

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
Ingram
Springford*

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

The meeting was chaired by Councillor China.

1. Apologies.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs Greeff (work), Gallafant (work), Fort (late due to MBC Meeting), and KCC Councillor Cooke.

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 Springford 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.

New resident attended the meeting - A general discussion took place regarding the parish in location, the Relief Road and the land protect in the Local Plan.

6. Highways Matters.

The Chairman spoke regarding the potholes in the village and particularly the bad ones at Penfold Hill and Back Street. It was confirmed that these had been reported to Kent Highways.

It was reported that the traffic sign by the George was not facing the road and could not be seen by oncoming traffic.

Concerns were raised regarding the water coming out of the drain running down the road at the George outside Foley Farm. The Clerk was asked to report this to Kent Highways.

Action: Clerk to progress.

The Chairman stated that following the recent bad weather all salt bins in the parish needed to be refilled and the salt bins located at the top of Forge Lane and Old Mill Road were damaged.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

7. Clerks Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

8. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been invited to Ledian farm to discuss the third phase. He asked councillors to confirm whether they wish to attend and a meeting date would be arranged.

He spoke regarding water shortages in parishes and asked what plan the Parish Council had in place if this was to affect Leeds. This was discussed by members.

The need for an emergency plan was also discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with other parishes, and Maidstone Borough Council to ascertain the process for an emergency plan for Leeds.

Action: Clerk to action.

The Chairman reported that he had received a request from the school for the PC to arrange a meeting to discuss the parking and the use of the Church Car Park. He stated that the issue had been raised again by the school because of the problems with cars at drop-off school times.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that this should be a school lead issue, should a meeting be arranged then this should be done by the school and a representative from the Parish Council would attend if invited.

The Chairman stated that he would liaise with the Headteacher regarding this matter.

The Chairman reported that the Events Group were currently looking to hold a village event for the Kings Coronation celebrations – it was agreed that the Parish Council would be willing to put funds towards this.

9. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement

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

b. 2023/2024 Budget and Precept.

The Clerk circulated a draft budget and report for members consideration. This report balanced the draft budget with a precept figure of £43631, a 0% increase to the band D tax rate therefore having no financial impact on residents.

The budget and report were discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Bernini to accept the draft budget unchanged with a precept of £43631, this was seconded by Cllr Fort and agreed by all present.

Precept agreed - £43631.

Action: Clerk to submit signed precept demand to MBC.

10. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his apologies to the meeting.

11. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She reported on the following:

- MBC Budget.
- Community Group Eco Grants.

12. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

22/505703/FULL Old Mill Farm Penfold Hill Leeds Kent ME17 1RJ
Erection of polytunnels with associated drainage and landscaping.

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.

MBC Planning Decisions

22/503982/SUB

Ledian Farm Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RZ.

Submission of details for phase 2 of Continuing Care Village pursuant to condition 3 (materials), condition 4 (architectural details) and condition 8 (boundary treatments) of 19/506387/FULL (44no. Assisted Living Units)
Application Permitted

Other Planning Matters

No matters were raised.

13. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr Fort suggested that a Litter Pick should be arranged in the next month.

14. Leeds Playing Field.

The Chairman reported that there had been an issue with a bench being damaged at the playing field and the Loose Lions were dealing with this.

The Clerk spoke regarding the play equipment monthly inspections, and it was agreed to approve the quotation from Safeplay for the 2023/2024 inspection.

Action: Clerk to accept the quotations and appoint Safeplay for monthly inspections.

15. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported on the street lighting in the village.

16. Church Car Park.

No further matters were raised.

17. Parish Council Policy Review.

It was proposed by Cllr China to accept and approve the PC Policies, this was seconded by Cllr Bernini and agreed by all present.

18. Emergency Plan.

No further matters were raised.

19. Items for the next agenda.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with MBC to ascertain the current position regarding the additional litter bin at Burberry Lane requested by the PC.

Action: Clerk to action.

20. Date of next meeting.

14th February 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.20pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____