

## LITTLE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 16 July 2024 @ 7pm

### 1) Attendance

Councillors Beecroft, Cook, King, Littler and McSweeney were present with apologies from Cllrs Geary and Jones and ward councillors Gibbon, Marshall and Wright. Three residents were present.

2) Declarations of interest- As all parish councillors lived in or near the village they all had personal interests. In addition Cllr Jones was a trustee of the Little Leigh Community Trust and the Village Hall Management Committee.

3) Public submissions- a resident informed the councillors that United Utilities had installed a valve in Townfield Lane Barnton which had lowered the water pressure in Little Leigh. Residents were experiencing problems with showers and domestic appliances and the water pressure barely met the statutory minimum. The Chairman explained that there had been multiple water bursts in the pipes in Hole House Lane. She would contact United Utilities and would place an article in Grapevine advising affected residents to complain to United Utilities.

### 4) Minutes of May meeting

*Res 1 16.07.24* The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2024 were approved. Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Mc Sweeney voting unanimous

### 5) Clerk's report

- The village walk on 17 May had been attended by 18 people and 4 dogs.
- The next walk would be held on 9 August starting at 6.30pm at the village hall or 6.45pm at the Baptist Church. It would follow the Little Leigh circular walk.
- The car and caravan had been removed from the Brakeley Lane verge.
- Wi Fi would be installed in the village hall.

6) There was no Ward Councillors report

### 7) Little Leigh Strategic plan

The previous Parish Plan had been formulated in 2005 following an extensive consultation with people from the village. It had resulted in evidence to support grant applications for major improvements to the village hall, kissing gates on footpaths village planters and various clubs.

Councillors agreed to invite interested villagers to join a Steering Group to canvas residents' views on a new strategic plan. Questionnaires, focus groups and workshops would be used with differing methods of consultation to encourage a wide range of participation. The surveys would be publicised in Grapevine. Anyone interested in volunteering on the steering group should email Cllr Cook on [Stuart.Cook@bakerhughes.com](mailto:Stuart.Cook@bakerhughes.com)

### 8) Free Community First Aid training

Roger Pickering from Reach First Aid would be running a session on CPR and defibrillator use. There would be a short presentation followed by a practical session. The event will be held Little Leigh Village Hall on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 6.30pm-8pm. Equipment and refreshments would be provided and donations to Cancer Research would be welcomed. Please email [sharonblundell@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonblundell@hotmail.com) or call 07803 794682 to register your place.

9) **Dog Show and Village Event 21 September**

- The dog show would use the field adjacent to the village hall by kind permission of the Horton family. Barnyard were once again sponsoring the dog show rosettes and a judge and stewards had been organized.
- There would be a produce show in the hall with refreshments and 3 categories of competition all carrying on the theme of The Green Festival. Visitors to the hall would be given tokens to vote for their winning choice (creator's identity not disclosed) in each category with adult & childrens' classes. Children's activities would also be organized. The categories would be:
  - A novelty cake on the theme All Creatures Great & Small (only the decorating would be judged)
  - A flower or plant arrangement in an upcycled container eg an old boot
  - A handcrafted creature (All Creatures Great & Small) - knitted, crocheted, stitched, junk modelling etc

10) **Music event**

- Following the success of the Abba event Cllr Littler would organize a further event potentially on 30 November. Details would be confirmed.

11) **Highways Potholes drains and gullies survey**

- Councillor McSweeney reported that Councillors Beecroft, Cook, McSweeney and Geary had each been allocated to highways areas. Potholes, drains and gullies had been surveyed and to date 189 actionable defects had been reported to CWAC via the Report it app.
- The Chairman had requested clarification of repair costs for each pothole and the spend per head of population in Little Leigh compared to Chester. CWAC had not released the information and a dialogue had ensued. Councillors reported issues with the contactors, such as multiple operatives apparently doing nothing, multiple whole day road closures for pothole repairs taking only minutes and repeated revisits to the same areas. The Clerk would pass details of Temporary Road Orders to Cllr Littler for compilation.
- Cllr McSweeney informed councillors that CWAC was closing many reports off very swiftly without action.
- The Chairman would write an article for Grapevine and would continue to pressure Highways for data on pothole repairs.

**12) Correspondence**

- The Clerk had circulated correspondence from CWAC, NALC, ChALC, and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- The Clerk had completed the CWAC consultation on Household waste recycling centres (tips)

13) **Finance**

- *Res 2 16.07.24*: Councillors approved the following expenditure

Proposed Cllr Beecroft seconded Cllr Mc Sweeney voting unanimous

£384	<i>Income refund from J Parker Bulbs for failed bluebell and anemone bulbs</i>
£20	Cheshire Community Action membership
£281.80	HMRC tax April to July
£1127.96	Clerk salary April to July
£200	Cllr Jones roof repair to village hall
£101.62	E Cormick plants for planters.

*Res 3 16.07.24: Councillors agreed to amend bank account signatories*

*The balance in the account on 16 July was £20,346.53*

10) **Planning**

- Hydrogen pipeline-consultation for this area expected 2025
- Winnington Tata estate-pending with CWAC
- CO2 pipeline- consultation planned for end 2024
- Land at Hall Lane extension to stables and forge-pending with CWAC.
- The Barn and Bungalow at the Hollybush- councillors had given evidence at the appeal against CWAC refusal of permission for short term lets. The planning inspector's decision was awaited.
- Ash House Ash House Lane- planning enforcement was involved concerning alleged industrial development without planning permission.
- Crumleigh Heath Farm retrospective application for lighting poles -pending with CWAC.
- The Chairman would meet residents to familiarise herself with the Chapel farm situation.
- Wallerscote solar farm- Cllr King had spoken at the CWAC planning meeting objecting to the development as it would have resulted in an additional HGV travelling along Runcorn Road every 5 minutes for 6 days a week. The increased traffic adjacent to the narrow footpath to Barnton was of particular concern. There were also biodiversity issues about the limebed which would be buried in imported soil. CWAC had refused the application on Highways grounds. Little Leigh's Environment committee would organize an awareness campaign and the Chairman would liaise with her counterparts in neighbouring affected towns and parishes.

11) **Matters for next meeting**

- Highways survey results
- Village show and dog show
- Music event
- Wallerscote Solar Farm
- Village Hall beech trees

12) The meeting closed at 8.15pm. Date of next meeting 24 September 2024