

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LEEDS PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Leeds Village Hall on Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Fort
Govett
Young
Wallace
China
Springford
Gallihawk

Also: Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington, KCC Councillor Gary Cooke, Katie Lewis – KCC, press, and public.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Fort.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Peter Parvin.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Govett as a true record, these were seconded by Cllr Young 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. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident from Burberry Lane attended the meeting to raise concerns that the gullies along this route were full of mud. Kent County Council were present at the meeting and took note of this to action.

Penfold Hill/Lower Street sign - It was reported that this sign was damaged.

Action: Clerk to progress.

6. Kent County Councillor Report.

Kent County Councillor Gary Cooke gave a report to the meeting.

An update on the B2163 was given by Katie Lewis of Kent County Council.

She reported that the remedial works now commence and the strengthening process had been completed, the reinstatement of the services was currently being undertaken starting with the reinstatement of the sewage.

She reported that a ground penetrating radar survey was due to be undertaken during the week. This would scan 1.5 to 2m below the road surface and the results would be available by April.

She informed the meeting that the surrounding lanes would be repaired and the verges would be reinstated at a later date.

She reported that extensive works were to be undertaken on Willington Street as the road needed to be reconstructed in places, this would take place when the B2163 was reopened.

Concerns were raised as to where the traffic would be diverted. Katie Lewis confirmed that it would not be diverted through Leeds, it would be diverted via Maidstone Town Centre. She stated that signage would be placed strategically to try to avoid traffic diverting through Leeds.

Cllr Cooke spoke regarding the proposed weight reduction for the village from 17 tonnes to 7.5 tonnes.

He stated that there was no set criteria for this, but Kent County Council needed to establish the impact on businesses and uses.

Questions were raised regarding the information already held by Kent County Council and whether this would be adequate. Councillor Cooke stated that the information to date was not sufficient to support the weight limit reduction.

He stated that a consultation with surrounding villages and businesses needed to be undertaken and he confirmed that this consultation had already commenced.

He spoke regarding the time frames and stated that it was anticipated that this would be reported to the Joint Transportation Board Meeting in October 2014 with possible implementation shortly after.

He stated that the B2163 would be reopened when it was safe to do so in terms of highway, property and personal injury.

Cllr Cooke stated that the total cost of the works was anticipated to be in the region of £3,000,000 with half of this being spent on Leeds village.

He opened the meeting for public questions.

A resident asked if the repairs to Willington Street could have been undertaken while Leeds was closed.

Katie Lewis stated that Willington Street was currently the diversion route for the B2163 and therefore this was not possible.

Cllr Cooke stated that this is not the capacity to Willington Street and the B2163 closed at once. Residents again raised concerns at the decision by KCC to close Willington Street for repairs after B2163 was opened as it would automatically become a diversion route.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the data needed to support the 7.5 tonne weight restriction. He challenged KCC on other ways to capture the data to accelerate the process.

Katie Lewis stated that KCC had already started the consultation process for the reduction in the weight limit.

Cllr Cooke stated that a consultation would also take place after Willington Street had reopened and the traffic had returned to normal.

Cllr China asked whether KCC would stop vehicles diverting through Leeds when Willington Street was closed. He questioned the signage currently placed along Willington Street indicating that it

would be closed when the B2163 had been opened as these signs would focus minds that the B2163 was the route to use.

Residents in attendance at the meeting were given the opportunity to ask questions. A general discussion took place regarding the Leeds Langley Bypass, the weight restriction and the enforcement of this.

Cllr Cooke stated that the Bypass was not currently on the cards as there was no finance for this, however he stated that the closure of the B2163 had focused minds. He spoke regarding the Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan and Kent County Council's concerns that the infrastructure was lacking.

He stated that the vulnerability of the road network had been exposed by the situation in Leeds.

Cllr Fort thanked Cllr Cooke and Katie Lewis for their report.

8. Highways Matters.

a. General Report.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding highways matters and thanked Cllr Cooke for the response to the letter written by the Parish Council. This was circulated to all members.

He spoke regarding the need for joined up thinking.

b. Update on Scoping Work by Peter Brett associates re B2163.

Cllr Govett stated that this report had been concluded and had been circulated and approved by members.

9. Special Constable Update.

Cllr Govett stated that a police recruitment event in the Village Hall, this was likely to be on 5 April 2014.

He stated that the Parish Council was funding the promotion of this event and ideally it would like see a local person apply to undertake this role.

He reported that a Special Constable could work a minimum of four hours a week and the purpose of the Open Day event was to enable people to come along to liaise with the police and establish further details.

He stated that this matter was being progressed and it was hoped that the Parish Council may be able to finance two Special Constables and still have the funds left from the approved budget.

He confirmed that a Special Constable would have the same powers as a Police Constable and training would take place towards the end of the year.

10. Police Report.

Apologies were received from the police.

11. Correspondence.

1. Consultation Kent Freedom Pass with a Young Persons Travel Pass

The consultation on replacing the Kent Freedom Pass with a Young Persons Travel Pass has commenced.

All details may be accessed via the following link:

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/TravelPass/consultationHome>

Cllr Fort reported that a letter had been received from the Woman's Institute raising concerns regarding the Parish Council's decision to finance the appointment of a Special Constable and the way in which this had been dealt with at the January Public Meeting.

She reported that the Parish Council had responded to this letter and a copy had been circulated to all members.

12. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

MA/14/0071 Leeds Castle.

Advertisement consent to display two freestanding signs, five banner signs and two flag signs on poles all non-illuminated.

MA/14/0249 Fulling Mill House, Caring Lane, Leeds.

Listed building consent for erection of a single storey extension to south-west elevation (resubmission of MA/13/2108)

MBC Planning Decisions

13/1591 THE TEN BELLS, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1SE Leeds

Change of use and conversion of existing building to a four bedroom single dwelling and erection of a car port as shown on plan numbers 1034/081, 1034/006, 1034/005, 1034/004, 1034/008, 1034/007, 1034/080 Revb, 1034/001 RevA, 1034/013 RevD, 1034/061, 1034.

Approved/Granted with Condition.

13/1592 THE TEN BELLS, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1SE

An application for conservation area consent for the removal of existing chimney and existing roof structures.

Approved/Granted with Conditions

13/1549 WATERSIDE PARK M20 J8, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT

Hybrid planning application (part outline-part detailed) for re-grading of site to form development platforms including the creation of new bunds and batters; the development of a new industrial estate.

Refused

13. Financial Matters.

The Financial Statements for the Parish Council and Leeds Playing Field were proposed by Cllr Young and seconded by Cllr Fort.

The cheques for payment were signed by two members of the Parish Council.

14. Parish Maintenance.

It was reported that rubbish was collecting around the recycling units at the Church Car Park. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Maidstone Borough Council regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to progress.

15. Leeds Playing Field.

Cllr Young reported that there was still a problem with the dog mess at the Playing Field. This was discussed and it was agreed that article should be placed in the parish magazine.

Action: Article to be placed in Parish magazine.

Cllr China asked when the goalpost would be erected on the junior football pitch. Council Young confirmed that this would be undertaken when the weather was dryer.

The Playing Fields were discussed, it was agreed that a general tidy up should take place and the Clerk was asked to liaise with Paul Waring regarding the tennis courts.

It was agreed that the rubbish bin should be installed as soon as possible, and that the windows in the pavilion should be replaced.

Action: Cllr Young and Clerk to action.

The Clerk reported that she had submitted a grant application to KCC for the refurbishment of the pavilion plumbing system.

16. Street Lighting.

No matters were raised.

17. Joint Parish Group.

Cllr Fort confirmed that the Joint Parish Group were in support of the 7.5 tonne weight limit restriction for the Leeds.

18. Public Comments.

A resident attended the meeting and raised concerns regarding the parking at the junction of Old Mill Road and the A20.

Cllr Cooke stated that he would liaise with Jenny Whittle to take action to deter the parking at this site as it fell within her constituency.

19. Urgent Matters.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was discussed by all present. It was agreed that the invitations to this meeting should be sent out to village organisations.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Members discussed the venue for Parish Council meetings. It was agreed that an alternative venue needed to be found as the Village Hall was booked and therefore not available for the Parish Council to use.

It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the Vicar, Nigel Fry, to ascertain whether the Church could be used for future meetings.

Action: Clerk to progress.

20. Date of Next Meeting.

8th April 2014.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9:36 PM

Signed _____

Dated _____