

Meeting of Little Leigh Parish Council held on 11 January 2018 in Little Leigh Village Hall

Attendance Councillors Beecroft, King, Kirkland, McSweeney and Tomlinson were present with 1 member of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs Jones and 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) Amendment to standing orders

Resolution 1 11.01.2018 Councillors approved the amendment to standing orders which required 5 working days notice of items to be raised by members of the public and a 5 minute limit to the time each member of the public could speak with an overall limit of 20 minutes on the public submissions item on the agenda. This brought procedures in line with other parish councils and National Association of Local Councils guidance.

Proposed Cllr King, seconded Cllr Tomlinson voting unanimous.

3) There were no new public submissions.

4) Minutes of Meeting held on 8 November 2017

Resolution 2 11.01.2018 : Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017 as being a true record of that meeting.

Proposed Cllr Tomlinson Seconded Cllr Beecroft Voting Unanimous

5) Clerks report

Highways issues

- Speed limit assessments for the centre of the village were underway and Hole House Lane assessment was expected by end March 2018.
- The A533/A49 road and Smithy Lane would receive a speed limit assessment in the 2018/2019 financial year at no cost to the parish council although a contribution would be needed to consultation costs and any new signage. The stretch of road between the A49 and Shutley Lane would be split into two parts for the purposes of the assessment.
- The parish council was pursuing measures to improve visibility at the Smithy Lane/A533 junction using post and wire fencing although no funds were available for Cheshire railings.
- A reply had been received from Cheshire police regarding the reporting of accidents. Further information was held on their website.

- The Highways area team had indicated that a temporary speed restriction would not be imposed on Hole House Lane pending the speed limit assessment.
- The Clerk had reported that a junction warning sign on the A533 was turned through 90 degrees and so could not be read from the Barnton direction. The problem had been rectified twice.
- The Clerk and councillors had repeatedly reported the mud on Hole House Lane hill; it was likely that the mud needed to be scraped as it was now too thick to be swept. Cllr Beecroft would continue to pursue the matter along with the potholes and defective street light.
- The Clerk had arranged for the hedge along the A533 between Hole House Lane and Barnton to be cut and would ask that the grass be cut back at the bottom of the hedge to widen the space available for pedestrians. Work was awaited.
- Christmas carols around the tree had been well attended and the refreshments had been appreciated.
- The Chairman had addressed the full Cheshire West and Chester council regarding the Northwich Transport Strategy. A further meeting might be necessary after the consultation closed.
- The Clerk had written to the parliamentary boundary commission supporting the recommendation that Little Leigh should join Weaver Vale.
- The Chairman would organise a visit to Fire and Rescue services hub
- **Litterpicking** Councillors Kirkland and Tomlinson had placed an article in Grapevine regarding adopting roads for litterpicking. Two responses had been received. A further item and fliers would be placed in Grapevine and Facebook and the school would be involved with the children invited to design posters for placing in littered areas.
- Cheshire West and Chester staff had advised that litterpicking should not be carried out on roads with a speed limit above 40mph and that volunteers might need to sign waivers. The Clerk would continue to report any problems with litter on the A roads. Cllr Kirkland would obtain further advice from CWAC on issues such as collection locations for the litter.
- Volunteers would get together in the village hall to decide the way forward and a substantive discussion would be held in the May Annual parish meeting.
- In addition to this initiative 2 litterpicks would be held each year.

6) Broadband update Fibre to the cabinet in Cogshall Lane was in place. BT had informed Cllr King that although some properties in the village including the estate would receive fibre to premises which should result in good speeds not all areas would benefit. There were increased problems with service dropout. Cllrs Beecroft and King were complaining to Ofcom, BT, BT Openreach, Connecting

Cheshire and the MP regarding the misinformation, errors, delays and poor service.

- The parish council would consider the response to the complaints and would prepare a formal parish council complaint to Ofcom if necessary for the March meeting.

7) **Correspondence**

- Police and Crime Commissioner newsletters
- ChALC e bulletins
- Friends of Anderton and Marbury newsletters
- Councillors decided not to enter the Best Kept Village competition.

8) **November 2018 World War 1 Beacon event**

- The church had agreed to ring the bells on 11 November and would be holding a memorial service at 10.45am.
- Councillors decided to light a beacon at 7pm on 11 November and to hold events in the afternoon leading up to the event. The Chairman would register the event, seek permission to use Mr Horton's field and contact the licensee of the Leigh Arms to see whether she could provide a bar in the village hall.

9) Finance

Resolution 3 11.01.2018 Council approved the following receipts and payments: Proposed Cllr Tomlinson seconded Cllr King Voting unanimous

£505 St Michaels Little Leigh church account rent for village hall
£65 Cheshire Association of local councils attendance at planning training

- Resolution 4 Councillors decided to set the precept at £9687 to align with the budget for 2018/2019 which the Clerk had prepared
Proposed Cllr Beecroft seconded Cllr McSweeney Voting unanimous
- The balance in the accounts as at 29 December 2017 was £24,042.98

Resolution 5 Councillors discussed the tenders received for the village hall railings replacement and decided to award the work to CG Services.

Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr McSweeney Voting unanimous

The Chairman remarked that the continuing good state of the finances might permit a few more improvements to amenities or other initiatives in the Parish to be funded, if Councillors wished to make proposals.

10) Planning

Cllr Beecroft would attend a planning training course organised by ChALC

11) Matters for next meeting

Future events to be organised by the events committee to include

- Quiz evening late February/early March
- Golden oldies film and lunch 14 March
- Walk and family Fun day in June. Funding might be needed
- Village show date 8 September

- Carols round tree date 22 December
- Cllr Jones was thanked for her ideas.
- Potholes
- Canal and rivers Trust bridge 204
- Broadband
- Litterpick date

12) Date of next meeting 8 March 2018 at 7:15pm.
The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Future meeting dates 10 May, 5 July, 13 September, 8 November 2018.