

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LEEDS PARISH COUNCIL
Held on in the Village Hall on Tuesday 11th September 2007 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs Fort
Mrs Graham
Mr Green
Mr Griffiths
Mrs Harrison

In attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk, Press and Public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Harrison.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Cutler and Bubb.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Public Comments.

Mr Stevens from Ashbank Cottages attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the street cleaning around the cottages.

He reported that it was his opinion that the street sweeping had not been undertaken to a satisfactory standard, and he passed photographs to the Parish Council to support his concerns.

Councillor Harrison reported on the current situation regarding the street sweeping and stated that she would liaise with MBC regarding this matter.

Action: Councillor Harrison to action.

Mr Stevens stated that the bollards installed at the cottages were looking nice.

Mr Bristow asked whether the pathway from Ashbank Cottages to the small bridge on the B2163 could be cut back. This was discussed and it was noted that the footpath from the Churchyard to Ashbank Cottages was also in need of cutting back.

Councillor Harrison reported on the recent discussions that she had held with Kent Highways and stated that she would log these problems with them.

She reported on the current outstanding highway matters that were due to be actioned by Kent Highways.

Mr Bristow stated that the hedges along Burberry Lane needed further cutting back.

Mr White asked whether the trees could also be cut back at Little Foxes.

Councillor Harrison reported that this matter was in hand and would be actioned by Kent Highways within the next two weeks.

It was reported that campers had been seen in the church car park. The Clerk was asked to liaise with MBC to ascertain the progress of the repair to the height barrier.

Action: Clerk to action.

It was also reported that the drains along the B2163 were blocked and in need of clearing of debris, and the 30mph repeater signs were needed within the parish to enforce the speed limits.

Action: Councillor Harrison to liaise with Kent Highways.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes were agreed (Fort/Green), these were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising.

No matters were raised.

6. Newsletter.

It was agreed that Councillor Graham would draft the newsletter this month.

7. Ward Councillor Report.

Councillor Parvin gave his report to the meeting.

He reported that the Road Traffic Act stated that repeater signs were not required if there was street or footway lighting within the Parish before a set period of time.

He spoke regarding some highway matters that had been discussed under the public part of the meeting.

Councillor Parvin spoke regarding the enforcement of the weight restriction in the village. He reported that the police had recently prosecuted a Spanish lorry driver. He stated that although Highways were responsible for the enforcement of the weight restriction, the police also needed to be in attendance.

It was noted that the new PCSO for Leeds was in attendance at the meeting and he was asked to fetch the PC's concerns about this matter to the attention of his superiors.

Councillor Griffiths reported that in her view the traffic through the village had increase on the last two weeks. Councillor Parvin suggested that this might be due to the recent road works being undertaken in Maidstone Town Centre.

8. Correspondence.

The correspondence received was noted by members.

9. Planning Matters.

Councillor Fort reported on the planning decisions of the Planning Committee.

10. Financial Matters.

The financial statements for the Parish Council Account and Playing Field Account were presented to Councillors. These were discussed, and accepted by members (Fort/Green).

The Clerk reported that as the review of the Parish Councils Standing Orders had taken place that it also needed to review and adopt a set of Financial Regulations.

This was discussed and it was proposed by Councillor Fort and seconded by Councillor Green to progress this matter.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda and circulate draft Financial Regulations to all Councillors.

Councillor Harrison reported that she had been in contact with KCC regarding grants available for various projects at the Playing Field. She reported that the KCC Councillor Brian Woods had been invited to attend the next meeting.

11. Police Report.

Councillor Harrison welcomed PCSO John White to the meeting. He gave his crime report to all present and outlined his duties within the Parish of Leeds.

12. Leeds Playing Field.

Councillor Green stated that the redecoration of the pavilion had now been completed and needed to be inspected.

Councillor Harrison informed members that the hedges had been cut back as agreed. She stated that there was still a small amount of nettles that were in need of cutting back to enable the water meter to be read. Councillor Griffith stated that she would arrange for this to be undertaken and the reading to be forwarded to the Clerk.

Action: Vegetation to be cut back and water meter to be read.

Councillor Harrison reported further on grant opportunities that may be available for the Playing Field. She reported on a possible grant application for the resurfacing of the tennis courts. She stated that the deadline for grant applications was 1st October. It was agreed that Councillor Harrison and Councillor Graham would work together to progress this application.

Action: Cllr Harrison and Graham to progress.

13. Highway Matters.

It was reported that there had been 7 accidents outside of Ashbank cottages within 3 days, this had prompted a meeting with Highways and as a result of this action had now been taken to install bollards and additional signage was also being discussed. Councillor Harrison stated that she would keep the Parish Council informed of the progress of this matter.

Councillor Harrison reported that she and Councillor Griffiths had met with a representative from MBC to discuss the street lighting within Leeds and as a result of this meeting they were looking into adopting the street lighting. The Clerk was asked to send details of the current maintenance contract to the officer.

Action: Clerk to progress.

14. Parish Plan.

Councillor Fort reported on the event to launch the Parish Plan on 4th September 2007 and stated that this had been well attended. She informed members that the next meeting of the Parish Plan Committee would take place on 18th September 2007.

15. Kent international Gateway.

Councillor Harrison spoke regarding this matter. The Clerk reported that Thurnham Parish Council was in the process of arranging the first meeting of representatives from Parish Council and she would inform members when a date had been confirmed.

16. Parish Council Website.

Councillor Harrison reported on the progress of the website. The Clerk was asked to email information as and when appropriate.

It was suggested that the Parish Council should publicise the launch of the website. This was discussed and it was agreed that a press release should be sent to the KM, Downs Mail and put in the Parish News.

17. Further questions from public.

It was reported that the ivy currently growing up the pavilion was in need of cutting back. This and other maintenance in the village was discussed. It was suggested that the Parish Council might wish to consider entering into a maintenance contract with a company. This was debated and it was agreed that members should undertake an inspection of the village to ascertain the type of work to include within a specification.

18. Urgent Matters.

Members considered the finalists for the village sign entries and agreed on the winning entries.

It was agreed to place LDF on next agenda.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

19. Date of next Parish Council Meeting.

Tuesday 9th October 2007.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.37pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____