

LITTLE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 14 January 2025 @ 7pm

1) Attendance

Councillors Beecroft, Cook, Geary, Jones, King and McSweeney were present with ward councillor Gibbon. Apologies were tendered from Cllrs Littler and ward councillors Marshall and Wright. 7 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. Cllr Geary declared a personal interest in the Chapel farm retrospective application and took no part in the discussion on this agenda item.

3) There were no public submissions

4) Minutes of November meeting

Res 1 14.01.2025 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2024 were approved. Proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Beecroft voting unanimous

5) **Clerk's report**

- Cllr Beecroft had met with United Utilities regarding Hole House Lane road surface repairs and low water pressure incidents throughout the village. The water pressure had been turned down due to pipe leaks but remained consistent and above the level required. It was thought that issues could be caused by pressure reduction valves in peoples' houses so advice would be put on the Facebook page. United Utilities would liaise with CWAC Highways regarding surface repairs in Hole House Lane. The pipes in Hole House Lane were on a list to be repaired after 1 April 2025.
- A grit bin would be purchased to replace the damaged bin on Hole House Lane hill as CWAC would not supply one.
- The Jersey Boys event had been enjoyed by those who attended but the event had made a financial loss.
- Cllr Geary had investigated the feasibility of siting a defibrillator at the Baptist Church in Ash House Lane but this had not been possible. She would meet with representatives of the Baptist Church.
- The Carols around the tree event had been well attended.

6) **Ward Councillors report**

- A 4.99% increase in the CWAC council tax was anticipated due to overspends in addition to rises in the Police and Fire brigade precepts.
- Due to the revised National Planning Policy Framework CWAC needed to double the housing planned across CWAC and the previous 11 year land reserve had been reduced to a 2 to 3 year supply. A 5 year supply was needed. Cllr Beecroft would investigate the implications of land banking and housing already in the pipeline. Although Little Leigh was not a Local Service

Centre it was possible that housing would be needed in the village.
Councillors expressed a preference for affordable housing for local people.

- CWAC delays remained in dealing with planning applications.
- Improvements were planned at the Anderton Boat Lift.
- Cathy McCardle had been appointed as the CWAC Director of Place and had already flagged up slow decision making.
- CWAC and Cheshire East had written to the Deputy Prime Minister indicating a wish to be considered together for devolution and for Mayoral elections to be delayed to 2027.
- There was a £130M backlog in Highways maintenance and £19M per year was needed to maintain Highways in a steady state.
- Ward councillor funds remained available.

7) **Little Leigh Strategic plan**

Councillor Cook had input information gathered at the meeting on 21 November and the question set was now 80% complete. The survey was aspirational and would provide useful data for grant applications etc. A separate Grapevine edition would be issued in February and QR codes would be placed around the village and on noticeboards to encourage people to use smartphones to respond to the 10 minute survey. The survey targeted adults and children and a YouTube video was being produced. Cllr Cook was thanked for his work.

8) **VE day 80th Anniversary 8 May event**

Councillors decided not to hold a village event but to publicise other local events.

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

- A resident had sustained an injury tripping on a pothole which had subsequently been repaired. Problems remained with the Report it app.
- Shutley and Brakeley Lanes were subject to secondary gritting.

10) **Correspondence**

- The Clerk had circulated correspondence from CWAC, NALC and ChALC,
- The Police and Crime Commissioner had consulted on a further increase in the police precept.

11) **Finance**

- *Res 2 14.01.2025: Councillors approved the following expenditure*

£860	<i>income Jersey Boys tickets</i>
£55	<i>Vision ICT certificate</i>
£510	<i>St Michaels church village hall rent</i>
£52.50	<i>Cllr Beecroft strategic plan meeting refreshments</i>

Res 3 14.01.2025 Councillors approved the 2025/26 budget which the Clerk had prepared Proposed Cllr Cook seconded Cllr Geary voting unanimous.

Res4 14.01.2025 Councillors agreed the precept should be held at £9555 which would result in a small reduction in the parish element of the council tax. Proposed Cllr Cook seconded Cllr Geary voting unanimous

The balance in the account on 14 January was £16780.88

13) **Planning**

- CO2 pipeline-LLPC had commented on the Above Ground Installations
- Winnington Tata estate-pending with CWAC
- The Granary at the Hollybush-pending with CWAC
- Land at Hall Lane extension to stables and forge-approved by CWAC
- Brakeley Lodge extension-approved by CWAC.
- Ash House Ash House Lane- CWAC planning enforcement had requested a planning permission application. The Clerk had written about the lack of enforcement action. Cllr Gibbon would investigate further.
- Chapel Farm Shutley Lane- CWAC planning enforcement officers had secured a retrospective planning application to regularise the position with regards to the barn. The Parish Council had asked that the excess demolition waste be removed from the site and expressed concern about the security lighting and CCTV which was affecting properties as far away as Ash House Lane.

14) The meeting closed at 8.20pm. Date of next meeting 18 March 2025