

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 9th July 2024
at 7pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini
 China
 Ingram
 Springford*

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr China.

1. Apologies.

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies were received and accepted from Greeff (work) and Cllr Fort (Holiday).

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

No applications to consider.

3. To appoint Committees & Representatives and outside bodies.

The appointment of Committees, representatives and outside bodies were proposed by Cllr China, seconded by Cllr Bernini and agreed by all present.

Planning

All Councillors

Finance

Cllrs. China

Cllr. Fort

Highways

Cllr. Fort

Cllr. Bernini

Cllr. Greeff

Representatives

Footpaths	Cllrs. Springford
Police Liaison	Cllr. Ingram
KALC	Cllrs. China
Playing Field/Pavillion	Cllr. China
Environmental/Maintenance	Cllrs. China
Street Lighting	Cllrs. China
Parish Magazine	Cllrs. Fort, China
JPG	Cllrs. Fort
School Liaison	Cllr. Greeff
Public Transportation	Cllr. Springford

Website	Clerk
CCTV	Cllrs. China & Greeff

Other Appointments & Memberships

Internal Auditor - Martin Thomas and Co
External Auditor - Mazars
Bank – Cooperative
Kent Association of local Councils (KALC)
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

4. Declaration of Interests.

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

No interests were declared.

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

There were no dispensations to consider.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all members.

These were proposed by Cllr Bernini as a true record, seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

7. Public Comments and Observations.

Residents attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding Upper Street, they reported that two of their vehicles had been crashed into whilst parked along the road, the most recent incident being the past weekend. They stated that it was dangerous to park and dangerous for pedestrians and asked the Parish Council if they could liaise with Kent County Council to have the road markings extended. A discussion took place, and it was agreed that Cllr Bernini would take this up with Kent Highways.

Action: Cllr Bernini to progress.

The residents also raised concerns regarding pollution along this stretch of the road and asked the Parish Council to consider pollution tests.

The Chairman stated that pollution tests had already been undertaken at various location points in Leeds and the results showed that they were all under permitted levels.

A resident raised concerns that the footpath on Upper Street to Lower Street was restricted by overgrown vegetation.

The Clerk confirmed that this had been logged with KCC.

He also raised concerns about the Sycamore trees growing from the retaining wall on Upper Street. Cllr Bernini confirmed that he had met with KCC Officers on site to inspect these, and he would follow this up.

Action: Cllr Bernini to progress.

8. **Highways Matters.**

Members discussed an email received from a resident regarding parking in Brogden Crescent, they discussed the request to consider double yellow lines for this area.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would liaise with the Football Club regarding parking.

Action: Clerk to action.

Foley Hill Water Leak – Clerk to liaise with KCC Highways as drain cover dangerous.

Action: Clerk to action

School Crossing – Cllr Bernini to liaise with Highways regarding safe crossing options at the school.

9. **Clerks Report.**

To consider the Clerks Report.

Community Safety Survey 2024

We're thrilled to announce that the Community Safety Survey 2024 is now LIVE! As part of our commitment to enhancing safety in Maidstone, we invite you to participate and to share the survey within your networks.

Why Participate? Community safety is a collective effort involving various agencies, bodies, and interested parties. The Safer Maidstone Partnership, our Community Safety Partnership (CSP), is dedicated to implementing initiatives that benefit our borough.

Our 2022-25 Community Safety Partnership Plan focuses on four core priorities:

- Protecting Our Communities: Preventing serious, violent, and organized crime, including modern-day slavery.
- Keeping Children and Young People Safe: Relationships change lives, not just resources.
- Reducing Domestic Abuse: Domestic abuse concerns all of us.
- Creating a Safe Town Centre: A space where everyone feels secure.

Your Voice Matters: By participating in this survey, residents will help shape our next CSP Plan, contributing to a safer Maidstone. Please share details of the survey with your networks and encourage residents, friends, and family to participate too. Share the survey link widely—it's essential that we hear from as many people as possible. There is a poster and a QR code attached which can be shared on social media and displayed/used at engagement events.

How to Get Involved: Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey on Community Safety and Policing in Maidstone. Your responses are crucial in guiding our efforts.

Survey link: <https://LetsTalkMaidstone.uk.engagementhq.com/community-safety-survey-2024>

Survey duration: Approximately 6-8 minutes

Survey closes: 25 August 2024

10. **Chairman's Report.**

To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that the Churchyard strim would take place on July the 20th at 9:30am.

11. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

To receive and approve the financial statement and payments – report circulated with meeting papers.

The financial statement was approved proposed by Cllr Bernini seconded by Cllr Ingram and agreed by all present.

12. KCC Councillors Report.

Cllr Cooke was not present at the meeting.

13. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her apologies to the meeting.

14. Planning Matters.

a. To consider Planning Applications Received.

24/502437/TPOA - Ringers Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1SL

TPO Application to reduce one silver birch (T1) by 25% currently standing at 14m high with a lat spread of 8m to a height & spread of 10m & 5.5m respectively due to excessive over shading and debris within a small rear garden. Also to remove one field maple tree (T2) due to excessive over shading and debris within a small area.

b. MBC Decisions and Appeals

24/502076/TCA

Little Foxes Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RU

Conservation Area Notification: T1 Yew - Crown raise by approximately 1-2 ft. Intended height once pruned, W 3m H 5m. T2 Yew - Crown raise by approximately 1-2ft. Intended height once pruned, W 3m H 5m. T3 Holm Oak - to side back to boundary and clear from lamp post. Intended height will not change once pruned, approximately 1m will be removed from the width.

No Objections

24/501793/TCA

Ringers Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1SL

Conservation area notification: Raise crown of one Beech (T1) to 4.5m; Raise crown of one Oak (T2) to 4.5m.

No Objections

Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters

No other matters were discussed.

15. Parish Maintenance.

To receive an update on Parish Maintenance.

Members agreed to walk the village to assess the maintenance on 5th August. The Chairman to email members regarding this nearer the time.

Cllr China reported that a manhole cover outside of the church had sunk.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

16. Leeds Playground, Playing Field, Tennis Courts & Pavillion.

To receive a report on Leeds Playing Field.

To review the annual hire charges for the Playing Field and Pavillion.

Members ratified the review if the Conditions of Hire for the Playing Field and Pavillion. (China/Bernini)

A report was circulated regarding the review of the playing field and pavillion hire charges. This identified a need to increase the hire charges to cover the expenditure and upkeep costs.

Cllr Bernini briefed members on the need to increase the hire charges and the work undertaken during the review.

He proposed an increase for the 24/25 season to £3250, with a further increase for the 25/26 season to £3500. It was also proposed that the football club covered any additional grass cutting themselves. This was seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to write to the Loose Lions to inform them of the increased charges

Cllr China reported that the fencing at the play area had been repaired in line with the safety inspection.

He spoke regarding the quotation of the external electricity supply for the sum of £397.60. It was proposed by Cllr Bernini to have this work undertaken, this was seconded by Cllr Springford and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to accept quotation for work as agreed.

17. Street Lighting.

To receive a report on Parish Street Lighting.

No matters were raised.

18. Church Yard Lighting.

To receive a report on Church Yard Lighting.

Cllr Bernini reported that the Churchyard Lighting would be completed by 17th July 24. He was awaiting a revised invoice for the work and would forward this to the Clerk for payment when the work had been completed and inspected.

19. Resilience/Emergency Plan.

Work in progress – to be completed by September.

20. Parish Council Events.

Members discussed the next event planned for 24th August 2024.

The budget for the event was circulated to all members for approval. This was proposed by Cllr Bernini, seconded by Cllr Springford and agreed by all present.

21. Items for next Agenda.

No matters were raised.

22. Date of next meeting.

10th September 2024.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.40pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____