

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 9th January 2024
at 7.00pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini
China
Springford*

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, KCC Cllr Cooke, 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 from Cllrs Fort, Greeff and Ingram.

2. 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.*

3. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

To consider the applications for co-option.

This item to be taken as a confidential item at the close of the meeting to the press and public.

4. 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.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

Residents attended the meeting to speak regarding the Abbey Farm development planning application. They informed the Parish Council that there are several new documents on the planning portal relating to this, one sought to remove the legal right of access to their property which would make them have to redesign their garden, they raised concerns that the new proposed access would be unsafe.

The resident spoke regarding the implications to her property and confirmed that they would be objecting to the application.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would review the documents and submit additional representations to MBC.

A resident spoke regarding the road closures that were due to take place for six weeks in February along the Sutton Valence Road and the impact that the diversion would have on the B2163. Cllr Cooke spoke regarding the official diversion route along the Sutton Road for HGVs for such a road closures.

Member spoke regarding the planned road closures in the area and the closure of Upper Street for emergency works.

A Representative from the Loose Lions Football Team attended the meeting to speak regarding the changes to the team, their Development Plan and their proposal to seek a 10-year lease of the pavilion and grounds from the Parish Council.

He spoke regarding the structure of the Club and the improvements that they wished to make to the facilities. The Chairman stated that for the Parish Council to consider this matter further, they did require a copy of the Development Plan.

The Lions Lions Representative stated that he would forward this to the Parish Council for their consideration.

Action: Clerk to circulate to all members when received.

7. Highways Matters.

It was reported that a sewage leak in Upper Street had been reported to KCC.

Drains Foley Hill - it was reported that these were blocked, and the Clerk was asked to report them to Kent County Council.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

Cllr China raised the issue of empty grit boxes that needed to be replenished and Cllr Cooke stated that he would take this action forward.

He asked Cllr Cooke if any action has been taken regarding the well in George Lane. It was agreed that he would inspect this area and take this forward with Kent County Council.

Cllr China spoke regarding the option of having mirrors on obstructed areas to assist with road safety. Cllr Cooke explained the reason why KCC did not support the installation of mirrors.

8. Clerks Report.

To consider the Clerks Report.

KALC Community Award

We are delighted to announce that we have now launched the 2024 KALC Community Awards Scheme, with support from Kent County Council, the High Sheriff of Kent, and the Mayor of Medway. This follows a very successful 2023 Awards Scheme, which was adopted by 79 member Councils.

The Award Winners receive a Framed Certificate. The Council can decide whether to present something extra to their winner.

The first step is for the Council to agree to adopt the Scheme. The Council would then need to submit its Nomination to manager@kentalc.gov.uk by Friday 2nd February 2024.

Members approved the recipient for this award.

Action: Clerk to submit application to KALC.

9. Chairman's Report.

To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting, he thanked residents for arranging the Christmas event in the Village stated that this was a successful event.

10. 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 Bernini seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present.

b. 2024/2025 Budget and Precept.

To consider the draft budget and agree the 2024/25 Precept Demand.

The draft budget and reports were circulated to all members for their consideration. It was proposed by Cllr Springford to set the 2024/25 precept at £46,256. This was seconded by council of Bernini and agreed by all present.

Action: Precept agreed at £46,256, Clerk to submit precept application to MBC.

11. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding his role as Chairman of Kent County Council and the charities he was supporting for the year.

He reported that he was arranging a charity dinner in aid of Young Carers on the 23rd of February 2024, and details would be circulated regarding tickets for the event.

12. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her apologies to the meeting.

13. Planning Matters.

a. To consider Planning Applications Received.

23/505173/FULL - Little Foxes Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17

Conversion of existing redundant barn to annexe ancillary to main dwelling (revised scheme to application 19/505191/FULL) (Resubmission 23/502439/FULL).

Action: No objections.

23/505174/LBC - Little Foxes Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17

Listed Building Consent - Conversion of existing redundant barn to annexe ancillary to main dwelling (revised scheme to application 19/505191/FULL) (Resubmission 23/502439/FULL).

Action: No objections.

b. MBC Decisions and Appeals

23/504011/TCA

Tower House Cottage Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RU

Conservation Area Application - G1, trees on the rear boundary line consisting of Yew and Thuja. The group of trees are overhanging the property and rear garden by 2 meters this is reducing light and also causing considerable leaf and algae build up in the gutters. We would like to prune them back to as close to the boundary line as possible. Current southern spread of 3.5 meters proposed radial spread of 2 meters on the southern side of the canopy.

No Objections

23/503765/LBC

Fox Cottage Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RX

Listed Building Consent for installation of an EV Charging Point.

Application Permitted

23/504807/TCA

Abbey Mill House Lower Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1RR

Conservation Area Notification : One large Eucalyptus tree removal down to a stump. Stump left in ground at approximate height of 500mm. Removal is safest option for the safekeeping neighbouring Manor House. The tree has grown on an elevated section of ground with a retaining wall close by the trunk, leading to increased instability. Replanting is not considered necessary.

No Objections

23/504281/LBC

Abbey Mill House Lower Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1RR

Listed Building Consent for insertion of a replacement window and external door.

Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters

No matters were raised.

14. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China reported on maintenance undertaken in the village.

He reported that he would seek a quotation for the cutting of the church hedge.

15. Leeds Playing Field.

No matters were raised.

16. Street Lighting.

No matters were reported.

17. Church Yard Lighting.

Cllr China reported that he was in the process of seeking updated quotations for the church lighting and would report back to a future meeting.

Action: Cllr Bernini to progress.

18. Resilience/Emergency Plan.

The following training was noted by members:

The Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) is linking up with Communities Prepared to highlight a series of free online training workshops taking place in the New Year for local community volunteers looking to develop their skills and create their community resilience plans.

We are encouraging parish and town councils, and other community groups, to take part in these courses, to help them become better prepared to respond to a range of potential emergency situations in their local area, from flooding and severe weather to a loss of utilities.

Please find below the details for the upcoming free training sessions offered by Communities Prepared:

Snow volunteer training session
Wednesday 17 January 2024 6pm

Flood Volunteer Session
Thursday 18 January 2024 6pm

Community Emergency Planning Workshop – Part 1
Wednesday 24 January 2024 6pm

Community Emergency Planning Workshop – Part 2
Wednesday 31 January 2024 6pm

Community Emergency Planning Troubleshooting
Wednesday 7 February 2024 6pm

Here's the link to visit the Community Prepared website to find out more or register:
www.communitiesprepared.org.uk/events/

I have also included some links on our website to some support material to help you create or update your emergency community plan if needed.

www.kentprepared.org.uk/community-resilience

19. Parish Council Events.

Burning of the Beacons for the D-Day 80 years and Parish Council to take part on Thursday June 6 - lighting of Beacon at 9.15pm.

20. Other matters and items for the next agenda.

No matters were raised.

21. Date of next meeting.

13th February 2024.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____