

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 14th May 2024
at 7.15pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini
China
Fort
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).

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 deferred until the next meeting.

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 Springford 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.

New residents attended the meeting and were welcomed to the Parish by members. They spoke regarding the highways issues and the HGV traffic travelling through the village.

Members briefed them on the history of the traffic issues in the parish and the actions taken by the PC and KCC to try to ease this. Cllr Bernini explained the recent measures that had been implemented near the church, he stated that the Parish Council would continue to explore possible solutions with KCC.

A discussion took place regarding street lighting in the village.

8. Highways Matters.

Cllr Bernini reported that the yellow chevrons near the George would not be replaced by KCC. He stated that he would try to push this with KCC.

It was reported that the collapsed drain by the church had now been marked for repair by KCC.

Cllr China spoke regarding the need for safe crossing near to the school.

Cllr Bernini stated that he would raise this once again with KCC.

9. Clerks Report.

To consider the Clerks Report.

Maidstone's Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony - 24 June

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Martin Round, is deputising for the Mayor at this year's Armed Forces Day by holding a flag raising ceremony on Monday, 24 June at 10.30 in Jubilee Square in front of the Town Hall. The flag will then fly for the duration of the week from the Town Hall mast.

The Deputy Mayor would like to invite you and your spouse/partner to join him and members of Council for coffee at 10.15. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony in the Council Chamber.

10. Chairman's Report.

To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman spoke regarding the D-Day celebrations in the village and reported that approximately 70 people attended. He recorded thanks to the team of volunteer residents for their time and work in organising this event.

He stated that the next planned event was in August and the budget for this would be presented to the next meeting for formal consideration.

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 Fort seconded by Cllr Springford and agreed by all present.

b. 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.

To receive and agree the 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.

- i. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.*

Section 1 of the AGAR was proposed for approval by Cllr Fort, this was seconded by Cllr Springford and agreed by all present. This was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

- ii. To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2023/24, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2024 and if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2022/23) to this year (2023/24) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2 to be sent to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.

Section 2 of the AGAR was proposed for approval by Cllr Fort, this was seconded by Cllr Springford and agreed by all present. This was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

12. KCC Councillors Report.

Cllr Cooke was not present at the meeting.

13. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding the elections and the new administration at MBC and the refuse collection service, and the issues MBC were having regarding the new contract.

14. Planning Matters.

a. To consider Planning Applications Received.

No applications to consider.

b. MBC Decisions and Appeals

24/501066/FULL

Grays Meadow Farm Caring Lane Leeds Kent ME17 1TJ

Installation of swimming pool with associated stone paving to the rear of the existing building.

Application Permitted

24/501052/SUB

Ledian Farm Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RZ

Submission of revised planting detail's part pursuant to condition 6 (landscape scheme) of planning application 19/506387/FULL (phase 2 of Assisted Living Development), being a partial revision of

22/504099/SUB to be read in conjunction with 23/505654/SUB

Application Permitted.

c. Other Planning Matters

15. Parish Maintenance.

To receive an update on Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China reported that a Churchyard stim had been arranged for 20th July 2024 and a new Church Warden had now been appointed.

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

To receive a report on Leeds Playing Field.

Members discussed request from the Loose Lions to have a 10-year lease granted for their use of the playing field and pavilion.

This was discussed and the following was formally agreed by members:

The Parish Council made the final decision that it cannot grant a 10-year lease on the playing field. The primary reason for this was that it is a charity and a community asset. The playing field is primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of the local community, and this Parish Council feels that it cannot make a 10-year commitment on behalf of future parish councils and the local community. On that basis, it was agreed that the PC could only offer the hire of the recreation ground under the current terms of a one-year hire agreement.

While it agreed that it could not offer a 10-year lease, it was agreed that the football team could continue to use the playing field in future years.

Additionally, it was agreed that the PC should address the hire fees for future years and inform the team that the Parish Council was currently undertaking an in-depth review based on the maintenance of the playing field and utility costs and whilst it would try to keep any increases to a minimum, there was likely to be a substantial increase in the annual hire rent going forward, and this would be brought to our next meeting for formal consideration and ratification.

It was agreed that this was the final decision regarding the request and a formal resolution was made, proposed by Cllr Fort, seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to respond the Loose Lions accordingly.

17. Street Lighting.

To receive a report on Parish Street Lighting.

The Chairman stated that the trees were obscuring some of the streetlights in the parish and he would ask Steven Waring for a quotation to have these cut back.

18. Church Yard Lighting.

To receive a report on Church Yard Lighting.

Cllr China reported that the work had now started, and the trenches had been completed, the lights were still being manufactured and would be installed as soon as they were available.

19. Resilience/Emergency Plan.

Work in progress.

20. Parish Council Events.

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

21. Items for next Agenda.

No matters were raised.

22. Date of next meeting.

9th July 2024.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.50pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____