

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 14th March 2023
at 7.00pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini
China
Fort
Greeff
Ingram
Springford*

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

The meeting was chaired by Councillor China.

1. Apologies.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs Ingram and Springford (work), Cllr Fort (arrived late due to MBC Meeting).

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 Gallifant as a true record, seconded by Cllr Bernini and agreed by all present.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident attended the meeting to raise an issue regarding the diverted traffic through Leeds, he stated that this was causing congestion in the rural lanes and his property is caught fire recently I need to take in the emergency services 30 minutes to attend this property due to the traffic, in his view, this was not acceptable.

Cllr Bernini stated that the Parish Council did engage in communication regarding the planned closures, but it had no way of communicating regarding the emergency closures. He stated that the Parish Council was happy to support the resident in taking this up with KCC as there did need to be a strategy re road closures.

Cllr China stated that he had attended a meeting with neighbouring parish councils to discuss the diversions in the area and they were all having similar issues, he felt that the attitude of KCC was quite negative regarding diversions.

Residents raised concerns regarding the management of the road closures and signage and a general discussion took place.

The forthcoming road closure due to SE Water works was discussed and Cllr Bernini stated that the PC was engaging with the contractor regarding the schedule of works. A meeting had been arranged with SE Water and he would raise the concerns of the residents at the meeting.

A resident stated that their vehicles had been hit twice by uninsured vehicles and he flagged that there appeared to be an issue that needed to be enforced.

Cllr China stated that he would raise this at the next Cluster meeting.

A resident drew members attention to a planning application 22/504692, outside of the parish that proposed changes to the road structure, and this put pressure on on traffic in the area.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the PC should make comments to the application.

Action: Clerk to action.

6. Highways Matters.

Cllr Bernini reported that a site meeting was due to take place with KCC regarding the accidents at Ash Cottage.

KCC Cllr Cooke reported that he was due to visit the parish to inspect the roads with a KCC Engineer.

7. Clerks Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

'Love Where you Live' - Applications for Funding open

Maidstone Borough Council is encouraging community groups to apply for a grant of between £500 and £5,000 for projects that improve their local environment as part of a new 'Love Where you Live' initiative.

Love Where You Live aims to support small-scale environmental projects that encourage a sense of civic pride across communities; meeting a desire not only to live in a clean and attractive place but also to actively contribute to transforming, enhancing and maintaining those spaces for both the community and local biodiversity. We want to encourage individuals and organisations to work in partnership within neighbourhoods to raise awareness and educate others around wider environmental and sustainability issues.

Applications are welcome from any non-profit making constituted group. Applications from schools will also be considered, but the funding must be used for community-based projects. If you are not a constituted group you may wish to ask a Parish Council or local 'Friends Of' group to apply on your behalf. To apply you must have a bank or building society account in the name of the group. Each group can apply for grants of between £500 and £5000 for an individual project. Outstanding projects may be awarded more if they significantly improve the local environment and benefit the local community.

The closing date for applications is Friday 31st March. For more information and to apply click here: Grants and funding for groups | Maidstone Borough Council

To discuss any aspect of the Love Where You Live grant scheme or the Rural England Prosperity Fund, please contact us at VCSLiaison@Maidstone.gov.uk.

KALC Meeting

The next meeting of Maidstone KALC will be held on Monday 27th March at 7pm at Yalding Village Hall.

We will be discussing Maidstone KALC'S response to the Gypsy and Traveller Consultation and we have been promised attendance by a relevant officer/s who will be able to answer questions. We will circulate a draft response prior to the meeting.

Please send your reps to the meeting to enable a meaningful discussion on the subject.

Inspector Steve Kent will also be in attendance to update us on the new neighbourhood policing module.

8. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

9. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members present and agreed. (Bernini /China)

10. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his report to the meeting.

He reported that he was chasing KCC regarding parish matters.

The AMPR Camera Pilot Scheme in the parish would be placed in 6 locations in the area, in the spring.

11. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She reported on the meeting with local parishes to discuss road closures in the area.

She reported on the recent ward Cluster meeting.

12. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

23/500734/FULL - Ringers Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1SL

Removal of detached garage and attached shed. Erection of two storey side extension including installation of Juliet Balcony to the west side, installation of rooflights to the east and west elevations, a new porch to the north side and alterations to fenestration.

MBC Planning Decisions

22/505975/FULL

Caring Wood Caring Road Leeds Kent ME17 1TH

Proposed replacement driveway

Application Permitted

22/505791/FULL

Merriams Farm Caring Lane Leeds Kent ME17 1TJ

Change of use of equestrian building to mixed use as private equestrian use and for the irregular storage of a private helicopter.

Application Permitted

Other Planning Matters

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH GYPSY, TRAVELLER AND TRAVELLING SHOW PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
DOCUMENT CONSULTATION AND CALL FOR SITES

Maidstone Borough Council has published the Regulation 18 version of its Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people Development Plan Document, which will consider the scope and key issues that the DPD will need to address.

It covers:

- Identifying 'need'
- Methods for identifying and assessing potential development sites
- Scope of strategic, thematic and detailed policies
- Methods for monitoring and review

Alongside this, the Council is seeking to identify potential sites which could be suitable for future Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Show people accommodation development through a targeted Call for Sites exercise. The exercise enables you to nominate land for this purpose. Sites should be submitted using the dedicated downloadable submission form. This is an open request for information about land and sites which may have development potential for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people accommodation in the future. It is particularly aimed at landowners, developers and their agents but it is open to anyone to submit a site. A key provision is that the person submitting the site can confirm that the landowner is willing to make the land available for development should it prove suitable.

Importantly, submitting a site through the Call for Sites does not mean that it will prove suitable for inclusion in the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people DPD or that it will get planning permission in the future. The Call for Sites' important purpose is to give the council a starting list of candidate sites to consider.

Sites submitted during the previous 2019 or 2022 Call for Sites exercises do not need to be resubmitted.

How to view the documents: During the consultation period the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people DPD; Call for Sites submission guidance; and Call for Sites submission forms will be available on the Council's webpage at: <https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/gypsy-traveller-development-plan-document>

It is also available for public inspection at all libraries in Maidstone Borough during normal opening hours.

There is a seven-week period during which time representations may be made and sites may be submitted. Only representations received within this period, which runs **from 9.30am on 28 February 2023 to 5.00pm on 17th April 2023**, will be considered. Where possible, please respond in writing using the standard representation form (including electronically).

13. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China spoke regarding the quotation from Steven Waring to undertake the PC maintenance for 23/24, and this was approved.

He reported that a litter pick was due to take place on 10th April 2023 at 10am meeting at the sports field car park.

Concerns had been raised by the Village Hall Committee with regards to the defibrillator electrical spur switch.

The Clerk was asked to raise this with the contractor.

Action: Clerk to email contractor.

14. Leeds Playing Field.

The Chairman reported that the facias at the pavilion have been replaced as agreed.

Mould had been reported on the ceiling in the pavilion and had been inspected, he asked members for their approval to have the area painted and treated. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk to accept quotation for work.

15. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported on the street lighting in the village.

16. Emergency Plan.

Members discussed an Emergency Plan for Leeds, and it was agreed that Cllr Gallafant would draft this for PC consideration.

Action: Cllr Gallafant to action.

17. Coronation Event.

The event for the Kings Coronation in Leeds was discussed and agreed by members. A budget of £5000 was approved.

18. Parish Council elections.

Parish Timetable of Proceedings for
Thursday 4 May 2023

<i>Publication of Notice of Election</i>	<i>Monday 20 March 2023</i>
<i>Receipt of Nominations</i>	<i>4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023</i>
<i>Withdrawal of Candidate</i>	<i>4:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023</i>
<i>Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated</i>	<i>4:00 pm Wednesday 5 April 2023</i>
<i>Last Date for Registration</i>	<i>Monday 17 April 2023</i>
<i>Receipt of Postal Vote Applications</i>	<i>5:00 pm Tuesday 18 April 2023</i>
<i>Publication of Notice of Poll</i>	<i>Tuesday 25 April 2023</i>
<i>Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications</i>	<i>5:00 pm Tuesday 25 April 2023</i>
<i>Deadline for receiving applications for Voter Authority Certificates</i>	<i>5.00 pm Tuesday 25 April 2023</i>
<i>Appointment of Poll and Count Agents</i>	<i>Wednesday 26 April 2023</i>
<i>First Day to Issue Replacement Lost Postal Ballot Papers</i>	<i>Thursday 27 April 2023</i>
<i>Last Day to Issue Replacement Spoilt or Lost Postal Ballot Papers</i>	<i>5:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2023</i>
<i>Deadline for production of Temporary Voter Authority Certificates</i>	<i>10.00pm Thursday 4 May 2023</i>
<i>Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications</i>	<i>5:00 pm Thursday 4 May 2023</i>

The timetable was noted by members.

19. Items for the next agenda.

No matters were raised.

20. Date of next meeting.

11th April 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.30pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____