

The Minutes of the meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held in St Nicolas Church on Tuesday, 10th February 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Councillors present: Bowles
China
Fort (arrived late to the meeting)
Govett
Springford
Young

Also present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillors Govett and Fort.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Fort (arrived late to the meeting) and Gallihawk, KCC Councillor Gary Cooke and the Police.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Bowles - Relief Road due to current employment at Leeds Castle.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all members. These were proposed by Cllr China as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Bowles and agreed by all present. The Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Parish Council Committees and Representative to Outside Bodies.

The Parish Council Committees and Representatives to Outside Bodies were considered by Members. It was agreed that Cllr Bowles would take responsibility for footpaths, Lorry Watch and Speed Watch.

Action: Clerk to amend Councillor details.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident attended the meeting and spoke regarding Ashbank Cottages. He confirmed that the bollards protecting the cottages had now been put into place following the accident at Christmas.

The resident spoke regarding plans to insert raised kerbing outside of the cottages.

He stated that KCC Councillor Cooke had said that he would finance this from his budget if not financed by Kent County Council, however to date no action had been taken.

He asked the Parish Council to establish the current situation with regards to the installation of the raised kerbing.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Councillor Cooke.

Concerns were raised with regards to the anti-slip surfacing outside of the cottages which was wearing and was in need of replacement.

The resident stated that he had been in contact with KCC regarding this matter.

A discussion took place regarding speeding in the parish and the possibility of having speed ramps in the village. Cllr Govett stated that the problem in having such traffic calming measures was the restrictions of the B2163 being a B classified road.

He spoke regarding the need for a Relief/Spur road and stated that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

Cllr Fort arrived at the meeting at 7:40pm and took the Chair.

Cllr Fort spoke regarding the passing of MBC Councillor Peter Parvin and his work for the Parish. She stated that he would be sadly missed and informed members that the Parish Council had passed their condolences onto his wife Daphne Parvin.

She also spoke regarding the sad passing of Vicar Norman Dabs who died on the same day and his work within the Parish.

Cllr Young stated that she would be attending both funerals.

A resident reported that the stile on footpath KH244 at Forge Lane was unsafe.

Action: Cllr Bowles to liaise with KCC regarding this matter.

Concerns were raised with regards to the parking on the footpaths outside of the playing field during Sunday football.

Cllr China stated that he would liaise with the football club regarding this matter.

Action: Cllr China to progress.

It was reported that a vehicle was parked poorly outside of Tower House at Forge Lane.

Cllr Fort stated that the Parish Council could only advise the police of this matter as the vehicle was legally taxed.

7. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke gave his apologies to the meeting.

8. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

No matters were raised.

9. Highways Matters.

Concerns were raised regarding the number of tyre signs which had been put up in the parish to advertise a local company.

The Clerk was asked to bring these to the attention of MBC Planning Enforcement.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Cllr Govett informed the meeting that the Parish Council had been speaking with KCC Councillor Cooke regarding the Spur Road for the past two meetings.

He stated that the Parish Council felt that if development was going to go ahead in the area, that the infrastructure needed to be in place first.

He stated that over 1000 houses were due to be built in Langley at present and vehicles associated with this would still use the village.

He confirmed that Councillor Cooke had indicated that he was fully supportive of the Link Road and had stated that there was possible funding available. He had also confirmed that this had the full support of KCC Leader Paul Carter and Maidstone Borough Council.

Cllr Govett referred to an article recently published in the Downs Mail from the Chairman of Langley Parish Council stating that they did not want a Spur/Relief Road as it would promote development, however they would not mind a Bypass.

He stated that with this article in mind, he felt that the Parish Council should be making its view public and he proposed to place an article in the local press.

Cllr Govett stated that Leeds Parish Council were supportive of the need for some development in the area but were concerned that the infrastructure needed to be in place first, he stated that the Parish Council should engage with MBC and KCC to push for the infrastructure to support development.

A draft article was circulated to all present and it was agreed that this should be sent to the Downs Mail and Kent Messenger.

Action: Cllr Govett to progress.

10. Special Constable Update.

Cllr Govett reported that a Special Constable was currently in training for Leeds.

11. Police Report.

Apologies were received from the Police and a report was noted in their absence.

12. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence received during the course of the month was noted by members.

13. Planning Matters.

15/500311/FULL Kialami 2 Milners, Upper Street, Leeds, Kent - No Objections.
Erection of a rear conservatory.

14. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members. This was discussed and approved by all present. (Fort/Young).

The cheques for payment were then signed by two authorised signatories.

15. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr Fort spoke regarding the maintenance for the parish and asked the Clerk to contact Chris Brace to see if you wish to continue undertaking the maintenance on a regular basis for the parish during the summer.

Action: Clerk to progress.

It was reported that the fencing by the allotments has still not been repaired following an accident a year ago.

Action: Clerk to write to Strutt and Parker.

Clean-Up Day – The Chairman reported that KCC Councillor Gary Cooke was organising a community clean up day in the parish and a date would be set in the near future.

16. Church Car Park Recycling.

CLlr China reported that the recycling units at the car park were now being emptied regularly, but the area around them was not being kept tidy.

This was discussed and it was suggested that members should consider the long-term future of the recycling units.

CLlr China stated that these appeared to be well used and therefore it was agreed to monitor the situation over the forthcoming months.

CLlr China stated that rubbish was being dumped in the car park and there was a need for a rubbish bin.

It was agreed that the Clerk would order a rubbish bin for the car park.

Action: Clerk to order rubbish bin.

CLlr China informed members that he and the Clerk were still in the process of seeking quotations to have the height barrier at the car park repaired.

17. Leeds Playing Field and Pavillion.

CLlr China reported on the progress of the Playing Field and Pavilion.

It was reported that complaints have been received regarding the dog mess at the playing field. It was agreed to seek the advice of the MBC Dog Warden with regards to this problem.

Action: Clerk to liaise with MBC Dog Warden.

The Clerk reported that she was in the process of submitting a grant application to KCC Councillor Gary Cooke for assistance with the refurbishment of the play equipment at the Playing Field.

18. Street Lighting.

The Clerk informed members that they were number street lights currently not working within the parish and a schedule was circulated to all present.

This was noted and it was agreed that repairs should be undertaken to streetlight numbers 4, 26, 30 and 40. The contractor should be asked to investigate the problems with streetlights 35 to 39 and quote for this work.

It was agreed that streetlights 16 and 44 would not be repaired and would be left unlit.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Contractor.

19. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.

No matters were raised.

20. Public Comments and Observations.

No further matters were raised.

21. Urgent Matters.

CLlr Young informed members that the Rochester Bridge Trust had nominated to sell a number of their homes in the Parish and these were due to go to auction in May 2015.

Concerns were raised with regards to the condition of the Chapel Cottages in the parish and it was agreed that Hollingbourne Property Services should be contacted regarding these.

22. Date of next meeting.

10th March 2015.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.05pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____