

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held by Zoom on Tuesday, 13th April 2021 at 7.00 PM.**

***Councillor's present: China
Bernini
Fort
Greeff
Ingram
Springford***

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

The meeting was chaired by Councillor China.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin.

The Chairman informed members that Cllr Martin had tendered her resignation due to health reasons. Members spoke regarding the contribution Cllr Martin had made to the Parish Council and recorded their thanks for this, they wished her well for the future.

The Clerk stated that she would inform MBC of the vacancy and circulate the statutory notice to advertise the vacancy.

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, seconded by Cllr Springford and agreed by all present.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

HGV Signage in Leeds – Members discuss the issue of the HGV restrictions in the village.

Cllr Fort stated that she had attended a Cluster Group Meeting as a Ward Councillor, and the Chief Inspection of Maidstone Police had been in attendance, as was the PCSO. She stated that she had raised the issue of the signage in Leeds, and she still had a job convincing them that the sign was regulatory, not advisory.

She reported on the discussions regarding the HGV signage and how they could determine whether the lorries were over 17 tonnes.

She shared her disappointment at the lack of police understanding of the regulatory signage.

A general discussion took place regarding the signage, and members agreed they felt that the police had no intention of enforcing the overweight lorries coming through the village.

Cllr Bernini asked if the Parish Council were concerned about all HGVs or just 17 tonne lorries coming through the village.

Cllr Greeff said that there was a fundamental issue as the police appear to be unwilling to enforce the law in Leeds.

A discussion took place regarding Lorry Watch and the need to build an evidence base to support the issues with traffic and speed in Leeds.

The Clerk suggested that the PC could explore the options of having a traffic survey undertaken in the village to record the traffic. She stated that this could be requested by completing a Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) and submitting this to KCC Highways to start the process.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with KCC to arrange a meeting and submit a HIP requesting a traffic survey.

Action: Clerk to liaise with KCC as agreed.

Litter Pick – Cllr Fort confirmed that she had asked MBC to litter pick Penfold Hill, and the litter pick bags had been cleared as requested.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident attended the meeting to speak on the issue of the road and his views on an alternative local road layout incorporating a one-way system.

Cllr China stated that this had been considered as an option in the past and had not been considered viable by KCC.

Cllr Bernini spoke regarding the limitation that Leeds had regarding road changes in the parish and stated that the PC would be happy to consider any issues that could be legally enforced.

A general discussion took place regarding the traffic issues and the actions and options that had been explored by the PC in the past. It was agreed that the issues relating to HGVs needed to be resolved before road layouts could be explored as the size of local roads could not take large lorries.

6. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his apologies to the meeting.

7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She reported that a Boundary Review was due to be undertaken by the Boundary Commission.

8. Highways Matters.

Members discussed the signage for the road closures in the parish and agreed that this had been clearer.

It was noted that there were two further road closures planned for the coming weeks.

9. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence received during the month was noted by members.

Members discussed an email received from a resident regarding walking his cats at the playing field.

This was noted by members and a response formulated.

10. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

No applications were received this month.

MBC Decisions

21/500589/SUB

Leeds Abbey Farmhouse Lower Street Leeds ME17 1TL

Submission of details pursuant to condition 3 (details of proposed timber frame repairs in the form of a method statement and large-scale drawings) of application 20/501290/LBC.

Application Permitted

11. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement

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

b. 202/2021 Accounts and Annual Return

The Clerk informed members that the 2020/2021 accounts would be submitted to the auditor for the internal audit at the end of the month.

12. Parish Maintenance.

Members agreed to carry out a litter pick in the parish on 1st May at 10am, meeting at the Playing Field Car Park.

Cllr China reported that the bench, noticeboard, and map were due to be refurbished, he asked for approval to appoint a contractor. This was agreed.

Members agreed that quotation to replace the sign outside of the church car park, and have a new sign made for the playing field at a cost of £400 and £78. This was approved by members.

13. Leeds Playing Field, Tennis Courts, Pavilion, and Children's Play Area.

The Clerk reported that the Loose Lions Football Club were seeking a ten-year agreement for the use of the playing field.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the PC would establish whether a five-year agreement would be acceptable as they had reservations about making such a long-term agreement.

Action: Clerk to liaise with the Football Club.

Cllr China stated that they had also asked if they could install a coffee machine at the Pavilion and use the water supply. This was approved.

He stated that they had also asked if they could erect a sign at the playing field stating that it was the home of Loose Lions in partnership with Leeds Parish Council.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase a sign and arrange for this to be installed, as a sign was needed for the playing field to inform users that it was the responsibility of the PC.

14. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported on the street lighting.

15. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

16. Date of next meeting.

May 2021.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____