

Meeting of Little Leigh Parish Council held on 12 January 2017 in Little Leigh Village Hall at 7.15pm

Attendance Councillors Jones, King, J and L Lawless, McSweeney, Tomlinson and Williamson were present with apologies from CWAC Cllrs Gibbon and Wright. The Chairman welcomed councillors to the meeting which he opened at 7.15 pm.

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 J Lawless were trustees of the Village Hall Committee. Cllr L Lawless was the editor of Grapevine.

2) There were no public submissions

3) Minutes of Meeting held on 10 November 2016

Resolution 1 12.01.17 : Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2016 as being a true record of that meeting.

Proposed Cllr King

Seconded Cllr L Lawless

Voting Unanimous

4) Clerks report

- A resident had contacted the Chairman regarding parking on the village verges. The Clerk had purchased wooden verge markers which Cllrs J Lawless, McSweeney and volunteers would install on the corners of Orchard Drive. Councillors would monitor the situation before deciding whether to install markers elsewhere.
- Councillor McSweeney had reviewed the supplementary planning document on oil and gas exploration and had circulated his comments.
- Highway schemes for survey- the Clerk had responded highlighting the need for the footpath to Barnton to be upgraded. She had reminded Highways that this was an aspiration in the Village Design Statement.
- The village hall refurbishment celebration party had been very successful with good attendance and press coverage.
- The Clerk had arranged for Hole House Lane to be swept and the worst potholes to be repaired. Cllr Williamson would report the remaining Hole House Lane potholes.
- The Clerk had emailed CWAC Highways regarding signing the village during the planned works to Acton Swing Bridge to prevent traffic using the village as a ratrun.

5) Correspondence

- Various reports from the police and crime commissioner
- ChALC bulletins
- Parish council conference 23 January
- Planning conference 30 January- Cllr McSweeney would attend
- HS2 meeting 31 January
- Village spring clean March 3rd-5th Mr Screen would be informed as he held the litter grabbers and his house was the collection point for filled rubbish bags. An article would be placed in Grapevine informing residents where to obtain lids for their recycling bins.
- 20mph speed limit -The Clerk had contacted Highways who had responded that they were coming towards the end of the first year of a four year programme for assessing speed limits around schools. As they could not deal with all the schools in one year criteria had been drawn up to enable a

priority list of schools to be created. Little Leigh was in year three of the programme (2018/19 when any work on the ground would take place), which means the assessment of the roads around the school would take place late in 2017. Assessments are carried out by the road safety team, but from the officer's knowledge he would anticipate Shutley Lane, Orchard Drive, St Michael's Close, Church Meadows, some or all of Brakeley Lane and some or all of Church Road would be included. Changes to the speed limit under this programme would be funded by CWAC in their entirety. CWAC had no funding for traffic calming measures so were not in a position to provide them. Councillors agreed with this approach.

- The Clerk read out a resignation letter from Cllr L Lawless. She would remain as editor of Grapevine. Cllr Lawless was thanked for her work particularly on the planning committee.

6) **Village hall update and forward strategy**

- A 90 day trial had been planned for a booking service which would operate via the website. This had proved too complex so the existing system of telephone bookings would continue.
- The Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet for potential improvements to the village hall. Councillors agreed on lead people and timescales.
- *Resolution 2 12.01.2017 Councillors resolved to put £5000 aside in the budget to cover match funding of grants for the works. Proposed Cllr J Lawless seconded Cllr R McSweeney voting unanimous.*

8) **Finance**

Resolution 3 12.01.2017 Council approved the following receipts and payments: Proposed Cll Tomlinson seconded Cllr Williamson Voting unanimous

- £1000 Income CWAC Marbury ward grant for Runcorn Road speed reduction
- £110.88 Clerk reimbursement of payment for verge markers
- £22.98 Clerk reimbursement of payment for printer inks
- £500 St Michaels Little Leigh church account village hall rent
- Councillors discussed the request for funding from the Air Ambulance and decided they were not in a position to fund them from the precept. An article would be placed in Grapevine inviting individuals to contribute if they wished.
- Councillors discussed support for the youth club and decided to award a grant of £200. Cllr Jones was thanked for her work with the Youth Club.
- Councillors decided not to request forward payment of the Council Tax Reduction scheme grant but to receive it annually.
- *Resolution 4 12.01.2017 Councillors discussed and approved the budget for 2017/18 which the Clerk had prepared for the Finance Committee. Proposed Cllr J Lawless seconded Cllr McSweeney voting unanimous*
- *Resolution 5 12.01.2017 Councillors decided to set the precept for 2017/18 at £9650, a small 2.2% increase over the 2016/17 precept which would cover the reduction in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant. Proposed Cllr McSweeney seconded Cllr Tomlinson voting unanimous.*
 - The Clerk was thanked for preparing the budget papers.
- The bank balance as at 30 December was £21,721.56

9) **Planning**

- The application for a replacement dwelling at Parklands Willowgreen Lane had been approved
- The application for a replacement dwelling at Smithy Cottage had been approved
- There had been an appeal against refusal of permission at Ash Tree Farm
- Councillors noted a letter regarding the agricultural building at land adjacent to Dene Cottage and decided to leave the issue to CWAC planners to deal with.
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11) **Matters for next meeting**

- Review impact of verge marker posts
- Agree date for village show
- Discuss 11 November beacon lighting
- Discuss progress with Broadband
- The Clerk would write to Highways regarding overnight parking in Runcorn Road laybys.

11) Date of next meeting 9 March 2017 at 7.15pm. The meeting closed at 8.15pm