

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 10th January 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 Cllr Fort (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 Greeff 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 road traffic accidents in the parish affecting his property. He stated that he had contacted the Parish Council and KCC regarding this matter, but no action had been taken to date. Cllr Bernini stated he had taken this up with KCC directly and this had been added to the Parish Councils Highways Improvement Plan for consideration by KCC.

Cllr Cooke confirmed that he had consulted with KCC Officer Sue Laporte, and they were considering what action could be taken to prevent further accidents. He stated that the urgency necessary had been noted by KCC and he would continue to push this matter forward. KCC had a duty to ensure that the highways they were responsible for was safe within the rules and regulations that exist.

A general discussion took place regarding highway matters in the Parish.

The Headteacher from Leeds School attended the meeting to speak regarding the issue with parking at school times and the use of the church car park. She asked if the Parish Council and the school could work together to try to find a solution to improve the parking in the parish. She stated the parking at the entrance of the church car park was an issue.

Cllr Cooke stated that the entrance of the car park had been remodelled by KCC to try to make it safer for the children crossing the road.

This was discussed further and it was agreed that signage may assist with the situation, but there was little that could be done to resolve the situation, especially with the capacity at the school due to be increased.

A resident spoke regarding the salt bins in the parish and Cllr Cook stated that he would ensure that these were filled and replaced where necessary.

6. Highways Matters.

Cllr Bernini reported on the recent meeting that the Parish Council had held with highways to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan.

He confirmed that the parking bays in Upper Street were due to be reinstated when the weather was better.

7. Clerks Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

8. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

He reported that the church lights were still with the Diocese for their consideration/approval.

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 the budget of KCC had been increased by 5%, 2.99% precept and 2% for social care.

He stated that the members grant had been reduced by 70%.

The Planning Inspector had taken out the protected corridor for the Relief Road out of the Local Plan. Whilst this means that the route wasn't safeguarded, Maidstone Borough Council was confident that they had a five-year housing supply.

A discussion took place regarding the Local Plan and the Relief Road.

Cllr Cook reported that on the 25th May 2023 he would become the Chairman of KCC.

11. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her apologies to the 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

No matters were raised.

13. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China reported that the verges had been cleared and the pathway at Penfold Hill would be actioned.

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 this was due to be inspected.

15. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported on the street lighting in the village.

16. Church Car Park.

A request to use the car park from Swale footpath Association was considered and approved.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Footpath Association.

17. Emergency Plan.

Members discussed an Emergency Plan for Leeds and sites for use, should emergency water supplies be needed in the parish.

18. Coronation Event.

The event for the Kings Coronation in Leeds was discussed and agreed by members.

19. Items for the next agenda.

No matters were raised.

20. Date of next meeting.

14th March 2023.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____