

## Meeting of Little Leigh Parish Council held on 28 February 2019 in Little Leigh Village Hall

Attendance Councillors Beecroft, Jones, King, Kirkland, McSweeney, Tomlinson and Williamson were present with CWAC councillors Gibbon and Wright and with apologies from CWAC councillor Hammond. Ms Davies and Ms Parry of Footsteps a Path to Change, the Little Leigh primary school headteacher, a school Governor and 20 members of the public also attended.

### 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) There were no Public submissions other than those taken under planning.

### 3) Minutes of Meeting held on 10 January 2019

Resolution 1 28.02.2019 : Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2019 as being a true record of that meeting.

Proposed Cllr King

Seconded Cllr Beecroft

Voting Unanimous

### 4) Planning

#### **Prospective children's home – request for lawful development certificate.**

The Chairman explained that:

- Footsteps a Path to Change had applied for a Lawful Development Certificate, with the agreement of the owner of a rented property in Little Leigh;
- Many comments and objections had been posted by members of the public;
- The Parish Council were not formal consultees for an LDC application, but had submitted a number of comments and objections;
- Footsteps had responded by means of a letter and replies to a set of written questions put forward by the Parish Council;
- A key point made by Footsteps was that they would never place children who have displayed sexually abusive behaviours at the home and would not be permitted by Ofsted, the regulator, to make such placements in view of the location of the home;
- The school had issued a letter to the parents of children at the school;
- Cheshire West and Chester's Planning Department had granted the LDC, after changes were made to the application to reduce the number of young people from 3 to 2;
- The Chairman and CWAC Councillor Gibbon had visited one of Footsteps' other homes. Councillor Gibbon commented that it appeared to be well maintained both inside and out and was just like any normal, well-run family home.
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- Footsteps' next move would be to seek approval from Ofsted for its proposals for care, education etc.
- Questions were taken to supplement and clarify Footsteps' written answers to the Parish Council's questions.

- Varied opinions for and against the home were expressed.
- Ms Davies explained the qualifications, training, safeguarding and supervisory mechanisms, risk assessments and procedures which would be in place if the home were to go ahead. She guaranteed that the home's young people would not impact negatively on the local children.
- The home would be subject to monthly independent inspections.
- The Chairman would maintain contact with Footsteps and Ofsted the regulator to ensure the application was limited to children with Emotional Behavioural Difficulties.
- A Community Representative would be appointed to liaise with the home if it was approved.

**Holly Cottage**- overhead power supply application approved.

## 5) **Clerks report**

### **Trent and Mersey Canal issue**

- The Clerk had written several emails and a formal letter to the Canal and River Trust regarding the actions of a boater near bridge 206 on the Trent and Mersey Canal. The boater owned an aggressive dog which had bitten people and other dogs. She had also been littering the towpath with bags of rubbish and rotting food.
- The Parish Council had submitted incident reports to the Police and Canal and Rivers Trust for the dog bite incidents that had occurred in the last 9 months. People were encouraged to report all incidents to build a body of evidence.
- The towpath between Hole House Lane and Willowgreen Lane was closed for up to 6 months for repairs, according to the CRT – although the stretch from Taylor's Bridge to Bridge 206 seemed to be open as normal.
- CWAC councillor Gibbon would arrange and chair a meeting of all interested parties in late March to work towards an effective multiagency solution. Agencies included the police, Canal and Rivers Trust, the Community Safety warden, the dog warden and social services.

### **Other issues**

- Cllr Kirkland had requested a further litter bin for outside the village hall and had followed up the request. She would also request a further green bin. A group litter pick was planned for 23 March.
- Cllr Kirkland would draft a piece for Grapevine regarding smoke from bonfires
- Around 40 Litter pickers, Grapevine editor, deliverers and other volunteers had attended an event on 20 January.
- Local elections would be held on 2 May.

## 6) **Smithy Lane speed limit reduction**

- A 40mph limit had been recommended for Smithy Lane. The Parish Council had been asked to fund 50% of the costs of advertising and implementing the scheme. The cost to the parish council would be £1500.
- Councillors decided to fund the scheme and would make an application to CWAC ward members to part fund the work.

*Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Beecroft voting unanimous*

- Ash House Lane would also be monitored.
- 7) **Spring event**
- A champagne quiz had been organised for 9 March. Raffle prizes and supporters were requested.
- 8) **Date of village show**
- Councillors noted the show would be held on 14 September
- 9) **Survey of potholes and pavements**
- The Chairman had initiated a councillors' survey of pavements and minor roads as several were in poor condition, including the footpath from Hole House Lane to Barnton. The deadline would be beginning of May.
- 10) **Correspondence**
- Police and Police commissioner newsletters
  - ChALC e bulletins
  - Individual councillors would respond to the consultation on Marbury Park play improvements
- 11) **Finance**
- Resolution 2 28.02.19 Council approved the following receipts and payments: Proposed Cllr Beecroft seconded Cllr King Voting unanimous*
- £46.55 Cllr Kirkland refreshments volunteers event
  - £7.18 Clerk refreshments volunteers event
  - £8.04 Clerk stamps
  - £1286.36 Clerk salary November to March
  - £379.40 HMRC tax
  - £96 Little Leigh village hall management committee meeting rent
  - J Hughes of the Familiar Tones band had declined payment for their performance on 25 January.
- The balance in the accounts as at 30 January 2019 was £16148.04
  - Councillors decided not to make a donation to the North West Air Ambulance

*The Clerk had been working additional hours on dealing with the Canal and Rivers Trust for the incidents on the canal, the application for a Lawful Development Certificate for 2 Shutley Lane and budgets to set the precept. Councillors awarded her a nominal 10 hours of overtime for this work.*

- 12) **Matters for next meeting**

- End of year finance April meeting
- Survey of potholes and pavements May meeting.

13) Date of next meeting **25 April 2019 finance meeting**. The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Future meetings 9 May, 11 July, 12 September, 14 November.