

Meeting of Little Leigh Parish Council held on 9 January 2020

Councillors Beecroft, Jones, King, Kirkland, McSweeney, Tomlinson and Williamson were present. Apologies were received from CWAC councillors Gibbon, Marshall and Wright. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm.

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 – a member of the public had reported that new telegraph poles were to be installed along Runcorn Road. The Clerk had written to BT.

3) Minutes of Meeting held on 14 November 2019

Resolution 1 09.01.2020 : Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2019 as being a true record of that meeting.

Proposed Cllr King

Seconded Cllr Kirkland

Voting Unanimous

4) Clerks report

- Cllr Tomlinson would act as the Community representative for 2 Shutley Lane to provide a channel for communications with **Footsteps a Path for Change**. She would email the organisation again regarding the pending Ofsted application.
- **Maintenance of CWAC's Shutley Lane play area** new screening had been erected and the sandpit had been refilled. Cllr Tomlinson would visit the site to see whether further maintenance was required and would report any issues to CWAC.
- The problem with getting the **Hole House Lane hill** swept had been raised with CWAC and Cllr Gibbon had also chased the matter but the hill had still not been swept.
- **Potholes and pavement defects**- Highways had provided an explanation of their risk based approach to maintenance. Cllr Mc Sweeney would write regarding encroachment of vegetation onto the footpath.
- The **village hall Oak Tree had been pruned**.
- The **40mph speed limit on Smithy Lane had been implemented**. The £600 grant from Ward Members Budgets had been received.
- **Bingo night 30 November**- Cllr Jones had organised the event which had been well attended particularly by children. The event had raised money for village hall funds.
- **Carols around the tree 21 December** had also been well attended.
- **Defibrillator at the Leigh Arms**- A further defibrillator had been installed at the Leigh Arms with contributions from the parish council and a £500 grant

from Ward councillors. The licensee would perform the routine battery checks and had organised training for responders on 12 January.

5) **Canal and River Trust presentation**

The CRT representative explained the benefits and arrangements of volunteering on the canals if the parish council decided to adopt part of the Trent and Mersey canal. A working group of Cllrs Beecroft, King and Kirkland would meet to discuss how to canvas interest from the community and how to take things forward.

6) **Volunteers party 19 January**

Invitations had been sent out to 40-50 people which represented a higher than average volunteering rate. Cllr Kirkland would organise refreshments.

7) **Correspondence**

- Police and Police commissioner newsletters
- ChALC e bulletins
- CWAC on Cycling and Walking urban routes –individual councillors would respond.
- Cheshire police were consulting on a proposal to increase the police precept by a further £24 per year per band D equivalent property due to the lack of central government funding. The Clerk informed councillors that Band D property residents were already paying in the region of £215 a year for the 2019/20 precept which represented a 12% increase over the previous year; the proposed increase for 2020/21 was an estimated further 12%. The proposed precept was in the region of 6 times the precept levied by the parish council.
- Councillors decided that although they wished to support the police the service had deteriorated. The Clerk would respond to the survey opposing the increase and individual councillors would also respond.
- Councillors noted the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service draft risk management plan.
- Letter regarding speeding in Willowgreen and Leigh Lanes- the Chairman would reply.
- CWAC CEO visit- the Clerk would suggest that he view the Horns site, Willowgreen Farm, Cherry Tree nursery, Smithy Lane junction and the litter along the A533 Runcorn Road.

8) **Finance**

Resolution 2: 14/11/2019 The following receipts and payments was proposed by Cllr Kirkland and seconded by Cllr Tominson voting unanimous:

£600	Income Ward councillors grant Smithy Lane speed reduction measures
£500	Income Ward councillors Leigh Arms defibrillator
£36	Clerk carols round tree refreshments
£1824	Cardiac Science Holdings UK Ltd defibrillator
£1500	CWAC Smithy Lane speed reduction measures

£505	St Michaels Church account village hall rent
£1051.78	Clerk salary September to January
£263.00	HMRC salary

- The bank balance as at 30 December was £22,346.46

9) Precept for 2020/21

Councillors resolved to hold the precept at the same rate as in the previous year resulting in the sum of £9571.

Proposed Cllr Beecroft seconded Cllr King voting unanimous

10) **Planning**

- Burnside Runcorn Road- CWAC planners were negotiating with the applicant regarding a reduction in size of the planned extension.
- Village hall porch- application was awaiting the allocation of a planning officer.
- Old Timbers - application was awaiting determination.
- Hunters Lodge extension-pending but a smaller extension had previously been refused at appeal on grounds of green belt and over development.
- Willowgreen Farm barns- Cllr McSweeney would write to Esther McVey MP copied to Fiona Hore Head of planning.
- The Horns pub- There was no further news on the pre- application advice for further development.

15) **Matters for next meeting**

- Canal adoption and volunteering
- Canal photography walk
- Group litter pick
- Social events diary

16) Provisional future meeting dates which are subject to change:

12 March, 23 April Finance, 14 May Annual Parish Meeting, 9 July, 10 September, 12 November. The meeting closed at 8pm