

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held in Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall on Tuesday, 14th June 2016 at 7:30 PM.

***Councillors present: Beale
China
Fort
Govett
Martin
Springford***

Also present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, KCC Councillor Gary Cooke, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Govett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Bowles.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

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

These were proposed by Cllr Fort as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Martin 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 attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the state of the village and the overgrown vegetation from Penfold Hill to Lower Street.

Cllr Govett stated that the cutting of the village vegetation was due to be undertaken by the contractor appointed by the Parish Council and by Kent County Council. Cllr Fort stated that KCC were due to cut the village this week however this has not yet happened.

Concerns were raised that the cuttings when not being collected by the contract and that they had not done a good job.

Cllr Govett stated that since the previous year the Parish Council had changed contractors after a tendering process which had taken longer than anticipated.

He stated that due to the unusual wet weather, vegetation in the parish had now grown out of control as it had in other areas and getting this back under control would not be a quick fix.

Members agreed that the current condition of the village was unacceptable and it was agreed that the contractor should be asked to undertake an urgent cut and sweep of the village from end to end.

The resident raised concerns that the cuttings left inside of the kerb from previous cuts had caused blocked gullies and drains in the parish.

Cllr China was asked to ascertain when Kent County Council were going to undertake their swathe cut in the village and then to coordinate the cutting of the parish by the Parish Councils contractor. Cllr Govett stated that the contractor needed to be made aware of the problems with the current cutting program and be given a chance to bring this under control as a one off. This was agreed by members.

KCC Councillor Cooke stated that KCC would be undertaking a bi-annual swathe cut in the near future. He stated that overgrown vegetation was now a major problem across the County due to the wet weather.

Cllr Beale was not part of the debate as she declared an interest in this item.

A general discussion took place regarding the vegetation and maintenance of the parish.

The Chairman summarised the discussions and stated that Cllr China would liaise with the current contractor to arrange an end to end of the parish to be undertaken as soon as possible.

Action: Cllr China to progress.

A resident asked about the maintenance of the kerbs and gullies within the parish and stated that these were in need of maintenance.

Councillor Cooke stated that KCC would deal with gullies and kerbs, but they would only deal with these if they were in a safety/critical situation.

6. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke referred to a written report that he had circulated to the Parish Council.

He informed members that Highways Officer Richard Emmett have now left his post and was on secondment to the Street Lighting project.

He stated that new officer Sue Laporte had now been appointed and he was due to meet with her regarding the priorities in the parish in the near future.

He stated that KCC had now appointed Contractors to undertake the pothole blitz in the County.

Cllr China spoke regarding the buildout at the top of the village and stated that this is currently obscured by vegetation.

Councillor Cooke stated that he would raise this with the Highways Officer at his meeting. He stated that there had been a number of accidents that the buildout may have contributed to and therefore these were currently being considered.

Councillor Cooke confirmed that he was due to hold a meeting with Helen Whateley MP regarding the relief road.

He informed members that he was holding You Decide Event on 7 July 2016 to consider any grant applications that have been submitted to him.

7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding matters of interest from Maidstone Borough Council and informed members that the Local Plan Regulation 19 had now been submitted to the Inspector and was currently awaiting a date for the Public Inquiry.

8. Highways Matters.

No further matters were raised.

9. Police Report.

Apologies were received from PCSO Thomas Maybank and a written report was noted in his absence. A discussion took place regarding a burglary in the parish and the action taken by the police regarding this.

It was noted that this was a particularly bad incident and it was felt that a police presence at a parish meeting to follow this up and allay the concerns of residents would have been beneficial.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding this matter.

10. Correspondence Report.

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

11. Planning Matters.

Cllr Govett informed the meeting that he and Cllr Fort had met with the Deputy CEO of Leeds Castle regarding their progress and development. He spoke regarding the planning applications submitted by the Castle and stated that they would like to work with the village to reduce the concerns regarding these proposals.

He stated that they had also discussed the noise from events at the Castle and stated that they were aware of the concerns regarding noise from these activities.

Cllr Fort stated that the Castle may withdraw its current planning application in order to have a dialogue with the Parish Council.

16/503654/LBC Leeds Castle

Listed Building Consent for the removal of Retable from Battell Hall and relocation of Leeds Castle Chapel (Gloriette); Installation of a replica of Retable within Battell Hall.

16/503203/LBC Arnold Yoke, Back Street, Leeds

LBC for the change of use of part of the existing barn to form two bedroom annexe to provide ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling, with the creation of external staircase, insertion of roof lights and changes to fenestration.

16/502585/FULL 1 Foley Hill Cottages Lower Street Leeds Kent ME17 1TL

Proposed two storey side extension.

16/503489/LBC Ledian Farm Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RZ

Listed building consent sought for the part demolition of listed ragstone boundary wall to provide access (and re-building where required).

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12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

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

13. Parish Maintenance.

No further matters were raised.

14. Leeds Playing Field and Pavillion.

Cllr China reported on the tennis courts and playing field.

15. Street Lighting.

No matters were raised.

16. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.

No matters were raised.

17. Policy Review.

It was agreed that the Policy Review would take place at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to circulate updated policies to all members.

18. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident in attendance spoke about Parish Council Cleanup Day. She stated that she had attended this event but no one had turned up.

Cllr Fort stated that this had been advertised in the Parish Magazine but not been well organised. She stated that another Cleanup Day would be organised for the Autumn.

19. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

20. Date of next meeting.

12th July 2016.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____