

The Minutes of the meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held in Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall on Tuesday, 8th March 2016 at 7:30 PM.

***Councillors present: Bowles
Fort
Govett***

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 Cllrs China, Springford, Beale, Martin 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 Bowles 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.

No matters were raised.

6. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke attended the meeting, he circulated a written report to members.

He reported on the KCC budget for 17/18 and stated that 500 million in savings had been made over the past five years and a further 80 million was needed for next year. He confirmed that KCC were now looking at non-statutory service cuts.

Local Plan – Councillor Cooke confirmed that KCC were formally objecting to the MBC Local Plan. He stated that the Regulation 19 Consultation referenced the Relief Road as post 2022, when the Motion carried at the Joint Transportation Board meeting was for a Relief Road as soon as possible. He stated at this meeting a recorded vote was carried unanimously, including the vote of Fran Wilson, Leader of Maidstone Borough Council.

He stated that this had now been amended, however KCC were formally objecting to the MBC proposals and in particular, housing numbers and highways.

He stated that as part of the highways objection to the Local Plan, KCC would be calling for a Leeds/Langley Relief Road to be started before any development took place. He confirmed that KCC now had a policy to deliver a Relief Road as soon as possible, however they would not talk about a preferred route at this point in time.

He spoke regarding the petition for the Relief Road and stated that this had been helpful as it had focused minds. He confirmed that the final number of signatures was over 1670 and stated that Matthew Balfour, KCC Highways Director had received the petition and it had been formally lodged. He thanked the residents of Leeds, Willington Street and Langley for the petition.

Councillor Cooke referred to the Inspectors Report dismissing the application to develop the Newline Learning plot of land. He stated that the Secretary of State had refused this on highway grounds, however this land allocation was included in the Local Plan. He stated that the Inspector also took into account a draft Neighbourhood Plan when Maidstone BC had continually ignored these.

7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Fort gave her report to the meeting.

8. Leeds/Langley Relief Road – E-Petition.

No further matters were reported.

9. Highways Matters.

Concerns were raised regarding the poor condition of the verges in Leeds. Councillor Cooke stated that it was no longer KCC policy to reinstate the verges.

The Chairman spoke regarding the need to have bollards in Wykeham Grove to prevent poor parking. Councillor Cooke stated that he would seek costs for these and anticipated that they would be in the region of £600 a bollard.

10. Police Report.

PCSO Thomas Maybank attended the meeting and gave a report to all present.

11. Correspondence Report.

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

12. Planning Matters.

Planning matters were noted by Members.

13. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

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

14. Parish Maintenance.

It was agreed that a comprehensive report on the options for village maintenance would be submitted to the next meeting for consideration by members

Action: Cllr China/ Clerk to action.

15. Village Clean-up Day.

Cllr Fort suggested holding a Village Clean-up Day in April/May. Councillor Cooke stated that he would be willing to provide KCC support for any clean-up event if the date was arranged.

16. Church Car Park.

It was agreed that this item would even moved in future agendas.

17. Leeds Playing Field and Pavillion.

No matters were raised.

18. Street Lighting.

No matters were raised.

19. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would make formal response to the Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation and this would be on the basis that the Parish Council would not except any development until a Leeds/Langley Relief Road was constructed.

Action: Clerk to draft a letter in response to Local Plan.

20. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

21. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

22. Date of next meeting.

12th April 2016.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____