibre to premises which should result in good speeds later this year. It was not yet clear which premises would benefit from this upgrade. Other options such as wireless mesh systems and satellite were explained. Cllr King had registered the village for a Community Fibre Partnership but work was on hold pending the outcome of the Fibre to Premises initiative.

7) Village show 16 September

A planning meeting had been held and schedules had been distributed for the show and dog show. Barnyard of Daisy Bank were sponsoring the dog show rosettes and R & H pet supplies of Weaverham were donating prizes. Cheshire Waste Reduction volunteers were attending the show from 2.30pm. Judges had been organised and new tables had been purchased.

8) Harvest Supper

- The church was hosting an evening harvest event with entertainment on 23 September. Councillors agreed unanimously to pay £200 for the band.
- The events committee would organise an all age family pumpkin party with the school choir attending on 14 October. A morning village walk would be followed by sausage and bacon rolls, a senior citizens lunch, a childrens disco, a film and a pumpkin parade.
- *Resolution 2 14.09.2017 Councillors agreed to fund up to £100 for a bouncy castle and/or inflatable bungee run. Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Kirkland voting unanimous*
- The events committee would discuss other Autumn social events, eg Golden Oldies lunch and a quiz evening.

9) Correspondence

- Police and Police Commissioner newsletters
- ChALC e bulletins
- The Clerk had reported the condition of the street gutters to CWAC

10) Finance

Resolution 3 14.09.17 Council approved the following receipts and payments: Proposed Cllr Tomlinson seconded Cllr Beecroft Voting unanimous

£1330.44	income VAT refund
£600	income from village hall management committee Marbury ward councillors grant
£52.71	CG Services Cheshire Ltd sponsorship for dog show rosettes
£49.89	G Hampton materials for village show
£565.20	Cllr King tables for village hall
£35	Cheshire Association Local Councils training course
£20	Cheshire Community Action membership
£56.99	Cllr King tea urn
£52.71	Tyrella rosettes dog show
£32.30	Clerk plants for village hall border
£2224.80	CG Services Cheshire Ltd railings at village hall
£210	Vision ICT Ltd website hosting Oct 2017 to Sept 2018
£60	Cllr King kitchen shelves
	• <i>Resolution 4: 14.09.2017 Councillors approved expenditure of £200 on bulbs and trellis for the village hall garden. Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Tomlinson voting unanimous</i>

- *Resolution 5:14.09.2017 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. Ex councillors J and L Lawless would be removed from the signatories.*
 - Resolution 6: 14.09.2017 Councillors noted, approved and accepted the annual external audit return and the auditor's report. The annual return had been placed on the website.
 - The balance in the accounts as at 30 August 2017 was £29,009.71
- 11) Planning
- Residential development Beech Haven Church Road decision pending
 - 144 Ash House Lane decision pending
- 12) Matters for next meeting
- Autumn events
 - Speed limits
 - November 2018 beacon lighting
- 13) Date of next meeting 9 November 2017 at 7:15pm. The meeting closed at 8.45pm