

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LEEDS PARISH COUNCIL
Held on in the Village Hall on Tuesday 13th October 2009 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr Aitkin
 Mr Cutler
 Mrs Finlay
 Mrs Fort
 Mrs Graham
 Mrs Harrison

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

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Harrison.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillor Bubb.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Public Comments.

No matters were raised.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (Finlay/Fort), these were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising.

KCC Councillor Cooke spoke regarding the safe crossing at the school, he informed members that this would come before Council in March 2010 and would cost approximately £75,000. He stated that it was unlikely that the project would be undertaken in the near future.

Councillor Harrison spoke regarding the problems with children crossing the busy road. This was discussed and the police representative present stated that he saw no reason why the police would not give their support to the crossing.

6. Police Report.

The police representative gave a crime report to all present.

He reported on the plan of action for Bonfire and Halloween nights and informed members that extra police support would be given for this period.

Councillor Graham spoke regarding the problem with youths at the pavilion. The police stated that they were aware of this problem and suggested the use of anti-climb paint to prevent the problem continuing.

7. Parish Council Website.

Alan James attended the meeting and gave a report on the usage of the website.

Councillor Harrison spoke regarding an anonymous email received via the website regarding the new village sign.

A discussion took place on how this should be dealt with. It was agreed that as this was received anonymously that no response should be given.

Councillor Graham stated that the details and history of the village sign project had now been placed on the website for all to see.

8. Ward Councillors Report.

Borough Councillor Peter Parvin attended the meeting. He apologised for his absence at recent Parish Council Meetings due to his Mayoral Duties.

He spoke regarding the Unveiling of the Village Sign Event and the successful day.

He reported on the developments and work of MBC.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke attended the meeting and gave a report to members.

He reported on the issues relating to KCC and their budgets.

Councillor Harrison spoke regarding the Joint Parish Group and asked Councillor Cooke if he would consider making a financial contribution from his member grant towards the group's ongoing costs. Councillor Cook agreed to this, subject to the necessary forms being submitted to KCC.

9. Correspondence.

The Clerk reported on the correspondence received during the course of the month.

Members discussed a letter received from Age Concern seeking a donation, this was considered and it was agreed that as there was no evidence as to how many Leeds residents this would assist that a grant would not be considered this year.

The Clerk was asked to write to Age Concern to inform them of the decision and to ask for further details to be sent regarding the benefits for Leeds should a future grant request be made.

Action: Clerk to progress.

10. Planning Matters.

Councillor Fort spoke regarding the planning application that had been received for Ledian Farm. She stated that due to the impact that this would have on the village that the Parish Council should arrange a separate planning meeting to enable residents to give their views. This was agreed by all present.

Members questioned whether all of the planning details had been received with the planning application. The Clerk was asked to make contact with MBC to ascertain the situation regarding the planning details and it was agreed that a planning meeting would be held for the residents of the village on Saturday 24th October from 10am – 12noon.

Action: Clerk to progress.

11. 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 (Cutler/Fort).

12. Leeds Playing Field.

Councillor Aitkin reported on the playing field and the progress of the installation of the pavilion kitchen and redecoration by Hollingbourne Football Club.

He stated that he was still progressing the training sessions, and that the pitches now need to be marked out for events.

Councillor Aitkin spoke regarding his views on the hedging at the playing field, and he stated that these needed to be removed to reveal the field and make it more transparent for safety reasons.

It was reported that the missing bins at the playing field and church had not yet been replaced by the Borough Council. The Clerk stated that she would follow this up with MBC.

Action: Clerk to progress.

The Clerk was asked to report the height barrier at the Church Car Park to MBC as it had been damaged recently.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Councillor Harrison stated that she was trying to set up a meeting with David Terry to discuss funding opportunities for the playing field.

She stated that she was still progress the purchase of a container for the playing field.

13. Highway Matters.

Councillor Cook reported that he and Jenny Whittle were trying to get a meeting of parish councils together to discuss highway issues.

Councillor Cutler spoke regarding the more cost effective options for a safe crossing outside of the school, Councillor Cook stated that he would look into this.

Councillor Harrison reported that the high friction surfacing outside of Ash Bank Cottages had yet to be reinstated following the recent road works. Councillor Cook stated that he would into this.

Councillor Finlay informed the meeting that she was due to meet with Ban Hilden to discuss highways matters on Tuesday.

A discussion took place regarding the weight restriction through the village and the possibility of having this changed to further restrict the access of lorries into the village.

Councillor Parvin spoke regarding the time and trouble that the parish council had in securing the current weight limit.

It was agreed that the solution to the problem with lorries was enforcement and at present it was agreed that the level of enforcement had no impact on the through traffic in Leeds.

14. Village Design Statement.

Councillor Finlay reported on the progress of the VDS. She stated that the first public exhibition was due to be held on 14th November.

She informed the meeting that the group was in the process of applying for a grant from Awards for All.

15. Kent International Gateway.

Councillor Harrison reported on the current situation regarding KIG.

16. Further questions from public.

No matters were raised.

17. Urgent Matters.

Councillor Harrison spoke regarding the Christmas Tree and it was agreed that Councillor Graham would liaise with Leeds Castle regarding the village Tree.

18. Date of next Parish Council Meeting.

Tuesday 10th November 2009.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____