

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 13th June 2023
at 7.00pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini
China
Fort
Greeff*

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, church warden, Brian Hardy, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor 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 and accepted from Cllrs Ingram (work) and Greeff (work).

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. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all members.

These were proposed by Cllr China 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.

Church Warden, Brian Hardy attended the meeting to speak with the Parish Council about the Big Strim event at the church yard. The Chairman stated that this had now been rearranged to 1st July at 10am.

Brian Hardy informed the meeting that the Church Lighting had been approved by the church, subject to a public notice being displayed for a period of one month.

The Chairman stated that the PC could now move this project forward and would seek an updated quotation for the lighting.

6. Highways Matters.

Cllr Bernini reported on highway matters. He stated that concerns regarding the section of road near to St Nicolas Cottage was currently being discussed and considered by KCC Highways, and he had written to them to try to push this along.

He stated that the Highways Improvement Plan had included a recommendation for a traffic survey to identify different issues in the village regarding speed. The PC was going to push for a 20mph zone. St Nicholas Cottage would be considered as a separate issue.

It was reported that the water leak on Foley Hill was still there, it was likely that SE Water would repair this when the road closure was in place.

Concerns were raised regarding the hole in George Street, it had been inspected and marked up for repair by KCC, but no other action had been taken. Cllr Cooke stated that he would follow this up with KCC.

Cllr Cooke circulated a written report to all members regarding the proposed diversion routes for the road closures, he stated that KCC and SE water had worked closely together to reach agreement on the road closures. KCC were now in the process of arranging a public meeting at the Great Danes Hotel with KCC officers, KCC Cabinet Members, the Chairman of KCC, and SE Water. The date for this meeting would be confirmed.

He stated that his report could be made public and would be posted on Facebook. He confirmed that the official diversion route was still Willington Street with one-way controls to manage rat-run traffic. Additional signage would be in place, with concrete buildouts to stop HGV traffic from accessing rural lanes.

Concerns were raised regarding the parking issues in Farmers Close. It was noted that this was a Golding Homes issue, however parked vehicles were restricting access for refuse collection and emergency services. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Golding Homes as landowner's to see what action they were going to take to try to mitigate the issues.

Action: Clerk to write to Golding Homes.

Cllr Bernini asked when the parking bays would be reinstated on Upper Street and Cllr Cooke stated that he would take this matter up with KCC Highway Officers.

7. Clerks Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

Maidstone's Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony - 19 June

The Mayor, Cllr Gordon Newton, is marking the Armed Forces Day by holding a flag raising ceremony on Monday, 19 June at 10.30 in Jubilee Square, which includes a performance of the Gurkha Khukuri dance. The flag will then fly for the duration of the week from the Town Hall mast.

The mayor would like to invite you and your spouse/partner to join him at the Town Hall for coffee at 10.15 prior to the ceremony. Following the event light refreshments will be served in the Council Chamber. The event is due to finish at approx. 11.15.

8. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the planning application for Junction 8, outside of Leeds, and asked if the PC wished to rise objections to this.

This was agreed.

Action: Clerk to action.

He put forward a suggestion to have a plaque placed on the Beacon to recognise the Kings Coronation. This was agreed.

Action: Chairman to progress.

9. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement

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

b. 2022/2023 Accounts and AGAR.

The 2022/2023 Accounts and Annual Return was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

- i. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.

It was proposed by Cllr Bernini to accept and approve the annual Governance Statement for 2022/23, this was seconded by Cllr Greeff and agreed by all present.

- ii. To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2022/23, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2023 and if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2021/22) to this year (2022/23) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2 to be sent to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.

It was proposed by Cllr Bernini to approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2022/23, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2023 and the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2021/22) to this year (2022/23) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2 to be sent to the External Auditor. This was seconded by Cllr Greeff and agreed by all present.

10. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding his position at KCC and informed members that he had been elected to the position of Chairman of KCC, he spoke regarding the protocol of this role.

He informed members of the charities that he would be supporting during his term as Chairman of KCC, and how he was planning to support his chosen charities.

11. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding a planning application submitted for Inspired Villages that included solar panels. This was an amended application and she asked members to consider this application, and whether the PC was happy with the visual impact of the solar panels in the rural area.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the installation of the solar panels would set a precedent in the village, and they were not in keeping with the rural area, for that reason it was agreed that the PC would object to the visual impact on the local area, and the negative impact on the landscape character.

Action: Clerk to submit PC Objections to MBC.

12. Planning Matters.

a. To consider Planning Applications Received.

23/2502439/FULL Little Foxes Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17

Conversion of existing redundant barn to annexe ancillary to main dwelling. Demolition of existing outbuilding to provide car parking area (revised scheme to application 19/505191/FULL).

The PC considered this application and whilst had no objections to the proposals, they did have concerns about the solar panels.

It was therefore agreed that the PC would object to the visual impact of the solar panels on the local area, and the negative impact on the landscape character.

Action: Clerk to submit PC Objections to MBC.

23/501900/FULL - 1 Brogden Farm Cottages Old Mill Road Leeds Maidstone

Replace boundary fence and garden shed.

No objections

23/501931/FULL - 2 Elnothington Cottages Ashford Road Hollingbourne

Erection of a single storey rear and side extension.

No objections

b. MBC Decisions and Appeals

No matters to report.

c. Other Planning Matters

No matters were reported.

13. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China reported that the lock on the car park extension was missing, and he would arrange for this to be replaced.

14. Leeds Playing Field.

Cllr China reported on the playing field as follows:

- Fencing of play area repaired.
- Vandalism to play area – it was agreed to investigate having an additional CCTV camera installed to cover the play area.
- Abandoned car at playing field, letter to resident to remove within two weeks.
- Electrical testing of Pavillion approved at a cost of £200 undertaken and report issued. Cost £1253 plus vat to bring Pavilion up to current regulations. This was approved.

- It was agreed to seek a quotation to have an electrical socket installed in the playing field for future events.
- Tennis courts – it was agreed to seek a quotation for the refurbishment of the courts, Clerk to liaise with Safeplay.

The Chairman stated that the Loose Lions was due to attend a future PC meeting to speak regarding their plans for the football team.

15. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported on the street lighting in the village.

16. Resilience Plan.

The Resilience Plan for Leeds was being progressed.

17. Items for the next agenda.

No matters were raised.

18. Date of next meeting.

12th July 2023.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____