

The Minutes of the meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held in St Nicolas Church on Tuesday, 11 November 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Councillors present: *China*
Fort
Govett
Bowles

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

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Fort.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Springford, MBC Councillor Peter Parvin and the Police.

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 China 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 Councillor Vacancy.

The Clerk informed members that one application had been received for the Parish Councillor vacancy.

This was considered by members and it was proposed by Cllr Govett to co-opt Mr Ian Bowles onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Fort and agreed by all present.

Mr Bowles signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place around the table.

Action: Clerk to inform MBC of new appointment.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the proposed development at Junction 8. A discussion took place regarding these proposals and the allocation of land in the draft Local Plan.

7. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke attended the meeting. He reported on the issue with drainage in the Parish and an email that had been received from a local resident. He read out a response from Katie Lewis, KCC Drainage Officer regarding this.

He reported on KH260 and informed members that the problem with the ditch was now in hand.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the problems with the drain near to Abbey Farm House which appeared to be blocked. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Katie Lewis regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to liaise with KCC.

Gary Cooke reported on the current position regarding the bypass/relief road. He stated that there was general agreement between Kent County Councillors and Maidstone Borough Councillors that this should be from the A2 to the Sutton Road. He reported that this was currently being fed into the Integrated Transport Strategy being put together by Kent County Council and confirmed that a traffic survey would be undertaken by KCC.

He stated that KCC were not in a position to talk about specific routes at this stage.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the wording in the previous Parish Council minutes and the need for KCC support for the bypass to be clarified.

Councillor Cooke reported that at the Joint Transportation Board Working Group there was a consensus between MBC Councillors and KCC Councillors that there was a requirement for a new bypass/relief road connecting the A20 and the A274 Sutton Road. He stated that there had been general agreement and support by all of the Conservative KCC Councillors.

He confirmed that the road would not be a dual carriageway, it would be a single two way relief road similar to Willington Street and capable of taking HGV traffic.

Councillor Govett asked how the Parish Council could feed into the process and give its thoughts. Councillor Cooke stated that there was no reason why the Parish Council could not write to himself and Paul Carter regarding this matter.

Councillor Cooke confirmed that a consultation process would take place and it could be up to 3 to 5 years before a bypass/relief road was in place. He stated that he was willing to facilitate a meeting with County Officers at some point in time to discuss this further.

Councillor Cooke spoke of his disappointment with the results of the 7.5 tonne weight restriction and how this had divided two community groups. He stated that he would like a combined support for the bypass/relief road as this would assist with the traffic on both the B2163 and Willington Street. He suggested arranging a Community Meeting to discuss this further and to arrange a petition in support of the proposals.

This was discussed further and it was agreed that Cllr Govett would assist Councillor Cooke in the wording for the petition to support the bypass/relief road.

8. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from MBC Councillor Peter Parvin.

9. Highways Matters.

No further matters were raised.

10. Special Constable Update.

No matters were reported.

11. Police Report.

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

12. Correspondence Report.

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

13. Planning Matters.

No planning matters were discussed.

14. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members. This was discussed and approved by all present.

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

b. 2015/2016 Budget.

The Clerk informed members that she had circulated budget options for consideration at the December Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the Parish street lighting and the need to budget for the ongoing maintenance of this. He discussed various options to finance the maintenance for members to consider before the next meeting.

c. Request for financial assistance from St Nicholas Church PCC.

A letter from St Nicholas Church PCC was circulated to all members seeking financial assistance towards the repairs for the church clock.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay to have the church clock repaired to the sum of £899 plus VAT.

This was proposed by Cllr Fort, seconded by Cllr Govett and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to liaise with the PCC.

15. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr Fort stated that she would liaise with Chris Brace regarding the future maintenance of the parish.

Action: Cllr Fort to progress.

16. Leeds Playing Field and Pavillion.

Cllr China reported on the progress of the Playing Field and Pavilion. He stated that he had been in contact with the football team regarding the issues with the rubbish being left at the playing field after football matches.

17. KALC Community Award Scheme 2015.

Cllr Fort spoke regarding the KALC Community Award Scheme and the papers circulated to all members. She suggested a local nomination and this was agreed by all present. It was agreed that Cllr Fort would progress this further.

Action: Cllr Fort to progress.

18. Street Lighting.

No matters were raised.

19. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Joint Parish Group would take place on 18 November 2014.

20. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

21. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

22. Date of next meeting.

9th December 2014.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.45pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____